

# RECLAIMING ABANDONED RAILWAY LANDSCAPES FOR COMMUNITY WELL-BEING A CASE STUDY OF RATMALANA, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

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**Abstract:** The study examined the impact of abandoned landscapes on the social well-being of nearby residential communities, focusing on the abandoned railway premises in Ratmalana, Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was selected as a suburban area with delayed redevelopment and long-term exposure to environmental neglect. Framed by the theories of Urban Decay, Spiral of Decline, Broken Windows, and Social Disorganization, the research identified six significant abandonment-related impacts as independent variables, with Social Well-Being as the dependent variable. Social well-being was assessed using the Personal Well-being Index-A across seven key factors through a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative and quantitative data, including field observations, physical assessments, and a household survey (N = 50). The study found that visual blight was the most unsatisfactory factor, with a mean score of 2.12, while vandalism had the least impact (M=2.94). Among social well-being indicators, future security recorded the lowest (M=1.86), whereas achieving life recorded the highest (M=2.72). Overall, the community's subjective well-being was categorized as 'challenged level' in the PWI-A category, reflecting a reduced quality of life. The study concludes that adaptive reuse, enhanced safety, inclusive participation, and balanced investment are essential for revitalizing abandoned urban landscapes and strengthening social well-being.

**Keywords:** *abandoned landscapes, residential community, resilience, social well-being, urban abandonment*,

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## 1. Introduction

Land abandonment, typically seen in agriculture, has led to rural depopulation, social marginalization, and environmental degradation. It led to biodiversity loss, affecting the considerable concern in food security (Lambin et al., 2013). When considering urban abandonment, it was usually linked to industrial decline, shifting populations, and inadequate urban management. This contributes to increased crime, deteriorating infrastructure, and social fragmentation, such as gentrification (Mah, 2012; Rink & Arndt, 2016). Studies have shown that available abandoned landscapes (AAL) increase psychological distress, including tension and depression (Korpela et al., 2008). Addressing the effects of abandonment requires planning policies that promote sustainable and effective land use practices, as well as community resilience and revitalization efforts (Sagara, 2018).

Researchers mainly concentrate on vacant buildings and abandoned structures. The surrounding landscape infrastructure, such as open spaces, transportation corridors, and remaining urban land, has received less attention in the global research on urban abandonment. In developing countries, there is a lack of empirical research on the effects of AALs on mental well-being and perceived quality of life (QOL). Within the Sri Lankan context, there is a clear lack of research on AALs from a landscape architecture or SWB perspective, as most studies emphasize environmental, crime, or economic concerns. Abandoned railway premises in Ratmalana border dense residential neighborhoods, exposing residents to environmental degradation and persistent visual disorder, making it a compelling case to close this gap. Therefore, this study looked at how the impact of AAL affects several aspects of SWB and offered evidence for inclusive and context-specific urban regeneration based on the urban landscapes in Sri Lanka.

The research question (RQ) guiding this study was 'How did urban AALs affect the SWB of the immediate residential communities in creating inclusive and resilient urban spaces for dwellers?'

Research objectives (RO) are based on;

- **RO 1-** To define and contextualize AAL within the urban fabric of inclusive and resilient city building.
- **RO 2-** To explore how AAL affected the SWB of immediate residential communities.
- **RO 3-** To analyse the level of AAL factors and the SWB of the residential community.
- **RO 4-** To develop a theoretical framework integrating these findings, guiding strategies for co-creating resilient and inclusive urban environments.

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## 2. Literature review

### 2.1 DEFINING ABANDONED URBAN LANDSCAPES AND SOCIO-SPATIAL IMPACTS

Human activities could lead to AALs being neglected or mismanaged, resulting in various levels of physical alterations. Lambin et al. (2003) further noted that if human interference stopped in an area, vegetation overgrowth and physical transformation began. Since the Industrial Revolution, and with a boom in real estate speculation, AALs have attracted significant research attention due to their evolving impact on cities and communities (Handy et al., 2006). Privatization of public space and capital-driven planning have led to fragmented urban environments and weakened the place of identity (Harvey, 2005). Tavakoli and Marzbali (2021) examined historic, abandoned buildings in older cities in Iran, arguing that urban public policy failures, speculation, and lack of heritage integration often lead to long-term abandonment. Their work shows that it is not only about economic disinvestment but also about policy neglect and governance failure. This synthesis clarifies how AALs are defined and situated within the urban fabric, forming the conceptual foundation for inclusive and resilient city-building strategies (RO 1).

### 2.2 SOCIAL WELL-BEING IMPLICATIONS OF URBAN ABANDONMENT

When human activities are neglected, mismanaged, or leave AALs untreated, the ecosystem is disrupted and physically altered to varying degrees. The mental health of nearby communities is negatively impacted by AALs in urban environments, which adds to a widespread feeling of loneliness and depression (Korpela et al., 2008). According to Krupat (1985) and Matos (2014), these kinds of settings cause depressive, fearful, and nostalgic feelings, which undermine social cohesiveness and trust. These psychological impacts were caused by a decline in social networks and societal structures, both of which were necessary for SWB (Keyes, 1998). In Philadelphia, USA, Branas et al. (2018) demonstrated that greening and restoring blighted vacant land reduced violent crime and fear, improving both objective conditions and well-being.

