ENCOURAGING GREEN LIFESTYLE THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AND DESIGN

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All praises to Allah the Almighty for the strengths and His blessings in completing this master's project.

This work is specially dedicated to;

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My eldest sister, Dr. Rohayanti and her family, Ranafie and Nadya.R

My wonderful siblings Shahril, Yaya, Din, Shida, Aisha, Hairi and Sikin

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, human lifestyle has led to a more 'consumption-oriented' lifestyle. This phenomenon has resulted in more unsustainable lifestyle practices. Therefore, this research aims to explore and gain information on how the neighborhood planning and design would be able to encourage the green lifestyle. Literature review is prepared in the earlier stage of the research. The instruments used in this research are observation and questionnaire distribution to two selected study area which are Taman Universiti and Taman Mutiara Rini. The first objective of the research is to identify on how far the green lifestyle is being practiced while the second objective is to identify the planning and design factor that supports the green lifestyle. Descriptive analysis is used to analyze the data. The main finding of this study showed that both neighborhoods has significance difference for three green lifestyle indicator which are recreation, transportation and waste recycling behavior. Other findings showed there is a lot of dissatisfaction and inadequate facilities which can be seen from similarly on waste recycling part in which majority of the respondent did not even know the location of recycle bins and recycle centre in their neighborhood area. Besides, dissatisfaction in the available sport facilities and inadequacy of them to fulfill residents' needs also exist. Most of the respondents use car and motorcycle as main mode of transportation around their neighborhood because of the lack of public transportation option especially in Taman Mutiara Rini and this shows the need to install or improve facilities such as pedestrian lane, bicycle lane and public transportation. The safety also encourages the residents to do physical exercise outside their house. Every part of the issue mentioned can eventually affect the lifestyle of neighborhood residents. Therefore, improvement for the facilities has to be made according to the suggestions given. In conclusion, the findings showed that neighborhood planning and design have minor contribution towards encouraging residents to practice green lifestyle in the physical aspect of the environment but not strongly encourage their behavior to do so. Since there might be another factor like awareness and willingness that more dominant to encourage residents, it is important to first promote the awareness or educate the people on their understanding in the concept of green lifestyle besides providing the neighborhood facilities and services that are able to encourage green lifestyle.

ABSTRAK

Sejak kebelakangan ini, gaya hidup manusia telah menjurus ke arah gaya hidup yang lebih 'berorientasikan penggunaan'. Fenomena ini telah mengakibatkan amalan gaya hidup yang tidak mampan. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji bagaimana perancangan dan reka bentuk kejiranan dapat menggalakkan gaya hidup mesra alam. Kajian literatur disediakan di peringkat awal penyelidikan. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam penyelidikan ini adalah pemerhatian dan pengedaran soal selidik kepada dua kawasan kajian yang dipilih iaitu Taman Universiti dan Taman Mutiara Rini. Objektif pertama kajian adalah untuk mengenal pasti sejauh mana gaya hidup mesra alam diamalkan manakala objektif kedua adalah untuk mengenal pasti faktor perancangan dan reka bentuk yang menyokong gaya hidup mesra alam. Analisis deskriptif digunakan untuk menganalisis data. Penemuan utama kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa kedua-dua kawasan kejiranan mempunyai perbezaan bagi tiga penunjuk gaya hidup mesra alam iaitu rekreasi, pengangkutan dan kitar semula. Penemuan lain menunjukkan terdapat banyak rasa tidak puas hati bagi kemudahan yang boleh dilihat dari persamaan pada bahagian kitar semula sisa di mana majoriti responden tidak tahu lokasi tong kitar semula dan pusat kitar semula di kawasan kejiranan mereka. Selain itu, rasa tidak puas hati dalam kemudahan sukan yang tersedia untuk memenuhi keperluan penduduk juga wujud. Kebanyakan daripada responden menggunakan kereta dan motosikal sebagai mod pengangkutan utama di sekitar kejiranan mereka kerana kekurangan pilihan pengangkutan awam terutamanya di Taman Mutiara Rini dan ini menunjukkan keperluan untuk memperbaiki kemudahan-kemudahan lain seperti laluan pejalan kaki, lorong basikal dan pengangkutan awam. Faktor keselamatan juga menggalakkan penduduk untuk melakukan aktiviti luar di kejiranan mereka. Setiap isu yang dikaji akhirnya boleh member implikasi terhadap gaya hidup penduduk. Oleh itu, penambahbaikan untuk kemudahan-kemudahan perlu dibuat mengikut cadangan yang diberikan. Kesimpulannya, kajian menunjukkan bahawa perancangan dan reka bentuk kejiranan mempunyai sumbangan kecil ke arah menggalakkan penduduk untuk mengamalkan gaya hidup mesra alam dalam aspek fizikal alam sekitar tetapi tidak menggalakkan kesedaran mereka untuk berbuat demikian. Faktor lain seperti kesedaran dan kesanggupan yang lebih dominan untuk menggalakkan penduduk, justeru adalah penting untuk menggalakkan kesedaran atau mendidik masyarakat pada pemahaman mereka dalam konsep gaya hidup mesra alam di samping menyediakan kemudahan kejiranan dan perkhidmatan yang dapat menggalakkan gaya hidup mesra alam.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

 μ - The mean of the study population

 \overline{x} - Sample mean

lpha - Probability of Type I error

 ν - Degrees of Freedom

m - Meter

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

LEED - Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Design

CPTED - Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

JPBD - Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa

MPJBT - Majlis Perbandaran Johor Bahru Tengah

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The term "Green" has become an established concept and being widely used as a label for diverse set of products, ideas and phenomena which are considered to be better in environmental perspective compared to some other alternatives Alfredsson (2002). The concept of green label has also been referred to eco-friendly or become phenomenon that fits into the society's perception on green sustainable lifestyle.

