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Assessing urban recreational open spaces for the elderly: A case of three Indian cities

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Highlights

- Indian ROS studied lack amenities with accessibility and usability features for elderly.
- SEM was undertaken with primary survey data of 51 ROS across three Indian cities.
- Positive impact of age specific amenities and universal design on ROS attractiveness for elderly.
- Vital to integrate universal design in Indian ROS for diverse people with multiple capabilities.

1. Introduction

Recreational open spaces (ROS) like playgrounds, gardens, and parks of various sizes provide an attractive contact to nature, opportunity for play and recreation and build a sense of social identity in the dense urban context (Beck, 2009; Burgess et al., 1988; Matsuoka and Kaplan, 2008). For an equitable and sustainable urban environment, it is essential to cultivate a sense of community in neighbourhoods by identifying and creating conducive environments that proliferate interaction and communication across all groups of people, including the elderly (Francis et al., 2012). With rapid urbanization, access to urban amenities like ROS become vital for improving the urban quality of life (Nasution and Zahrah, 2012; Rojas et al., 2016). Equitable access to safe and inclusive ROS for people

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