Social exclusion is exacerbated by the privatization of public areas, which limits opportunities for social connection and reinforces existing inequalities (Armstrong, 2000; Leyden, 2003). Community marginalization increased as a result of privatization and the reduction of government assistance (Adams et al., 2019; Müller, 2013; Piketty, 2015). Those dynamics directly caused the degrading mental and SWB of the community (Sennett, 1998). To address these problems and issues, three main elements are identified by White (2009): relational (the strength of social ties and the ability to participate), subjective (personal fulfilment, identity, and sense of belonging), and material (access to basic requirements, including food, shelter, and healthcare). The pathways through which AALs impact SWB were established in this section. This served as a foundation to assess the psychological and social effects in residential communities (RO 2).

### 2.3 RAPID URBANISM AND ABANDONMENT RELEVANT TO COLOMBO

The Urban Regeneration Project (URP) led to the large-scale expulsion from centrally located informal settlements, transforming socially vibrant neighbourhoods into sites of physical abandonment in Colombo (Abeyasekera et al., 2019). The URP imposed uniform, isolated high-rises without communal spaces, in contrast to previous participatory models, such as the Million Houses Programme, which promoted community agency and progressive upgrading (Samaratunga & Hare, 2013). This was indicative of a larger change in governance, as the state was becoming a site of conflicting forces pursuing capital-driven objectives rather than a welfare actor (Wacquant, 2012).

Declining property values, increased fear of crime and vandalism, and decreased social engagement in cities nearby are some of the quantitative effects of these changes on AAL metrics and SWB. People with low incomes in suburban areas are socially and spatially marginalized as part of the urban fabric. The study goals of defining AALs and examining their effects on residential communities (RO1 and RO3) are directly supported by an understanding of these dynamics. This understanding made it possible to identify and evaluate AAL factors and their impact on SWB.

### 2.4 CO-CREATION OF INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT URBAN LANDSCAPES

Sustainable and socially conscious approaches to design that promoted SWB and local identity became increasingly prevalent in addressing the problems caused by urban abandonment. Urban landscapes created through active community participation could mitigate the social fragmentation and degeneration associated with abandonment, as demonstrated by Bullock et al. (2007). Reclaiming neglected areas as assets rather than weights is made simpler by such inclusive strategies. Restoring the functioning and vibrancy of these landscapes is made possible by grassroots projects. These included community gardening, adaptive reuse, and the integration of green infrastructure (Wakefield et al., 2007). According to Bullock et al. (2007), communities actively involved in promoting social justice and resilience transformed AALs into vibrant, welcoming landscapes that prioritized cultural significance and individual well-being. These insights support the development of a theoretical framework. This integrates participatory design strategies to guide resilient and inclusive urban regeneration (RO 4).

## 3. Theoretical framework

### 3.1 SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION AND THE SOCIO-SPATIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ABANDONED URBAN LANDSCAPES

AALs are more than physical voids; they reflect and reinforce social disintegration. Social Disorganization Theory posited that abandonment reduced collective efficacy and informal social controls, which made people more vulnerable and less

cohesive in society (Sampson & Groves, 1989). These underutilized areas undermined the perception of the community. They also sustained urban inequalities (Rink & Arndt, 2016; Wood & Handley, 2010). This predicament was exacerbated in neoliberal contexts by selective urban investment, which often marginalized low-income populations (Quastel et al., 2012). However, these areas could also regenerate. Mah (2012) emphasized the historical and emotional significance of these locations. He proposed that their revitalization could promote resilience and social capital. Reclaiming AALs through community-led interventions and inclusive planning restored equality and public stewardship (Cilliers & Cilliers, 2016; Vanderstede, 2011).

### 3.2 URBAN DECAY AND THE IMPACT ON COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND SOCIAL COHESION

The breakdown of collaborative cohesion was significantly accelerated by urban deterioration, which was driven by modernist economic agendas that prioritized economic efficiency over benefit. As businesses and services shifted to more profitable areas, local communities were often left behind, deepening socio-economic inequalities and intensifying feelings of marginalization (Acioly & Acioly, 1999). Characteristics of abandonment, including abandoned buildings and poorly maintained properties, were linked with increased crime, fear, and social isolation in vulnerable communities, as explained by Broken Windows Theory (Kelling & Wilson, 1982) and the Spirals of Decline Theory (Prak & Priemus, 1986). During this period, the social environment and physical settings deteriorated. This demonstrated persistent conflicts between urban development targets and community needs. The variables in the analysis highlighted how systemic neglect-driven urban deterioration threatened spatial justice and undermined the SWB of affected populations (Morrison, 2013; Skogan, 2015).

