ANALYSIS OF OPEN PUBLIC SPACES IN INDIAN CITIES

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Abstract: - *The open public space is a free space, in the town are a description of the people's perspective, objective and confidence. They play a host to wide arrangement of activities and act as platform where people perform their daily schedules. Public spaces give a stage or space wherein individuals can interact with the social world outside and experience. In light of the world experience and the highlights of current society advancement, the creators distinguished some quality pointers which are the standards for development and the measures for the evaluation of open spaces in an enormous city. The paper discussed quality of the different parks in different cities like Delhi and Dehradun. The paper highlights the major factors for design the good public space for cities and provides the framework for design a good public space design.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The open space ought to be a social space that available to all, despite gender, age or financial level. Open spots become significant as they make a visual correspondence between a few people who visit it. Any public space has three attributes: physical, social and cultural. To make a Strong city, it should provide a sense of place that fortifies network personality and network pride. This improves network connection and decreases sentiment of estrangement while making a spot for a wide range of individuals to assemble. Public spaces have a wide scope of activities. Sitting, watching individuals strolling, shopping, eating and drinking are basic to most places. They may likewise have particular exercises, for example, games, sports, exhibitions, shows, celebrations, open social affairs and showings.

2. CRITERIA FOR GOOD PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN

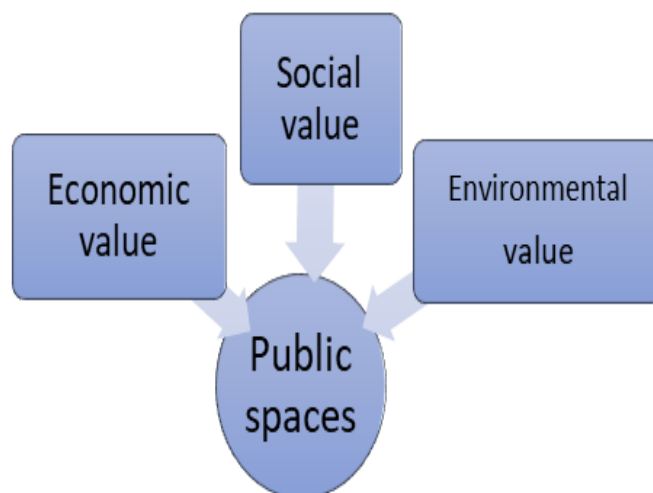There are three major factors for good public space design.

Fig -1: Major factors design for public spaces

2.1 Economic value

- **Increased economic vitality**- Good quality and well- maintained public spaces, increase the number of people visiting market areas, leading to improve economic vitality for traders.
- **Reduce public expenditure on health care, urban management-**Parks and open spaces reduce health care costs by improving general physical and mental health and wellbeing.

- **Higher property prices**- land directly which is close to well designed, accessible and quality green space can generate increased property values.
- **Attracted human capital** -Open public space also attract to human being by it's Characteristic.
- **Increased business confidence** -Businesses are often attracted to locations that offer Well- designed public places, attract customers, employees and services.

2.2 Social value

- **Improved quality of life** -Public spaces plays an important role to increasing the quality of life in cities.
- **Increased both real and perceived security and safety**- Real and perceived security and safety dimension are also considered in public space planning.
- **Promoted social equality and mobility**- Public space also promote social equality and mobility.
- **Increased cultural vitality** – Public spaces are important interaction point to promote cultural activity and entertainment.
- **Social integration and civic pride** -Parks and good open space provide space for social interactions, and it is also as a civic pride for the people.

2.3 Environmental value

- **Reduced pollution** (air, water, noise)-Open public spaces also help in reducing pollution.
- **Environmental Sustainability**-Public spaces maintain through Environmentally friendly design and strategies.

3. CASE STUDIES

Case of four different public spaces are taken up from different cities: Delhi, Dehradun representing the scenario of big city, medium-sized city in India respectively. Further, as park is the only typology of public spaces taken up for study; The parks are chosen in such a way that they offer a broad picture about the features of parks existing in Indian cities.

