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Bridging Spatiotemporal Inequalities In Accessibility For Women Who Work Late: A Case Of Kazhakoottam

With the number of women increasing in the global work force and technological parks paving way for a majority of the jobs created, spatial planning of techno centric development to be gender friendly is imperative. The thesis aims to identify spatial planning interventions required to redevelop a delineated area around one of India's first IT parks, the Techno Park at Kazhakoottam, Trivandrum into a gender mainstreamed zone. Urban development in India needs a gender perspective because women and men experience the city differently. Diversity in needs of women and men has to be recognized and specific spatial interventions applied which would improve the feeling of ownership of public spaces by women through encouraging a diverse mix of genders making use of the streets. It is of the understanding that a space deemed comfortable to use by women would in turn prove comfortable for men ensuring gender mainstreamed spatial development.

An area of 800m radius with the entry gate of the Techno Park at Kazhakoottam as centre is delineated as the study area based on inferences of previous literature on walkable distances for work related commute in India. Studies are conducted in this area for existing land use, built use, built heights and grain along with charting available amenities, activity mapping based on time of the day and connectivity and movement network mapping.

Based on collected data and reconnaissance surveys, various points for conducting direct interviews using questionnaire method are chosen and stratified cluster sampling followed by convenience sampling is used for respondent selection. Purposive sampling of key informants and direct observation survey and mapping is also performed at various stages. Based on inferences derived from analysis of surveys conducted, strategies for gender mainstreamed development are listed to solve issues observed. This is cumulated to develop a land use plan with suggested architectural controls and urban design interventions to create an effective area development plan to bridge issues in spatiotemporal inequality for women who work late.

Keywords: Gender Mainstreaming, Accessibility, Safety, Spatiotemporal inequality, Land Use, Area development plan, Techno centric development, Techno Park