### 3.3 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR LINKING ABANDONMENT, SOCIAL WELL-BEING, AND AVAILABLE ABANDONED LANDSCAPE IMPACTS

This study analysed and identified global perspectives on abandonment, as well as the context in Colombo and a representative case study in Ratmalana. The analysed impacts were systematically examined, narrowing the focus of the research. RO 1 and 2 were explored in the literature review, and the theoretical framework provided a strong foundation for building a robust argument. According to that, the relationship and formation of AAL impacts were categorized as fulfilling RO 2. Those were classified into three attributes: social, emotional, and physical impacts (Figure 1). Understanding and addressing the impacts of AAL on the SWB of the immediate residential communities was essential for co-creating inclusive and resilient urban landscapes. This understanding informed strategies to transform neglected spaces into inclusive, connected, and people-centered urban landscapes.

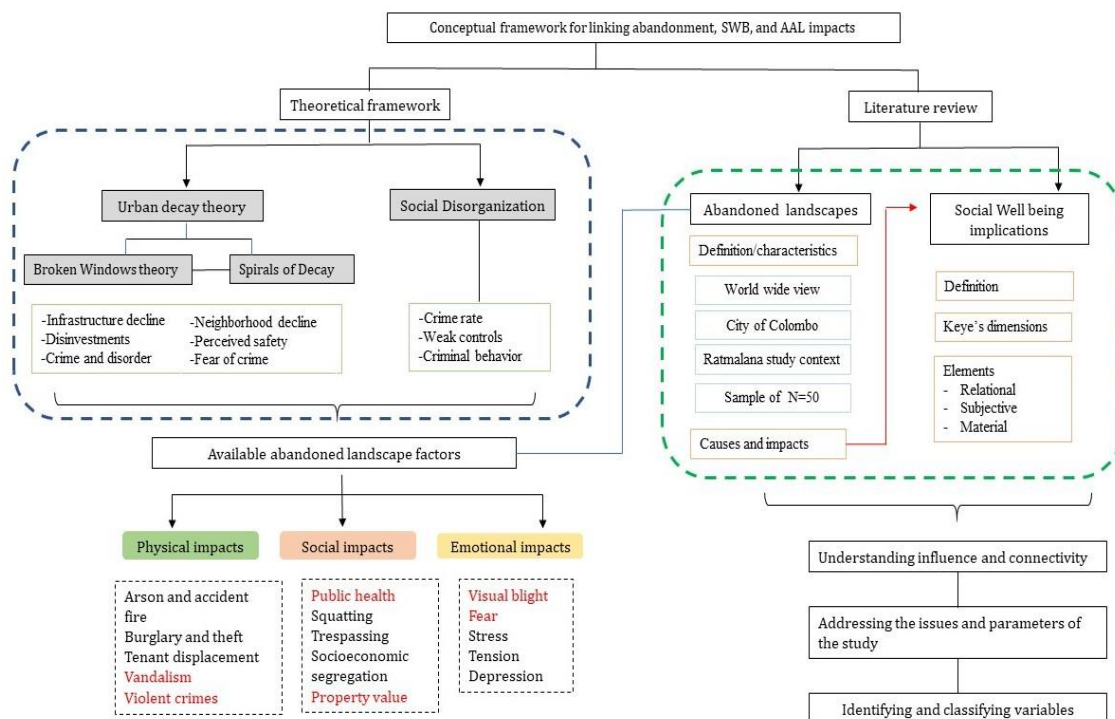


Figure 1: Conceptual framework (Source: Compiled by author)

## 4. Research Methodology

### 4.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the issue. The approach was informed by a literature review and a case study conducted in Ratmalana. Maps, charts, and images supported data analysis, which was collected through observations, questionnaires, and interviews. The results revealed the discussion and facilitated accurate conclusions. In Figure 2, the study systematically

examined the influence of AAL on SWB of the immediate residential community through a structured classification of research variables.

- **Independent variables:** Six AAL factors on SWB were selected for the study. Although AALs produce numerous environmental, social, and economic effects, this study focused on the most critical and frequently cited impacts: property value, public health, visual blight, fear, violent crimes, and vandalism. These factors were selected due to time constraints, high relevance in urban decay and social disorganization literature, and their direct representation of physical and environmental conditions that shape SWB.
- **Dependent variables:** SWB factors were selected under the subjective dimension that reflected the direct social and psychological impacts that AALs had on daily lives and overall QOL. The Personal Well-Being Index for Adults (PWI-A) was used as a measuring tool.
- **Control variables:** To ensure that participants (N=50) were both immediately affected by the AAL impacts and within a typical walkable distance from the site, the sample selection process concentrated on locals who permanently lived close to the selected site. The sample consisted of an equal number of male and female respondents (25 each) to minimize gender bias. To capture a variety of generational views and the experiences of both long-term and new residents, a range of age groups (18–30, 31–40, 41–50, and 51+) and residential periods (1–5 years, 6–10 years, 11–20 years, and above 20 years) were represented.

