

Quality Assessment of Neighborhood Levels Public Parks in Alwar City

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Abstract

The existence of public parks is pivotal to the human beings, especially in the small cities like Alwar. It provides benefits from the economic, social, communal, environmental and aesthetical aspects. Parks improved the quality of life of cities and neighborhood. In this paper the conceptual framework for quality assessment of neighborhood level parks is followed by a literature study in the fields of urban planning. Neighborhood level parks were chosen for the assessment because they had a social, economic and cultural difference. Not only does they provide revenue benefits for health and mental well-being, but it also serves as a society and community's meeting place for certain residential neighborhood this paper analyzes the assessment of quality factors influencing the utilization of neighborhood level public parks in a small city. A questionnaire survey and primary observations have been carried out in three different residential areas of the Alwar City to identifying the factors influencing utilizations of public parks. The result shows that other than quality, the density, income level and pre-dominate age group are most important factors. The findings imply that quality factors should be incorporated while planning the public parks.

Keywords: accessibility, neighborhood, public parks, quality assessment

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INTRODUCTION

The existence of public parks is pivotal to the human beings, especially in the small cities like Alwar. Parks are primarily planned for recreation and can give enormous benefits to the neighborhood and community.[1] like the improvement of

health, social interaction and enhance the enjoyment of the local environment.[2] Similarly, benefits of leisure also cover physical health, psychosocial well-being, self actualization, spirituality and self-identity, family bonding, child development, environmental education and social skills development.[3] Now a days the where life is becoming modern the recreational assets are also changing. Children's, adults as well as old age

persons all are busy with entertainment gadgets like mobile, the internet, T.V. etc. they rarely use the parks. Thus the utilization of public parks decreasing significantly. There is a need for the assessment of the quality of public parks in small cities like Alwar. Quality is influences utilization of public parks.[4] In this paper we try to understand the quality of public parks in different residential areas of Alwar city.

So that it will be understood that the quality should be improved for the utilization of public parks. There are characteristics—(a) comfort, (b). location, (c). facilities, (d). leisure value and (e). image, for assessing the quality of public

parks[5] which can help to improve the utilization of public parks.

METHODOLOGY

From the review of the important literature on quality attributes for public parks, 19 attributes can be identified as shown in Figure 3. Among them some attributes, are adopted for this study for quality assessment for residential areas parks in Alwar city. Since the study is concentrating on the factors influencing utilization of public open spaces, three residential areas which are different in terms of socio-economic character are studied. These areas are studied based on sample survey, interviews and observations. The quality assessed based on these factors only, no other parameter is considered. The study is mainly based on information to be collected from the primary survey. After the analysis the comparative study will conclude that is the quality of public open spaces influences utilization of space or are there any other

influencing factors that affect the use of space and what are these factors.

STUDY AREA

Alwar lies between the East longitude $76^{\circ} 35'$ to $76^{\circ} 40'$ and North latitude $27^{\circ} 30'20''$ to $27^{\circ} 36'30''$. It is situated at the center of Alwar District at 268 meters above MSL. Alwar Municipal Council is situated at the junction of three State Highways (SH) – SH13, formerly NH8, provides connectivity to Delhi and Jaipur; SH14 connects Behror to Bharatpur via Alwar; and SH25 from Gangapur to Bhiwadi. In terms of connectivity, Alwar is connected to Delhi and Jaipur both by road and rail. The Delhi-Ahmedabad broad gauge railway line on north western Railway runs north-south through the city and connects Jaipur in the South at a distance of 150 km and Delhi in the North at a distance of 160 km[6].

