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AN EXAMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND PHYSICAL QUALITY OF STREET SPACES

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Research Project Report

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the
Master of Urban Design

University of Moratuwa



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711.4 (043)

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

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JULY 2015

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DECLARATION

I declare that this research project represents my own work concept where due acknowledgement is made, and that it has not being previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to the University of Moratuwa or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or any other qualification. I wish to also declare that the total number of words in the body of this report (excluding Tables, References and Appendices) is 9,105.

Signature

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CERTIFICATION

I certify herewith that B.A.N.Lakshila (139408H) of the 2013/2014 group has prepared this research project report under my supervision.

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ABSTRACT

The knowledge inputs by the professionals in the field of urban design, is pleased by the emerging awareness of making vibrant urban spaces which is somewhat beyond the current practice of just providing basic infrastructure or establishing physical assets which is more common in road infrastructure developments in Sri Lankan context. Thus, the time is good for a change to move away from the current approaches and practices to convert our roads to streets and look in to them as a vital part of public realm.

For such an initiation, it would be very much useful to have a thorough understanding about our streets and human activities occurring there. Therefore, this study has been focused on examining possible relationships exist between the occurrence of street activities and the physical quality of streets in Sri Lankan urban context.

Jan Gehl's explanation of three categories of outdoor activities has been taken as the underlining theoretical basis to conduct this study whereas the main street of Ambalangoda has been selected as a case study. Accordingly, based on the magnitude of accruing optional and social activities particularly, it has been attempted to identify special features and attributes associated with built environment as responsive to such activities.

The research findings have been analyzed using graphical analysis tools and ultimately this study derives some key points which may support in street design endeavours looking forward of creating more responsive physical environments which better suit with Sri Lankan urban context.

This study reveals that, street activities are noticeably responsive to the quality of physical environment. The detail analyses done on the built environment reveals about some of key features in the physical environment where social activities are particularly attracted to those spaces being vital parts of the urban public realm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Janaka Wijesundara, Course Director of Masters programme in Urban Design for the opportunity given me to explore this subject field.

My special thanks goes to Archt. Harsha Fernando being the external supervisor of this research study, for the guidance and instructions given me to succeed this study.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the academic and non-academic staff of the Department of Architecture for the assistance given me.

Always my in-depth admiration goes to my beloved parents and husband on behalf of invaluable support and motivation given, bearing all personal matters during the period of this study.

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