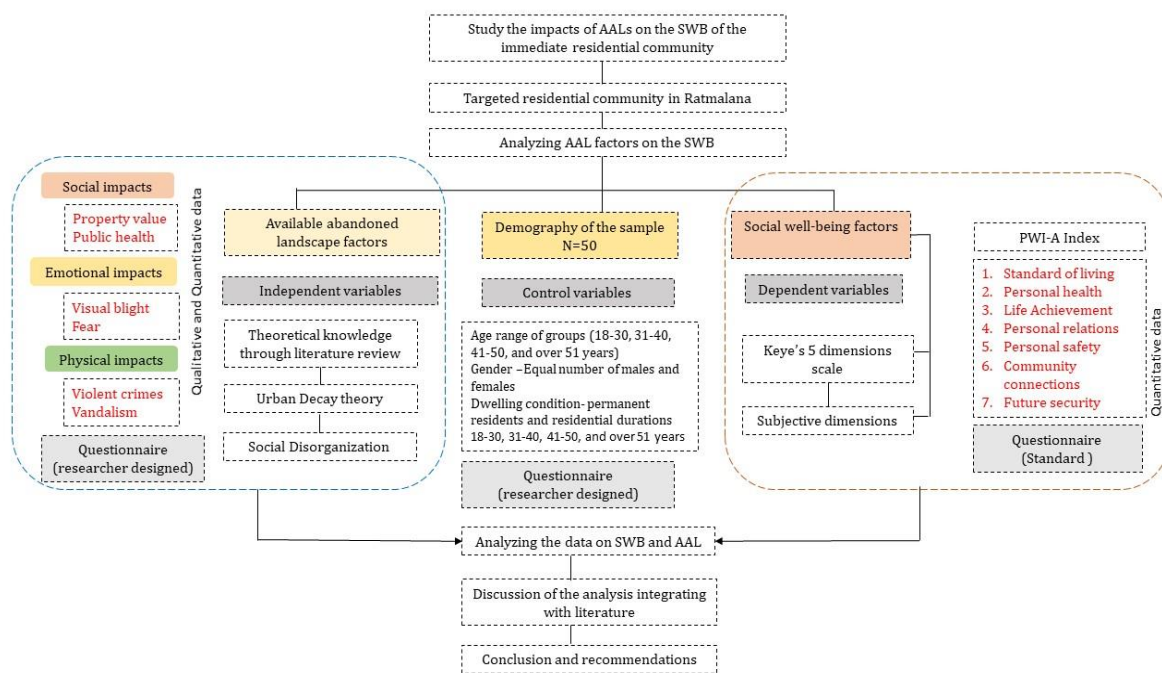


Figure 1: Research design (Source: Compiled by author)

#### 4.2 DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND TOOLS

The questionnaire consisted of three components;

- **Section A – Demographics:** Collected background information, including age, gender, and dwelling period of residence.
- **Section B – AAL Impacts:** A personalised questionnaire assessed the six selected AAL impacts. Respondents rated the extent to which abandonment affected daily life.
- **Section C – SWB and QOL:** PWI-A was administered to adults 18 years and above, and could be presented in written or verbal form depending on respondent preference. Each of the seven satisfaction questions on the PWI scale corresponded to a different QOL domain, including Standard of living, Health, Achieving in life, Relationships, Safety, Community-connectedness, and Future security.

The PWI-A was adapted to the local context by adjusting certain phrases for clarity and cultural suitability while maintaining the original domains. Although minor wording changes can slightly influence cross-cultural comparability, the study ensured validity by retaining all PWI-A domains, preserving the semantic meaning of each item, and conducting a small pilot test to confirm comprehension and consistency. These adaptations enhanced content validity by ensuring that respondents clearly understood each item in the Sri Lankan context. Satisfaction levels were rated on a 5-point Likert scale,



where respondents indicated their level of satisfaction from 1 (strongly disagree/dissatisfied) to 5 (strongly agree/satisfied). The identities of respondents were not disclosed or used for any other purpose, as per their requests.

#### 4.2.1 Limitations

This study only considered the AALs of the Ratmalana railway premises and their surrounding landscapes. Due to time limits and accessibility, only 50 residents were selected as the sample, and the study was framed as a pilot study. As a pilot study, the results provide initial insights and may not be generalisable.

#### 4.3 DATA CLEARING AND SCORING

SWB factors and QOL measures were calculated using the standard formula. Subjective well-being scores on the PWI-A were interpreted as follows (Tomin et al., 2015). Subjective well-being was categorized as 'normal' when scores were over 70, 'compromised' when scores ranged between 50 and 60, and 'challenged' when scores were 49 or below.

$$\frac{X - k_{\min}}{k_{\max} - k_{\min}} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

$X$  - The score or mean to be converted

$k_{\min}$  - The minimum score possible on the scale

$k_{\max}$  - The maximum score possible on the scale

#### 4.4 ABANDONED RAILWAY PREMISES AT RATMALANA, COLOMBO – CASE STUDY

##### 4.4.1 Site selection

Ratmalana, a suburb in the Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council, was chosen as the study location. It is an important industrial area in Colombo. Ratmalana, located 14.6 kilometers south of the centre of Colombo. It hosts both industrial and densely populated residential areas. Its strategic significance as a transportation hub made it ideal for studying the socio-spatial effects of AALs. Access to essential services of the area and employment opportunities further supported this choice. The site was selected to examine AALs in the suburbs of Colombo and their impact on the local community.

