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Paedocentric Perception as a tool in redesigning a precinct: Case of Thangassery, Kollam

Children as a user group experience social spatial-marginalization through their interaction with built forms of everyday spaces. This translates to children are essentially designed out of our built environment. This is concerning not only for children but for all city dwellers because the amount of time children spend playing outdoors, their independent mobility and their interaction with nature are strong indicators of how successfully a city is performing, not just for children but for everyone. Therefore, although children act as a sort of indicator group, they have very little say in their built environment.

According to United Nations Human Settlements Programme, by 2030, 60 percent of the world's city dwellers will be under the age of 18 and city design should aim to be more responsive to the needs of this large proportion of our demographic. This paper attempts to understand how children's perception along with parent's perception can contribute to the better design of urban environments in context of Thangassery, Kollam, Kerala, India. Data collection methods included mapping, surveys and interviews with both children and parents to understand what concerns are primary to children. These concerns are related to urban design and planning dimensions to provide recommendations.

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