

Motives and Issues: Diyatha Uyana Urban Park Visitors in Sri Lanka

*Oshani PAL, **Wijethissa KGCP

* Lecturer (Temporary), Sport Science and Physical Education Department, University of Kelaniya

**Lecturer (probationary), Sport Science and Physical Education Department, University of Kelaniya

Abstract- Urban parks are focused attention in recent years. Today urban parks promote recreation activities and they are emerging as the most important spaces in urban fabric. Previous researchers studied environmental benefits of urban green spaces but primarily, researchers investigate the physical and emotional motivation of park areas and prevailing problems of unlimited visitation. In this study the researchers have found out the issue of the visitors of their visitation. Researchers have collected responses from the general public in this survey of urban residents in Diyatha Uyana urban park. Through the observation researchers have identified nine existing issues. They are (1) Noisy environment (2) Expansion of population (3) disturbance to the person engage in daily exercises (4) Distraction to take 3D photos (5) Lack of resources (6) Effective of strike rules and regulation of the organization (7) Lack of park space (8) Lack of Signing board (9) Lack of Safety. Researchers used one way anova analysis to identify the most effective problem which exist. Results suggest that visitation frequency to physical and emotional motivate factors, to relaxation is the most physical motive factor and freedom is the most emotional factor. Based on the findings, the researchers conclude that the most visitors' effective problem was noisy environment. That problems signifies the level of 0.012. point of view, it would help planners ,Park designers and city councilors in Sri Lanka, as well as the general public, to get to know and expand their knowledge of noisy Environmental in urban parks.

Index Terms- Urban Park, Recreation Activities, Motivation factors

I. INTRODUCTION

Recreation is an act or experience, selected by the individual during his leisure time, to meet a personal want or desire primarily for his own satisfaction (Yukic, 1970). Recreation consists of activities or experiences carried on within leisure. Recreation is four typed, such as Formal, Informal/ Active, Passive/ organized, unorganized/ Indoor, Outdoor. Outdoor recreation is a recreation activity participated in outside. It is depended on natural resources. Natural areas are attractive outdoor leisure destinations and offer good opportunities for recreational activities. As populations become more urbanized, many individuals are seeking to regain a connection with the natural environment (S.Bell, 1997). This growing interest results in a constantly increasing intensity of the use of many natural recreational areas. Since the nineteenth century, the provision of

parks has been a major focus in promoting places of most cities and towns. (R.Kraus, 1978).

Today urban parks are emerging as one of the most important space in the urban fabric. They are multi- purpose public spaces in the city that offer Social, Economic and Environmental benefits (Plannetizen, 2000- 2015). They help to enhance the image of city, and improve the quality of urban life. Most cities have urban parks, and these have become important and valuable urban space. The urban park is an asset to cities and city dwellers. It provides space for leisure and passive and active recreation. History show that the uses of urban parks have changed to match the needs of their societies and cities. For example a change in life style might increase concern for health and Fitness meaning more people come to urban parks for recreation, social gathering and passive enjoyment. The motives of people to visit urban park mirror their needs and expectations (cheiesura, 2004) and are associated with their attachment to these place (Kyle G.T.Moven, 2004). Understanding motives for visiting is of great importance ascertaining why people patronized Urban Park in the way they do as well as in understanding the consequences of urban park visits (Yuen, 1996). Studies conducted in different parks show that people hold multiple motives associated with urban parks. For example Singaporean residents typically harbor social interaction, enjoyment of nature, relaxation, and exercise as their main motives (Yuen, 1996). According to Anna Chiesura there are several multiple motives. Such as to sport, to meet others, to play with children, to listen and observe Nature, to meditation, to get inspiration (Chiesura A. , The role of urban Parks for sustainable city., 2003)