##### 4.4.2 Land value

Ratmalana was listed as an industrial zone by the Urban Development Authority (2020). However, the 2030 Colombo Structure Plan suggested moving these factories to Horana and Ingiriya. The selected landscapes are near Colombo and the Galle Main Road. As predicted, underused or abandoned facilities might have persisted after this transition. Ratmalana, with its well-balanced urban character, plays a key role in the Colombo metropolitan area. It contributed to the economy, as well as to residential and cultural identity, making its preservation and development an important factor.



Figure 3: Site location  
(Source: Compiled by author)

Figure 3 shows the components of the selected site, highlighting the various functional and physical areas within the study context. The zoning highlighted key landscape typologies, including residential, educational, and religious areas. The study context was selected for analysis, thereby providing a comprehensive spatial understanding of the diverse urban character and land use patterns. Each of the spaces corresponded to the entries listed under the 'No' column in Table 1, enabling cross-referencing between the mapped features in Figure 3 and their respective descriptions.

Table 1: Details of the selected site  
(Source: Compiled by author)

| No | Space                    | Area (sqm.) | Notes                                   |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1  | Abandoned carriageways   | 12000       | Inside AALs within the railway premises |
| 2  | Abandoned open spaces    | 7000        |                                         |
| 3  | Abandoned railway yard   | 20600       |                                         |
| 4  | Abandoned railway line   | 1700        |                                         |
| 5  | Outside abandoned places | 13504       | Outside, open AALs                      |
| 6  | Station road             | -           | Roads                                   |
| 7  | Galle road               | -           |                                         |
| 8  | Residential area         | -           |                                         |

Table 2 shows the demographic details of the chosen context, providing an overview of key variables. This helps to understand nature and characterize the context of the selected site.

Table 2: Demographic details of selected context  
(Source: Dehiwala- Mount Lavinia Municipal Council development plan 2021-2030)

| Data            | Details                                       | Amount/ Percentage |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Population      | Population                                    | 38,930             |
|                 | Population density                            | 216 person/ha      |
|                 | Population projection (2025)                  | 58,700             |
| Occupation      | Families engage in fishing                    | 569                |
|                 | Labor force                                   | 21,800 (56%)       |
| Housing         | Houses in underserved settlements             | 45%                |
| Vandalism       | Theft reported                                | 2532               |
| Daily commuters | Number of daily passengers across the context | 298,000            |
|                 | Daily visited by local and foreign tourists   | 2170               |

## 5. Data presentation and analysis

### 5.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The sample (N=50) encompassed a range of gender, age, and dwelling period characteristics (Figure 4). The sample was selected according to the criteria described in Section 4.1.

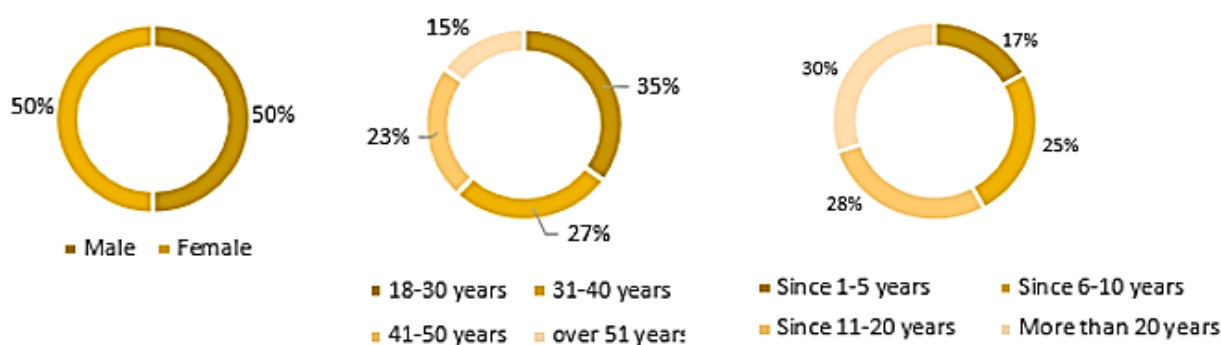


Figure 4: Range of the gender, age, and dwelling period of respondents  
(Source –Compiled by author)

### 5.2 ANALYZING THE IMPACTS OF AVAILABLE ABANDONED LANDSCAPES

The analysis of achievement scores for satisfaction (Figure 5) demonstrated that AALs in and around the Ratmalana railway yard exerted both objective and subjective impacts on well-being, aligning with RO2 and RO3. Economic dissatisfaction was evident, with 44% dissatisfied with property values and 28% strongly dissatisfied. This reflected the Spiral of Decline, where

neglect reduced neighborhood desirability and economic confidence. Public health concerns (58% dissatisfied) illustrate environmental degradation affecting physical well-being, consistent with Urban Decay Theory. Broken Windows Theory, which connects evident neglect with social disorder and perceived insecurity. This was supported by visual blight (66% dissatisfied) and vandalism (32% dissatisfied). The Social Disorganization Theory, which linked increased crime opportunities to reduced social cohesion in neglected areas, corresponds with the high level of safety concerns: 42% were dissatisfied with violent crime, and 28% feared criminal activity.