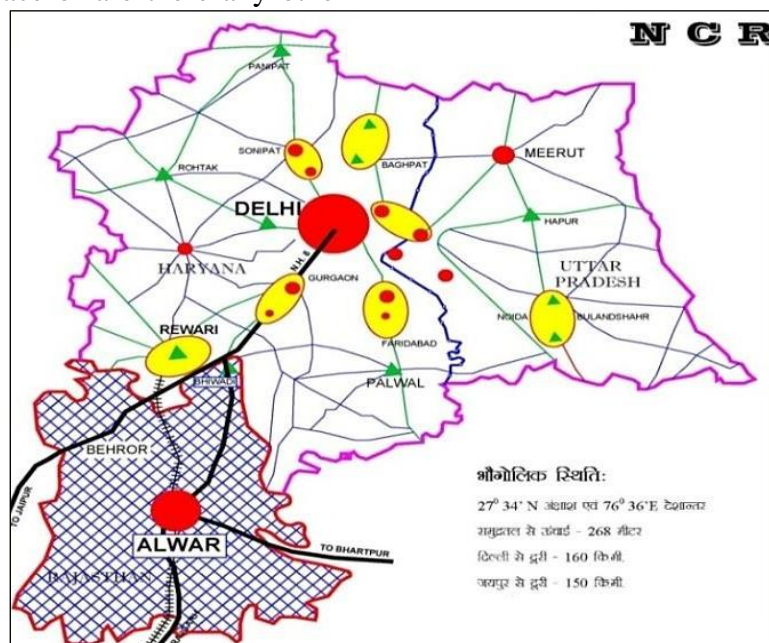


Fig. 1. Map Showing Location of Alwar District.

The limitation of study with includes time constraints due to which study is limited to 3 residential area parks based on sample survey, interviews and observations. The quality assessed based on four key

qualities which include attributes. The study is mainly based on information to be collected from the primary survey. The selected residential areas to be studied are:

- Shivaji park

- Transport nagar

- Aravali Vihar

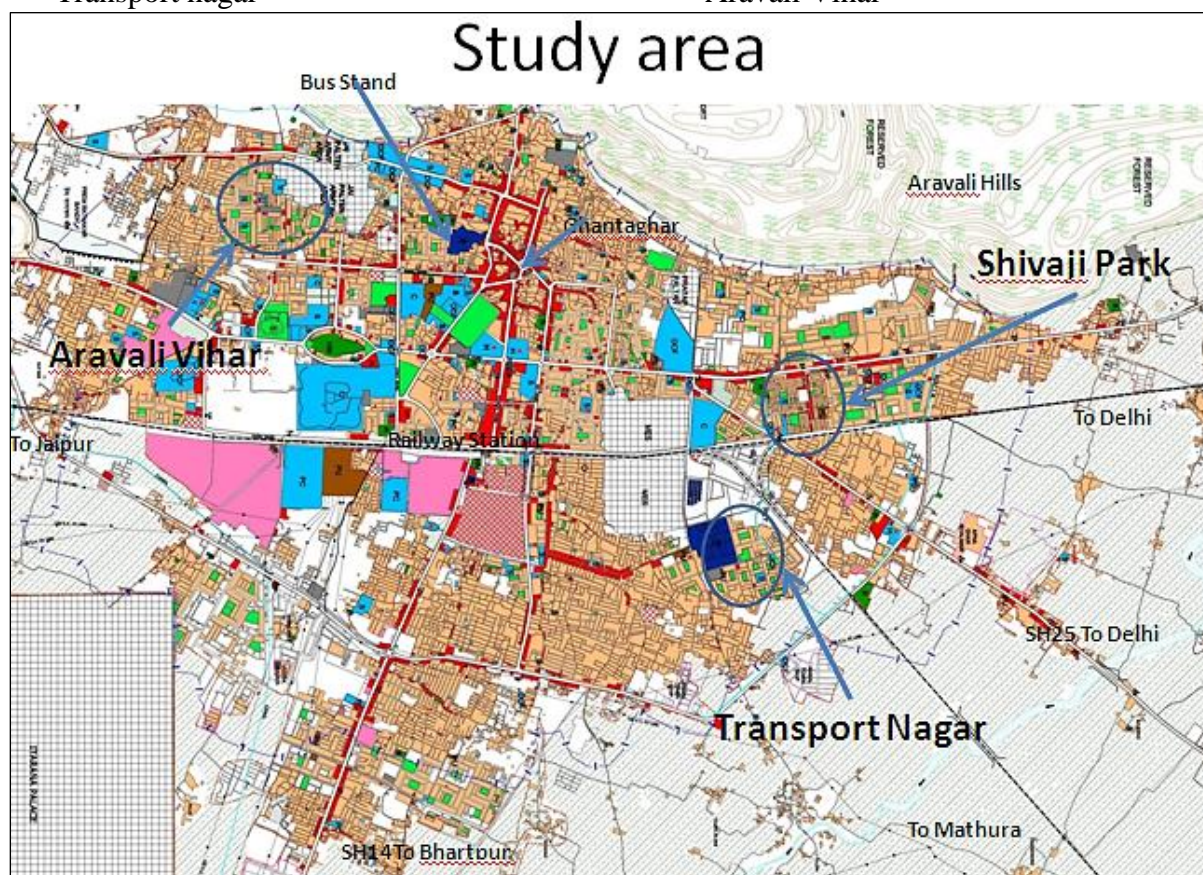


Fig. 2. Location of Residential Parks Catering to Different Income Groups.[7]

Shivaji Park—Quality and Quantity of Public Parks

The total area of parks in shivaji park is 4.51 hectare.[7] It is catering to a low income group population. Only two parks are developed and remaining parks are not developed. no tot-lots exist in this area. Lack of provisions of recreational facilities for all age group. Lack of maintenance, image and greenery. lack of hierarchy makes public open spaces unsuitable for users. The parks support selective activities like gathering and active recreation i.e. Sports. But despite these issues the parks takes up the important function of cultural-religious celebration as the area lack even distribution of public open spaces.

Transport Nagar —Quality and Quantity of Public Parks

The total area of parks in transport nagar is 6.75 hectare.[7] It is catering to a middle

income group population. It also serves to the population of nearby village bhagwanpura as a recreational facility. Only two or three parks are developed and remaining parks are not developed even boundary does not exist. there is no provisions for recreational facilities for all age group in parks. There is a lack of maintenance, image and greenery. The proximity of open spaces to urban villages have encouraged the negligence in maintenance and protecting the use of public open space i.e. cows and pigs rather than the children can be seen in the parks.

Aravali Vihar—Quality and Quantity of Public Parks

The total area of parks in Aravali Vihar is 4.81 hectare.[7] Its catering mostly high income group population. Parks supports multi various activities like walking, jogging, sitting, yoga etc. most of the parks are not yet developed. There are

issues like safety, poor maintenance, inadequate lightning, cleanness etc. Lack of dustbins further contributes to the poor image of the parks. the hierarchy of open spaces is entirely missing. the parks are in the state neglect of both the peoples and UIT Alwar. Ineffective use of parks has encouraged the type of use which is

deteriorating the environment like cow dung dumping.

ANALYSIS

The data is collected and public parks assessed based on respective attributes. The attributes in the study areas shown in the diagram below.

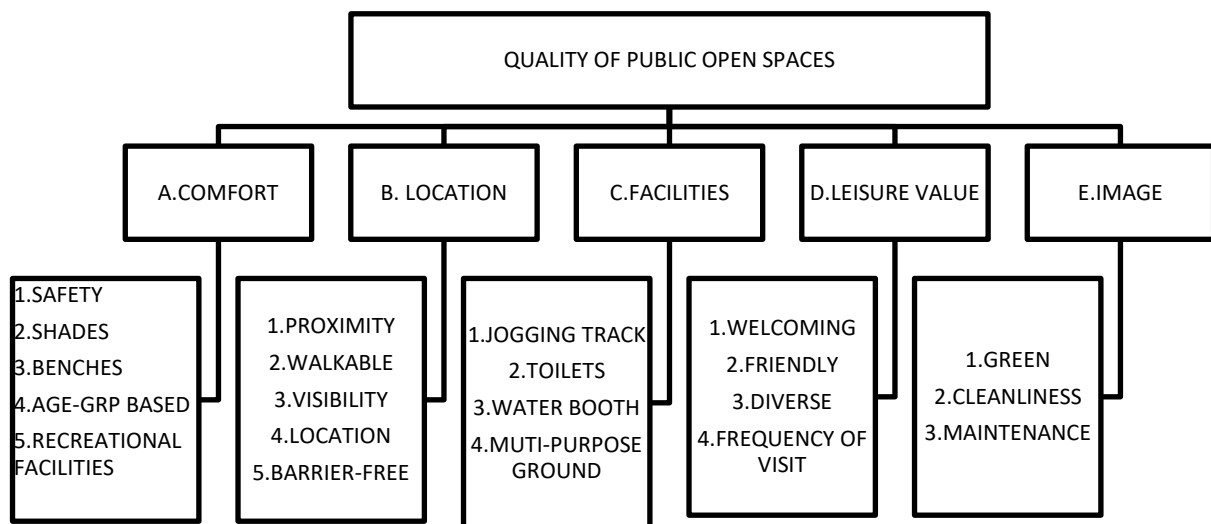


Fig.3. Attributes for Quality of Public Parks. ^[5]