Numerous sites worldwide already face diverse problems related to high visitation levels, such as disturbance of fragile habitats (Boyle and Samson, 1985; Gill et al., 1996; Gosling and Sutherland, 1999), progressing trail erosion (Hammit & Cole, 1998), increased level of noise (Newman et al., 2008), dissatisfaction of visitors caused by perceived crowding (A.Amberger & W, 2005), and the challenges for risk management (Skawiński and Chlipała, 2008), and many others. Hence, the fundamental focus of this study is to investigate the physical and emotional motivation of park areas and prevail problems of unlimited visitation. The issues of visitation in urban parks has been grossly under researched. The purpose of this research is to identify and understand the visitation issues of the visitors.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Given the limited literature available regarding urban parks motive factors and effective problems, however throughout the literature review made it was able to identify certain researchers conducted so far in urban park effective problems. The literature that demonstrates the motivation of visitors in the parks has grown substantially in recent years. In this study, we will define prevail problems of unlimited visitation and the problems with the visitors face when their visitation. Parks are common community features that provide opportunities for physical activity for park goers.

Urban parks provide convenient recreation opportunities for urban communities who may otherwise have limited access to nature-based recreation (Kaplan & Kaplan, 1989). A city can only be sustainable if it has sufficient public parks and recreation areas to make the city livable, pleasant and attractive for its citizens (Chiesura, 2003). Urban nature provides important social and psychological benefits to human societies, which enrich human life with meanings and emotions (Anna, 2004); Park visitors are often seen to be engaged in activities such as walking, jogging, playing sports or doing exercises within the parks. The role of urban green spaces in mood change. Australian Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences, there are few studies on people's perception of the role of the urban green space in orid regions in Iran. In this research answered questionnaire about use rating and obstacles on the use of UGS, people's motivation for visiting UGS, people's perception on the effect of UGS on mood change. Manohar and Maulan, Suhardi and Sheybani, Mehdi (2010)

This is supported by recent studies which showed that the motivation associated with visiting the park include relaxation, experiencing nature and escape from the city (Cattell, Dines, Gesler, & Curtis, 2008; Chiesura, 2004; Özgüner, 2011; Stodolska, Shinew, Acevedo, & Izenstark, 2011). Studies in the European countries of Netherlands, Denmark and the United Kingdom show that people visited parks to relax, be in touch with nature and escape from the stressful urban lifestyle (Burgess, Harrison, & Limb, 1988; Chiesura, 2004; Schipperijn et al., 2010). However, recent studies in the Asian countries of Hong Kong and Pakistan show that the primary reasons for visiting the park are to exercise and take leisure walks (Hussain et al., 2010; Wong, 2009).

Visitor perception of crime safety and attitudes towards risk: the case of table mountain National Park, this paper investigate tourist perception of crime safety and attitudes towards risk whilst visiting table visitors attitudes towards risk did not influence perception of crime safety and its effect on their intentions to revisit or recommend TMNP (Richard George, 2003). Recreation conflicts are common in urban parks and the problem has escalated in recent years in Hong Kong. A typical example of such conflict was the dispute between music performers and other park visitors and residents in the vicinity of Tuen Mun Park in recent years. However, issue of recreation conflict in urban park has been grossly under-researched. Hence, this study applied Jacob and Schreyer's (1980) theoretical framework to analyze recreation conflicts of park visitors in Tuen Mun Park, Hong Kong. The findings showed that park visitor's recreation conflict can be explained partially by applying Jacob and Schreyer's model.

The above review has shown that parks provide physical and emotional motivation to visitors. However it has also been established that park visitors are not the same in terms of park usage, resent study have also added to the body of knowledge in this area. But in this study researcher is finding issues with the visitors face when their visitation.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Both secondary (literature review and desk research) and primary data were gathered. Primary data were collected through a survey conducted among visitors of the Diyatha Uyana Urban Park, the most popular park of Colombo (Sri Lanka) established in 2012, which attracts about millions visitors each year. The park was created on a marshy land and on the banks of the Diyawanna Oya. Diyatha Uyana also has pathways for the health- conscious those in to exercising- walking, Jogging, Stretching, and shopping.