These patterns reinforce the Spiral of Decline, Broken Windows, Urban Decay, and Social Disorganization frameworks. AAL impacts in Ratmalana are both objective and subjective. Economic and environmental neglect reduced objective well-being (Tavakoli & Marzbali, 2021). Visual blight and safety concerns increase subjective dissatisfaction (Branas et al., 2018). Capital-driven urban fragmentation also causes neglect and social disruption (Harvey, 2005; Handy et al., 2006). Restoring AALs could improve well-being and reduce crime (Branas et al., 2018; Lambin et al., 2003).

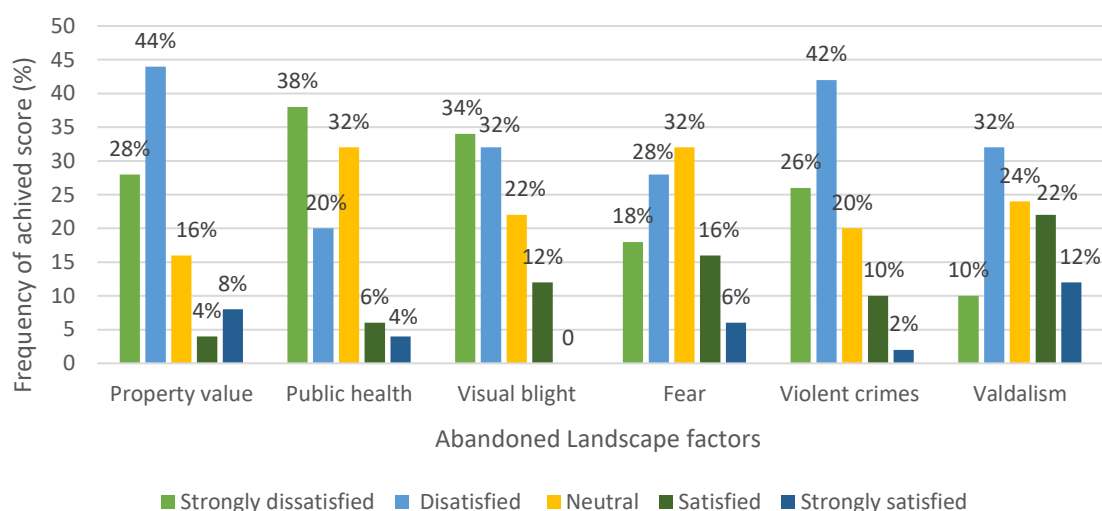


Figure 5: Frequency of AALs  
(Source: Compiled by author)

According to Figure 6, visual blight recorded the highest level of negative perception ( $M=2.12$ ) of AAL, while vandalism ( $M=2.94$ ) had a relatively lesser, yet still significant, impact.

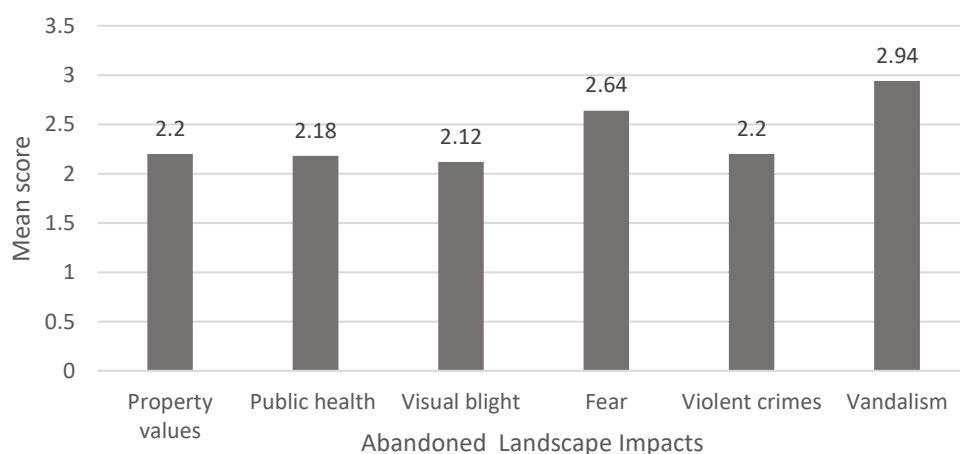


Figure 6: Mean values of the satisfaction level of AAL factors  
(Source -Compiled by author)

### 5.3 ANALYZING THE SOCIAL WELL-BEING FACTORS

The analysis of satisfaction scores for SWB factors (Figure 7) focused on RO3, examining how AAL in Ratmalana influenced well-being. The findings reveal impacts on both objective conditions (health, safety) and subjective perceptions (life satisfaction, relationships, future security). The Spiral of Decline, in which neglect lowers material and perceived QOL. This was reflected in the fact that half of the respondents expressed disappointment with their standard of living. 38% of respondents reported health issues. According to the Urban Decay Theory, which relates AALs to decreases in physical and

mental well-being, dissatisfaction with life achievements suggests that AAL contributes to psychological stress, a lack of inspiration, and reduced life satisfaction.

