Contextualizing Meso Space as A Safe Space for Children Towards Child Friendly Cities

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Abstract

A child-friendly city prioritises the needs and rights of children in the city. The lack of spaces available for children to play in urban areas has affected urban children's ability to play freely outside their homes in a safe and enjoyable built environment. In relation to the promotion of safe space in a city, the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) are an approach that has been used by many local governments worldwide in promoting safe cities and can be applied at various scales of the built environment. This research examined children's perceptions towards existing space and the built environment that surrounds them based on the CPTED threat categories involving children ages 7 to 12 years old living in an urban village located about 10km from the city centre of Kuala Lumpur. Collective mapping method was used to help the children visualise their experiences and map them out to identify the gaps in this research. This qualitative study contextualised "meso space" as an intermediate space between home and the city in promoting a safer space in a city, especially for children.

Keywords: Children, Safe Space, Child Friendly Cities, Safe City, CPTED