3.1 Central Park: Delhi

Central Park is located in the inner circle of Connaught Place in central Delhi with the total area of 10.25 acres. It is surrounded by commercial areas the largest financial, commercial and business center in Delhi - a very popular shopping area with different markets such as, The underground Palika Bazaar, The Janpath market and several branded outlets; a large number of restaurants; entertainment destinations such as cinemas and multiplexes; a large number of offices; and a popular tourist area. A large underground parking area. A large underground parking area, ATMs, and public toilets are provided in the immediate surroundings

Fig -2 Location of Central Park, Connaught Place

Fig -3: Features and activities in Central Park, Delhi

Due to its location the park is used widely and is a vibrant place with a pleasant ambience; people come to the park for relaxation, get-together and to take part in events such as different shows and New Year celebrations.

3.2 Children Park: Delhi

Children park covers an area of 15 acres and is a one of a kind parks provided in the India Gate area in central Delhi, it is part the Central Vista of Lutyens's plan for New Delhi. Surroundings of the park include: The India Gate, the National Gallery of

Modern Art, the National Stadium, Hyderabad House and the War Memorial located around the C Hexagon, and the residential area popularly known as the Bungalow area.

The park is designed specifically for children and contains a variety of swings and a large area for children to enjoy, run around and play in; it is also enjoyed by families and is a popular place for morning walkers. Over time, new activities and facilities like a small open-air theatre, a public library, new landscape features, fountains, new swings and public amenities have been added to the park, in addition to the carrying out of regular maintenance works. The park
attracts visitors from the entire city as well as a large number of tourists.
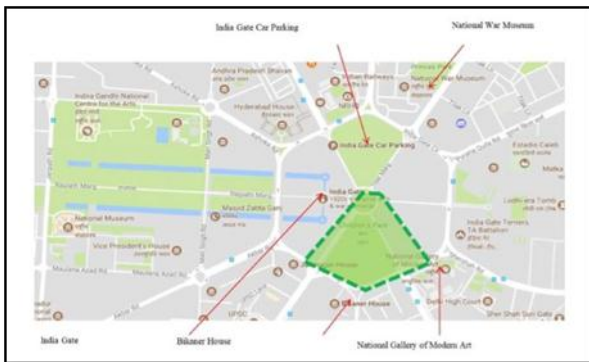

Fig -4 Location of Children Park, Delhi

Fig -5 Features and activities in Children Park, Delhi

3.3 MDDA Park: DEHRADUN

MDDA Park, also known as Rajpur Park is a neighborhood park, planned by the Mussoorie Dehradun Development Agency (MDDA) on an area of 2.5 acres, in 2008. The park is located along Rajpur road the park features a multi-levelled design which is in harmony with the mountains in the background. The park has walking trails and benches with interactive games, and basic amenities such as drinking water, toilet facilities and a canteen area. People from surrounding neighborhoods, residents and tourists visit the place. Users of the space include families, students and couples. The park has a nominal entrance fee for safety reasons. It is open from 8 am until 6 pm and receives an average footfall of around 350 people per day on weekdays, mostly users visit the park on weekends.

Fig -6 Map showing the location of MDDA Park

Fig -7 Images showing features and activities in MDDA Park

3.4 Mahatma Gandhi Park: DEHRADUN

Mahatma Gandhi Park is one of the primeval parks in Dehradun. It is one of the biggest public spaces covering an area of 12.1 acres in city. The park is located on Rajpur Road, 400 m from the Dehradun Clock Tower and the Paltan Bazaar, a popular shopping market. Parade Ground is on the east side of the tower, whereas the Astley Hall is towards the north side. There are two entrances to the park, one is on Rajpur road which is known to be main entrance and lies on the north-west side. A petrol

pump is also located at the park, on Raipur road. The areas that are not far away around the park are popular shopping destinations and provide the ideal place for people to relax and take a break from mental as well as physical activities. park has a concrete track for joggers and early morning walkers in addition to green lawns where people sit, relax, and socialize. The park has two separate staunched swing areas for kids, one of which is built recently Children's Park, which is gated and subjected to an entrance fee. whereas the other area is accessible to all children, free of cost. The park remains open from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. and can be visited by people in this duration. The park is visited by around 1500 people per day on average. The people across the city visit the park along with their families. Users of the park include people from nearby neighborhoods, some from more distant city areas and tourists. The space is also used for social gathering, strikes, public protests and health camps.