After two filed observations at the Diyatha Uyana, it was decided that the survey would be conducted in the urban park. Respondents were using simple random method the visitors, regardless of their social extraction or professional background. The survey instrument consisted of 14 questions. Data of the first part of the survey instrument were collected data on demographics and park usage details of respondents. These questions were adapted from earlier studies conducted in other countries and according to the pilot study researcher those were moderated according to the objectives. 300 questionnaires were distributed.

Questions were also adapted from a (Chiesura, 2003) study conducted in the Netherlands to examine the motives and emotions experienced in visiting parks. To examine the motives in visiting the park, respondents were asked "What was the reason for coming the park?" Respondents were given several options of which they are allowed to select more than one option. These options included "to do exercise", "to relax" and "to escape from the city". To examine the emotions experienced in visiting parks, respondents were asked of their feelings or expected feelings after spending time in the park?" Respondents again gave several options of which they are allowed to select more than one option. These options included "Sense of Freedom", "Unity with nature" and "Happiness". Respondents were also asked of their motive factors. Participants were given the questionnaire, and invited to fill it in during their stay at the area, so that the answers would reflect their immediate experiences.

The survey was conducted in Diyatha Uyana urban park on both weekdays and weekends, in different hours of the day, and in different parts of the park. Respondents who were younger than 15 years of age were excluded from the survey. Response formats were either closed ended (dichotomous, multiple choices) in a ranking scale. The questionnaire addressed a broad range of issues, ranging from motive factors, emotional dimension and the problems affected in the park. For the purpose of this paper, however, the analysis will be limited to the following issues:

1. Motive Factors: Why do people visit this park?
2. Emotional Dimension: Which feelings do people experience in the park?

3. Exist Problems: Which problems are effective in the park?

The study was mainly an explanatory research with an inductive research approach. The main interest of driving the data analysis was to unfold people's thoughts and problems in a qualitative way, rather than to establish quantitative relations and identify independent, moderate and dependent variables. The data was keyed into SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) program version 20.0 for Statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics, Anova tests for independence were used to examine the relationship between dependent variable. There are one independent variable, one dependent variable, two moderate variables in this study. The independent variables was, quantity of visitor participate. Dependent variable was existing problems at Diyatha Park. Researcher used 5 point likert scale for data processing. Respondents' motives and emotional dimensions were the moderate variables. The following alternative options were given: to exercise, to have enjoy, to relaxes, to have contact with family, to have contact with nature, to play with children, to use the refreshment. The analysis provide a frequency of measuring the motive factors in the Diyatha uyana urban park and identified minimum visitor participation factor One way Anova to measure affected problems with

participation. For the purpose of qualitative the whole outcome of this study, measure was converted in to numerical values.

IV. RESULTS

According to demographics, 32% respondents were male, 62% were married, and 49.7% were Advance Level passed. The highest visitation age of respondents was 30-49 years. 61% of respondents travelled to the park by own vehicles.

Motive for visiting the park

The highest motive for visiting the park was to relax (25.8%) (Fig.1). the result was not in surprising as: urban contexts the need to be relaxed and step away from the hectic rhythm of the city is particularly strong. Findings also indicated that almost 20.2% of the respondents visited the park to have contact with nature. 17.3% of the respondents visited the park to have contact with family. In this respect, park fulfills important social functions, strengthening family ties and providing safe place for children to play.13.9% of park users were motivated to exercise. In the descending frequency, other motives were to play with children, to be enjoyed, to buy good and to use refreshments.