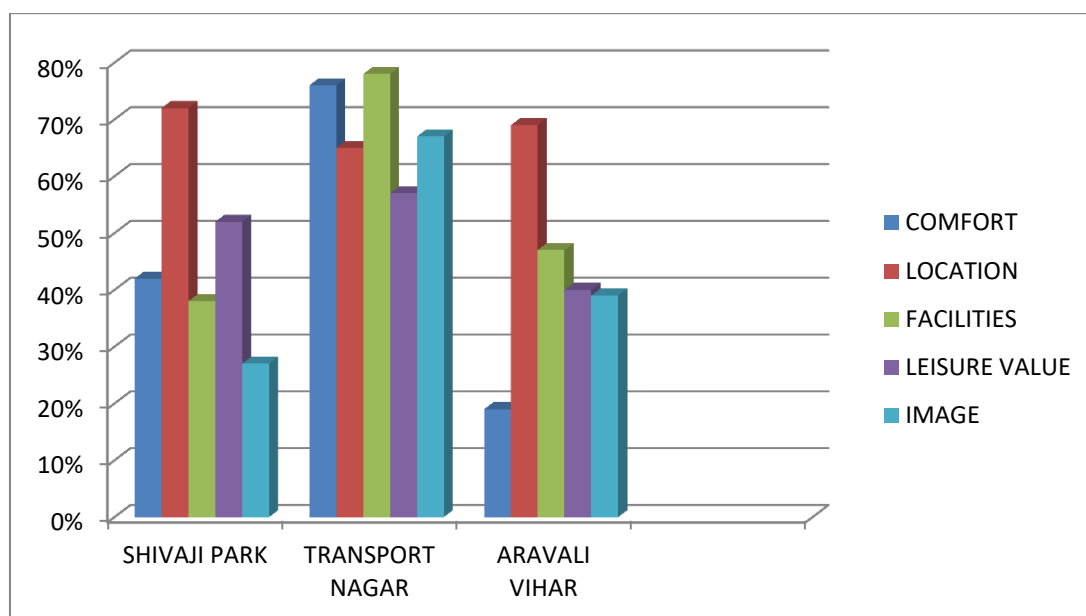


Fig.4. Quality of Public Parks for all Residential Areas.

The quality of public parks varies in terms of comfort, location and its accessibility,

facilities made available and also leisure value and image of the public parks. Based

on these 5 attributes, it is revealed that the public parks at Aravali vihar have poor comfort level image and devoid of any facilities. The public parks lack plantation, swings, walking the track and broken fences. The public semi-public use on one side thus reducing its visibility. The accessibility to the park is reduced due to limited entry points and poor pedestrian approach. Poor maintenance is another issue. The public parks that score the highest for quality are Transport Nagar. Space provides adequate comfort in terms of safety and adequate shade. It is located along an arterial road which improves its visibility and further enhancing its quality and accessibility. It is well maintained and attracts many users.

INFERENCES

- Lack of comfort in-terms of providing for facilities for all age- groups, barriers –free environment.
- Accessibility reduced due to a central location and not located along a major road within residential areas, as it not visible easily.
- Adequate facilities are not available.
 - Maintenance and cleanliness remain common issues mostly which are under Urban Improvement Trust Alwar.

CONCLUSION

From the study carried out and data analyzed it can be concluded that footfall in public parks and the utilization depends on the quality of public parks, factors identified are location, accessibility, comfort, image, facilities and overall leisure value of space. These factors improve the quality of a space and so there exists a need to give the importance to these quality factors during planning and design to attract users to public parks and

promote active living. There may be so many other factors also affects the utilization of public parks like, density, income group, social conditions etc which can also be studied for considering as an important tool while planning for public parks.

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