As part of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), an Indian Government scheme, the park is experiencing new, phased development. Under this scheme; the Children's Park; a musical fountain; boating for children; a meditation and yoga center; a children's play zone; flower beds; public utilities; an open Amphitheatre; kiosks and a food court; cycle tracks and jogging tracks are all suggested to be developed. Of these proposals, the one which is completely developed under the first phase of development, is the Children's Park and is now operational, and features recreational space for a nominal fee, as mentioned earlier.
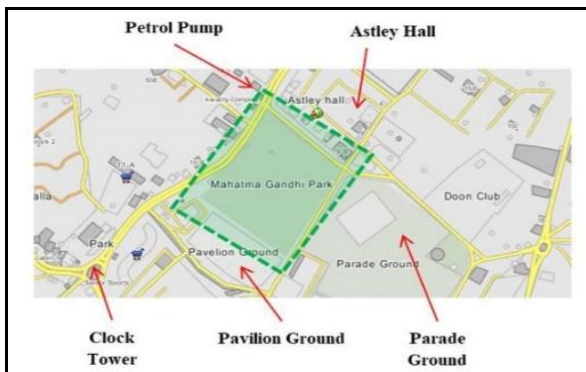

Fig -8 Map showing the location of Mahatma Gandhi park

Fig -9 Features and activities in Mahatma Gandhi Park

4. Comparative analysis

Table -1: Comparative analysis in different public parks

Major Factors	Sub Criteria	Delhi		Dehradun	
		Central park	Children park	MDDA park	Gandhi park
Economic Value	**Accessibility**	Ease of movement in around it	Good accessibility via public and private Transport	By walking	Accessibility and linked should be improved
	Services	Presence of good lighting and illumination	Good public amenities are available.	Arrangement of park furniture is good	Basic amenities in Developing stage
	Safety and security	Control of entrance to the space according to specified timings.	Control of entrance to the space according to specified timings	Control of entrance to the space according to specified timings and entrance fees	Control of entrance to the space according to specified timings and entrance fees

Social Value	Inclusive	Used by all, irrespective of age, race, class, gender and physical abilities	specifically, for children, and families	Open for all age groups	Inclusiveness by timing and age
	Activities and Uses	Socializing, Family outings Event and Gatherings, Relaxing	Children's play, Families Physical fitness related activity	Families, students Couples, sports and games	Children's play Family outings Relaxing,
Environmental Values	Pollution	Green open space gives cool air to the surroundings	Landscape features are allowing to control pollution	Pollution free environment near Mountains	Green lawn allows to reduce pollution
	Attractive & appealing	Visual pleasure in the overall space	Presence of themed play area	Aesthetic appeal	Uncluttered view of the space

5. CONCLUSIONS

Therefore, from the above study it is observed that accessibility, services, safety and security, inclusivity, activities and its uses, pollution control and the attractive features play a vital role creating good public spaces which helps in creating harmony between social, economic and environmental factors leading to sustainability. The present study is only focused on one of the most important typologies of public space i.e. Parks. Public space offers great of social, environmental and economic value to restoring the identity of cities and enhancing the lifestyle of its citizens giving them opportunities for new experiences. Each public space design will perform differently so it is important to adopted Strategies for improving performance will also different. This study helps to identify the major factors for design the public space and it is easy to understand and implement in planning and development during the initial stage of planning. Public space based on an analysis framework can result in better managed and more successful public space.

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BIOGRAPHIES

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