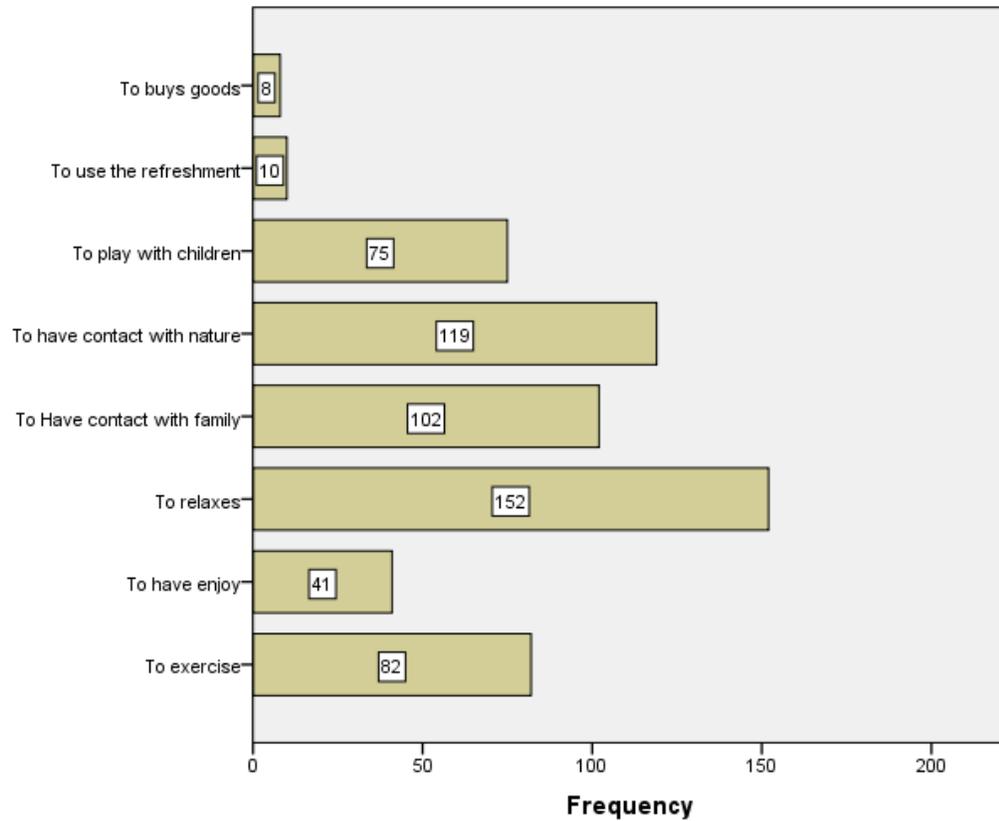


Figure1: Motives for park, frequency distribution

The emotional dimension of the park’s experience

Frequency analysis of the answers emotional dimension (Fig.2) show that freedom is the most frequently mentioned (50.5%) of the answers. 30.1% had the filling of unity with nature. The feeling of being unity with nature implies harmony with it and the ability to live with extra physical reality as one belonged to it. The condition of feeling part of nature, forming a

unity with it implies a sort of transcendence from the ego and the self (Maslow, 1971). “Happiness” is the less mentioned feeling which being experienced in the park.

