

STUDY ON USAGE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACES IN KUCHING AND EFFECT ON SOCIAL INTERACTION



Saliz yang kecil serta lokasi yang tersorok menghadkan penggunaan Kawasan Lapang Kejuruan Star Garden Lorong 4 (DBKU).



Faktor kurang penyelenggaraan juga mempengaruhi tahap penggunaan kawasan lapang: Kawasan Lapang Kejuruan Taman Phoenix (MPP)



Haji Baki neighbourhood open space: the unique topography in this area has been fully utilised in the design of the open space

The purpose of the study is to assess the level of neighbourhood open space usage as well as to evaluate its role as a catalyst for social interactions in Kuching City. It attempts to identify the developmental characteristics of those open spaces which can help advance this cause, as well as to study their pattern of provision and distribution. The findings of the study can contribute to a more holistic physical and social planning policy as part of an effort to provide optimum benefit to the community.

The study looks at neighbourhood open spaces in the three administrative areas of Kuching City, namely, Kuching North City Hall (DBKU), Kuching South City Council (MBKS) and Padawan Municipal Council (MPP). The study adopts both quantitative and qualitative approaches and instruments such as surveys and direct interviews are used to collect data to create the respondents' demographic profile as well as their perceptions toward neighbourhood open spaces.

Apart from doing population sampling, the study also conducts an inventory exercise of the city's neighbourhood open spaces in order to assess their attributes in terms of quality, design as well as present physical conditions. 30 neighbourhood open spaces were sampled as representatives of the low, middle and high residential areas of the city and 60 respondents were interviewed from each of these neighbourhood open spaces, giving a total sample size of 1800 respondents.

Initial findings indicate that the practice of putting aside at least 10% (ten percent) of the development area for open space as adopted by all the three local authorities has influenced the size and distribution of the city's open spaces as well as the pattern and level of their usage. Many of the open spaces are dull and unimaginative, and facilities provided are mostly standard fare. The findings also demonstrate that social interactions do occur amongst neighbourhood open space users but only in cases where the open spaces are strategically sited, tastefully designed and properly furnished. It is also found that better interactions occur where organised recreational activities are organised and conducted at these neighbourhood open spaces.

Researchers

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