Isolation and abandonment also weakened social ties. 40% dissatisfied, and 10% strongly disagreed that they were satisfied with their relationships. These patterns supported Social Disorganization Theory. Feelings of marginalization were evident, with 34% dissatisfied and 20% strongly dissatisfied that they felt connected to the community. Most remarkably, 74% felt insecure about their future (44% strongly dissatisfied, 30% dissatisfied). No respondents were satisfied with future stability.

These outcomes mirror global trends in AALs, where physical neglect and weak social networks reduce QOL (Harvey, 2005; Handy et al., 2006; Tavakoli & Marzbali, 2021). Also, demonstrated that AAL affects both present well-being and long-term perceptions of security, corroborating the Spiral of Decline and broader social disorganization patterns. Overall, AALs in Ratmalana degrade multiple SWB dimensions, supporting RO3 and demonstrating the interaction between objective factors and subjective perceptions.

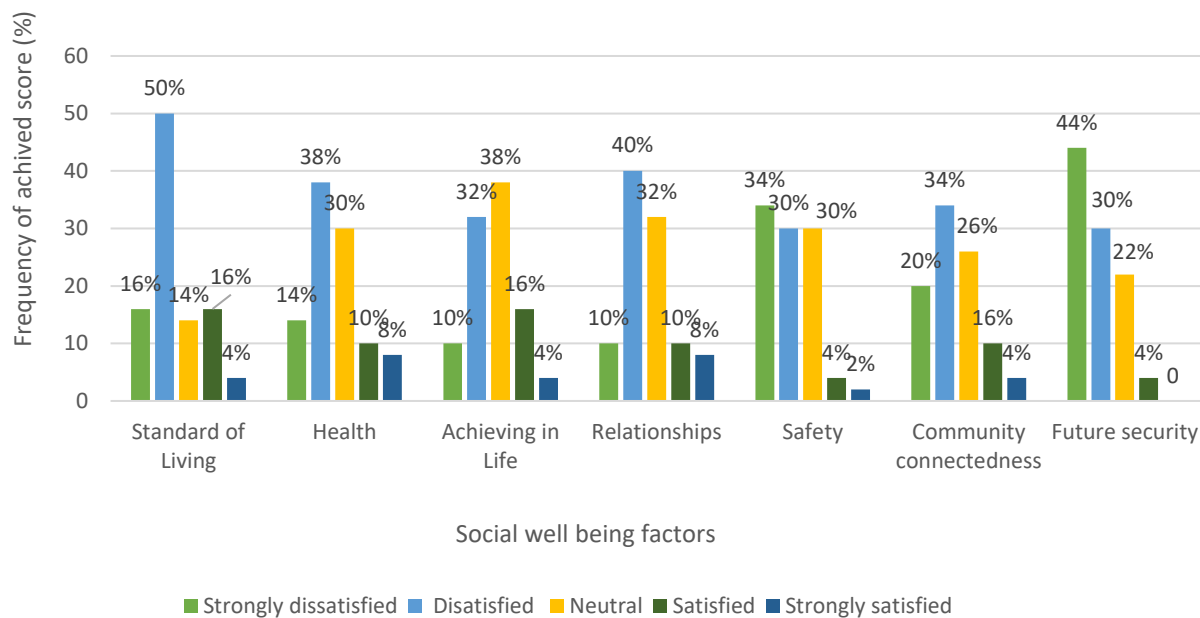


Figure 7: Frequency of SWB factors  
(Source: Compiled by author)

The results revealed that "future security" received the lowest score ( $M=1.86$ ), highlighting a strong sense of uncertainty and concern among the community about what lay ahead. In contrast, achieving life received the highest score of 2.72 (Figure 8). The average SWB score was 2.44, corresponding to 36% on the PWI-A scale (Eq. 1). This indicated the well-being of the community in the 'challenged level', reflecting notable struggles across multiple life domains.