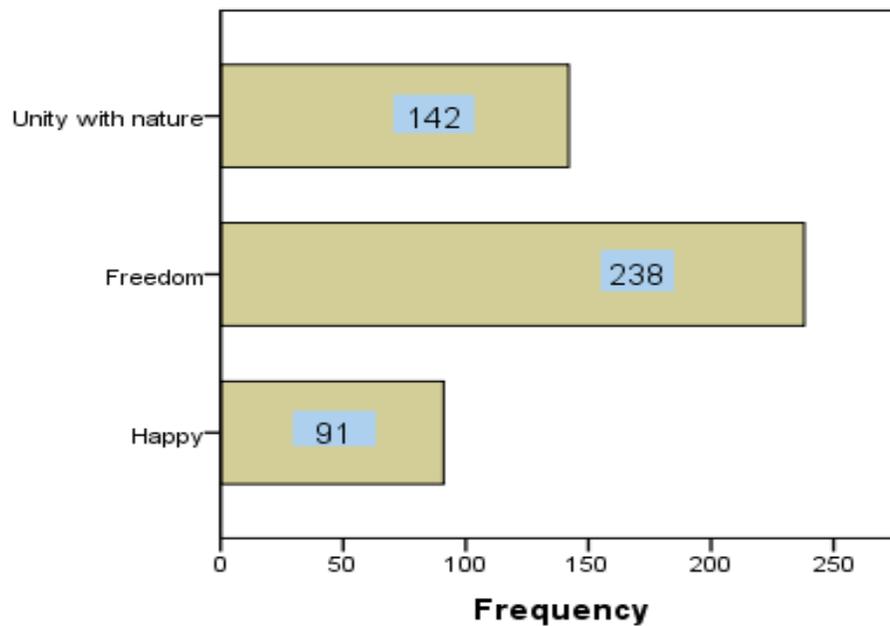


Fig.2. Emotional experienced: frequency analysis.

To find out the most significant problem, one way Anova when used. The strongest significant problem was effect of environmental noises. The Anova table shows overall significance of the problems which affecting visitor participation in the Diyatha Park. It is statistically significant as “P” value is less than 0.05 in the significant test. Researcher can see that the significance level is (P=0.012) in the full data set and the most effective problem is effect of environmental noises.

The same finding regarding motive factors in this study was also found in an to earlier study conducted in the Netherlands

(Chiesura, 2003).Both studies found that the most common feeling experienced in a park are a sense of freedom. In urban contexts the need to relaxation and step away from the hectic rhythm of the city is particularly strong. But in this park people were highly motivated to be relaxed and visitors used urban parks which far from the traffic, the noise and the pollution of the city. But when people use this park they were facing big problem about environmental noises.

Table1: Effective problem related motives (Anova)

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Effect of environmental noises	Between Groups	8.388	1	8.388	6.427	.012*
	Within Groups	388.932	298	1.305		
	Total	397.320	299			
Effect of most population	Between Groups	.008	1	.008	.009	.924
	Within Groups	269.378	298	.904		
	Total	269.387	299			
Others of Disturbance to engage who doing exercise	Between Groups	5.757	1	5.757	5.685	.018*
	Within Groups	301.773	298	1.013		
	Total	307.530	299			
Barriers to take 3D photos	Between Groups	.042	1	.042	.041	.839
	Within Groups	303.994	298	1.020		
	Total	304.037	299			
Excise Resources are enough	Between Groups	.111	1	.111	.144	.705
	Within Groups	230.326	298	.773		
	Total	230.437	299			
Organization's Rules and Regulation are difficult	Between Groups	.016	1	.016	.018	.892
	Within Groups	266.930	298	.896		
	Total	266.947	299			
Space of park is enough	Between Groups	.027	1	.027	.053	.819
	Within Groups	155.369	298	.521		
	Total	155.397	299			
Signing Board are enough	Between Groups	3.704	1	3.704	3.693	.056*
	Within Groups	298.883	298	1.003		
	Total	302.587	299			
Safety is enough	Between Groups	.488	1	.488	1.114	.292
	Within Groups	130.429	298	.438		
	Total	130.917	299			

*Significant at $P < 0.05$.

V. CONCLUSION

Urban nature fulfils many social functions and psychological needs of citizens. Secondary people have different motives to visit the park. The study revealed that the most appealing motives for park visitation were to relax and to have contact with nature. Diyatha Park was more likely to feel freedom. However Due to the small size of the sample analyzed and the limited

statistic performed, no universal conclusion can be consistently made about the visitors' perception of urban parks in general. Furthermore, this paper focused on prevailing problems of unlimited visitation. And then most affected problem was noisy environment. Identifying and examining alternative expressions of commitment to reduce noise around the park represent an avenue for future researchers. Especially this research is important for the future innovators, students who study the field of recreation and all people in the society.

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AUTHORS

First Author – Oshani PAL, Lecturer (Temporary), Sport Science and Physical Education Department, University Of Kelaniya

Second Author – Wijethissa KGCP, Lecturer (probationary), Sport Science and Physical Education Department, University Of Kelaniya , chawijethissa@gmail.com, uksloshi@gmail.com