

**STUDY OF THE ROLE OF URBAN WETLAND PARKS FOR VISITORS'
WELLBEING - A CASE STUDY OF DIYASARU UYANA WETLAND PARK
IN SRI LANKA**

Madhuka Madhubashini Liyanagamage

Degree Master of Science in Environmental Management

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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Thesis/Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Science in
Environmental Management

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ABSTRACT

The importance of urban green spaces for human wellbeing has been extensively studied in various parts of the world. However, there is a lack of such studies in tropical countries, particularly in developing nations. The benefits associated with urban green spaces, including wetland parks, are often overlooked, with little consideration given to their unique qualities and positive effects on human health and wellbeing. This study focuses on the role of an urban wetland park, specifically Diyasaru Uyana Wetland Park, in promoting visitors' wellbeing. The study aims to understand visitors' satisfaction and perception regarding their mental, physiological, and social wellbeing. Based on the findings, the study also provides recommendations to improve park management and enhance visitors' wellbeing. To achieve these objectives, a visitor survey was conducted, followed by key informative interviews with stakeholders and direct observations in Diyasaru Uyana Wetland Park. The study identified eight distinct purposes for park visits among surveyed visitors, with spending quality time with loved ones being a prevalent purpose. Overall, visitors expressed high satisfaction with the park's facilities and experiences, regardless of their specific motivations for visiting. While certain aspects such as relaxation spaces, availability of biodiversity information, and photography facilities received mixed opinions, it is evident that visitors had a positive perception of their park experience. The majority of surveyed visitors expressed an intention to revisit the park and recommend it to others, indicating a positive overall impression. Furthermore, the socio-demographic data revealed that the park is primarily frequented by nearby urban residents, confirming its role in enhancing the mental, psychological, and social wellbeing of urban communities.

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Table of Contents

ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	v
List of Abbreviations	x
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Need of the research	1
LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1. The importance & benefits of urban green spaces & urban wetland parks	6
2.2. Human wellbeing	7
2.3. Mental Wellbeing	8
2.4. Psychological wellbeing	9
2.5. Social Wellbeing	10
2.6. Relationship between visitors' wellbeing and the urban wetland parks	11
2.7. Recent similar research in global & local contexts	16
MATERIALS & METHODOLOGY	19
3.1 Study Area	19
3.2 Data Collection Methods	20
3.3 Analysis of the survey data	23
RESULTS AND ANALYSIS.....	26
4.1 Findings of the Desk Review	26
4.2 Findings of the Direct Observation	27
4.3 Findings of the Key Informative Interviews (KII).....	28
4.4. The visitor Survey Data Analysis	33
4.4.1. Socio- demographic status of the respondents of the survey	33
4.5. Understanding the visitors' level of satisfaction	40
DISCUSSION	54
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	57
6.1 Recommendation Based on the study for enhancing the wellbeing of the visitors	57
6.2 Recommendations for conducting future studies	63
6.3 Conclusion	64

REFERENCES	64
Annex 1	68
Annex 2:.....	69

List of Figures

Figure 1: Co Relationships between ecosystem services, uses of wetland parks and components of wellbeing	15
Figure 2: Location of the study area	19
Figure 3: The basic structure of the questionnaire	22
Figure 4: A promotion flyer of Diyasaru Park	27
Figure 5: Image of the front page of Diyasaru Newsletter	27
Figure 6: Some of the Bill boards inside the park	30
Figure 7: Gender Dynamics of the respondents	33
Figure 8: Age range of the respondents	34
Figure 9: Educational status of the respondents	35
Figure 10: Occupational status of the respondents	35
Figure 11: Frequency of the visit of the respondents	36
Figure 12: Time spent inside the park by the respondents.....	37
Figure 13: Type of the visitor (survey respondent)	38
Figure 14: Purpose of the visit of the respondents	39
Figure 15: Frequency tables for responses for Question 3 of the survey by the respondents visited the park to spend a relaxing time	40
Figure 16: Frequency tables for responses for Question 4 of the survey by the respondents visited the park to spend a relaxing time	41
Figure 17: Frequency tables for responses for Question 5 of the survey by the respondents visited the park to enjoy the nature and experience the calmness & the scenery	43
Figure 18: Frequency tables for responses for Question 6 of the survey by the respondents visited the park to enjoy the nature and experience the calmness & the scenery	44
Figure 19: Frequency tables for responses for Question 7 of the survey by the respondents visited the park for taking photographs as a wildlife & nature photographer or as a professional photographer for commercial purposes.....	45
Figure 20: Frequency tables for responses for Question 8 of the survey by the respondents visited the park for taking photographs as a wildlife & nature photographer or as a professional photographer for commercial purposes.....	46
Figure 21: Frequency tables for responses for Question 9 of the survey by the respondents visited the park for participating in an outdoor activity	47
Figure 22: Frequency tables for responses for Question 10 of the survey by the respondents visited the park for participating in an outdoor activity	48
Figure 23: Frequency tables for responses for Question 11 of the survey by the respondents visited the park for the research & educational purposes & for participating in educational training/ program	49
Figure 24: Frequency tables for responses for Question 12 of the survey by the respondents visited the park for the research & educational purposes & for participating in educational training/ program	51

List of Tables

Table 1: Wellbeing components & their indicators related to the study	13
Table 2: List of relevant question in Part B for each type of visitor	24
Table 3: Likert scale for Part B questions	25

List of Abbreviations

SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WHO	World Health Organization
UN	United Nations
HDI	Human Development Index
SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
GN	Grama Niladhari
IEE	Initial Environment Examination
KII	The Key Informative Interviews
WLI	Wetland Link International
COP 14	Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
SLLDC	Sri Lanka Land Development Cooperation
HDI	Human Development Index