Figure 8: Mean values of the satisfaction level of SWB factors  
(Source: Compiled by author)



## 5.4 INTERPRETATION OF CORRELATION ANALYSIS

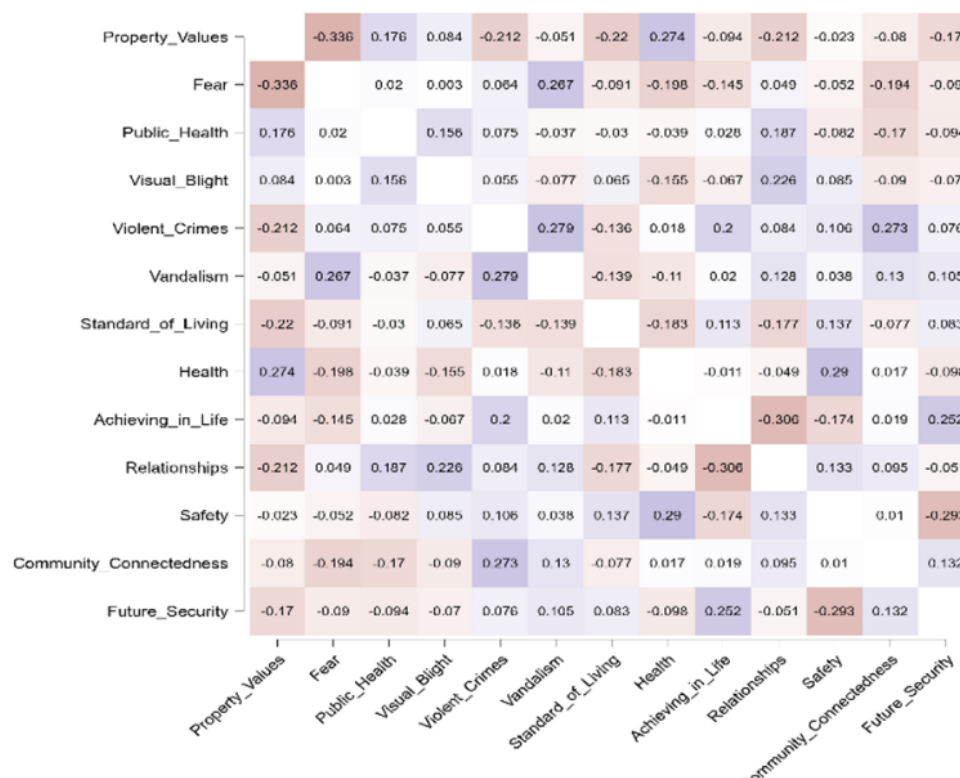


Figure 9: Heatmap of correlation analysis  
(Source: Compiled by author)

The correlation matrix (Figure 9) demonstrated that dropping property values were associated with heightened insecurity, evidenced by a negative correlation with violent crime ( $r = -0.212$ ) and fear ( $r = -0.336$ ). A slight positive relationship with health ( $r = 0.274$ ) indicated that better property conditions were aligned with improved health perceptions. Additionally, there was a moderate positive correlation between fear and vandalism ( $r = 0.267$ ) and a substantial correlation between vandalism and violent crime ( $r = 0.279$ ) between physical disorder and social instability. The positive connection between relationships and life achievement ( $r = 0.252$ ) demonstrated internal consistency in well-being.

## 6. Conclusion and future projection

Impacts of AAL caused SWB in nearby residential areas to decrease. Consistent with the literature on Urban Decay and the Social Disorganization, residents experienced a deterioration in QOL as AAL factors contributed to falling property values, heightened fear of crime, and persistent visual blight. Visual blight was the highest level of negative aspect among AAL impacts and confirmed assumptions made in Broken Windows Theory that obvious neglect served as a powerful psychological indicator, indicating disruption and decreasing perceptions of safety and stability. Residents had the most uncertain sense of uncertainty about their future out of all the SWB standards. Life achievement and health were still below their ideal levels, but were comparatively less impacted. The results revealed that key SWB factors were significantly challenged by the presence of AAL. This reflected pattern outlined in Social Disorganization Theory, where weakened social ties and a lack of collective oversight escalated fear, marginalization, and community fragmentation. Community well-being in the 'challenged level' according to the analysis for the selected sample in Ratmalana. Overall, the study highlighted the importance of integrated, community-centered, and resilience-focused urban regeneration efforts by confirming that AAL presented a multifaceted danger to the community's well-being in Ratmalana.

Future recommendations are based on,

- Prioritize participatory transformation approaches that integrate community perspectives into the redesign of AAL, ensuring inclusive, responsive, and locally grounded interventions.
- Mitigate visual blight through adaptive reuse strategies, green buffers, and multifunctional public spaces that enhance environmental quality and promote positive affordances, strengthening SWB and interrupting the Spiral of Decline.
- Enhance safety and reduce fear of crime by implementing community-oriented policing, improved landscape lighting systems, routine inspections, and environmental monitoring initiatives.

- Develop long-term governance and maintenance frameworks that align local authorities, residents, and private stakeholders. Integrate SWB indicators into planning policies to systematically identify, monitor, and prioritize AALs.
- Advance the research agenda through longitudinal and comparative studies across multiple categories of AALs in Sri Lanka. Expand sample sizes and employ advanced statistical analyses (e.g., regression, correlation modelling) to evaluate long-term effects on mental health, SWB, and community cohesion.

This study highlights the critical need for community-centered urban planning in Ratmalana while demonstrating globally and locally significant connections between impacts of AALs and decreased SWB. The results provide clear policy reform in the planning process and present opportunities for research directions for creating inclusive & resilient spaces, by exploring strategies that transform AALs into inclusive and connected urban landscapes.

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