

ANN JOY | Prof. Smitha M V

A Strategic Approach To The Creation Of Green Open Space Corridor In Kochi City

Urban parks and green spaces can provide multiple benefits to the people and the surroundings, from tangible socio-economic values to intangible quality of life. Growing urbanization in the city has resulted in pollution, congestion and lack of efficient utilization of green open spaces. This green open space can act as a lung of the city, which are multi-functional and are a social necessity in an urban context as it contributes towards a healthier life both mentally and physically. Hence the strategies for the green open space planning should reflect a wider vision by including consultation and involvement of multiple stakeholders. This study aims to give recommendations to enhance the quality of green open spaces and explores the possibilities to connect between them by creating a green open space corridor, based on the strategies developed for the CBD area of Kochi City. Kochi is the densest city and the percentage of green open spaces is decreasing over years. Thus, there is a necessity to preserve the existing green open spaces and protect them from lack of planning. The study area is delineated based on population density, issue, purpose and potential. Three types of green open spaces which serves the purpose of recreation giving active and passive use are selected for the study: Marine drive Walkway, Subhash Park and Durbar hall Ground of Kochi City. The selected green open spaces will be assessed based on four parameters that define its quality: Natural factors, Social factors, Design considerations, Maintenance and services. The assessment was done through the primary field survey which follows the key informant interview, observation and questionnaire survey from 252 respondents, focusing on identifying the user characteristics and towards their aspiration about the green open space they use. The recommendations for each parameters are evolved based on the analysis of the user response to the questionnaire survey. The strategies developed to create the green open space corridor connecting the studied green open spaces is based on the analysis of key informant interview and observational studies. Thus, the project envisages to enhance the quality of life by developing a healthier community through the efficient creation and connection of green open spaces in Kochi City centre.

Keywords: *Urban parks; Green space; Green Open space; Quality; User characteristics; Kochi City.*