According to Department of Environment's IMPAK Bulletin (2010), the 'green' theme frequently appears in many segments of world's debate and conferences and became global development agenda leading to a Green Culture. The green debate has led to serious concerns on human current lifestyle and the need for direct and indirect changes in promoting a harmonious relationship between mankind and the environment.

Lifestyle defined and differentiate us. They are the way we live our lives, what we do with whom, where, how, and what we use to do it. Everything from the food we eat, to how we interact and the way we get around (Kee, 2010). Alfredsson (2002) defined lifestyle as "expressions of individual's ambitions to create their own specific, personal, cultural and social identities within the historically determined structural and positional framework of their society".

Xinxin (2011) discussed on the crucial role of the neighbourhood environment and the social interaction on residents physical as well as the psychological health impacts. Xinxin (2011) proposed seven key elements on designing the health-promoted community; (1) land use patterns, (2) street connectivity, (3) transit access, (4) safety, (5) parking, (6) streetscape, (7) pedestrian amenities. The design of these elements also concerns special groups including women, children, the elderly, low-income groups, and people with disabilities. This concept also benefits social health such as prolonged life, better health, good cardiovascular health, faster recovery from illness and improved mental health.

Xinxin (2011) has also established set of principles that could provides guidelines on design implication on lifestyle based on current research on public health, neighbourhood safety, social interaction as well as Smart Growth and New Urbanism. Among the principles include (1) density and form, (2) circulation, (3) dwelling, (4) pedestrian, (5) open space, (6) paring and (7) public service.

Therefore, this study will look into whether green lifestyle is influenced by the planning and design of the neighbourhood.

1.2 Problem Statement

Human behaviour has direct relationship to the environment. Proper planning of environment without the right of human behaviour, things do not work. This is especially the world population is continuously increasing; the urge to have a greener community to protect the natural environmental can clearly be seen. According to Ahmad et al. (2009), the current trend Malaysian's lifestyle in recent years is leading to a more 'consumption-oriented' lifestyle. This phenomenon, in turn, resulted in more unsustainable practices and finally many urban life problems such as pollution, climate change and solid waste management.

Unsustainable lifestyle practice by Malaysian also led to higher energy consumption. According to Tai (2009) the rapid urbanization and high economic growth and industrialization in Malaysia have contributed to the relatively high GHG

emission of Malaysia as compared to the world average and other Southeast Asian countries. In terms of per capita CO2 emission, Malaysia emits 5.45 metric tons per capita, which is much higher than the world (4.22 metric tons) and Asian (excluding China) average (1.25 metric tons per capita). Even though the CO2 emission per capita is much lower than most of the developed countries, it ranked number three in Southeast Asia, after Brunei and Singapore.

Lifestyle of the human being may be influenced by several factors. The factors can be the environment, physical and social aspect. The awareness on practicing green lifestyle might be the most important factor that encourages the lifestyle but on this study the researcher seeks to identify whether the in terms of the environment aspects of the neighbourhood planning and design do encourage the lifestyle of the residents.

In urban planning principles, several strategies have been proposed in achieving aims, on promoting a compact city, green buildings, smart transportation and land use intensification. Urban planners and designers try to re-inculcate the nature and environment into human living areas through revising the traditional and historical design approaches that vital for fortune neighbourhood planning and design to encourage and promote green lifestyle.

Therefore, the question arises is whether neighbourhood planning and design encourage the lifestyle of the resident to the issue raised above or the lifestyle of the residents very much influence by other factors.

1.3 Research Objectives

The following objectives have been identified in this study:

- 1. To identify how far the green lifestyle being practice in the study area.
- 2. To identify the planning and design factor that supported the green lifestyle
- 3. To identify the implications of findings in planning practice of encouraging green lifestyle.

1.4 Scope of study

The scope of study includes:

- 1. To carry out a literature review on theories, ideas and concept of the green lifestyle and related field on neighborhood planning and design.
- 2. To carry out field observation to see the physical aspect of the study area.
- 3. To carry out a survey on green lifestyle practice in the study area.
- 4. To determine the implications of neighborhood planning and design on green lifestyle.

Hence, the scope of study is focused only on the residents in Taman Universiti and Taman Mutiara Rini. Methods of conducting field observation and distributing the questionnaire will be carried out.

1.5 Significance of Research

This study will examine that Green Lifestyle can enhance the health functioning of urban residents physically, cognitively and socially and contribute to well-being of the community. In the aspects of design and planning, it would reveal the properties, attributes and key dimensions of neighbourhood planning and design that would be appreciated and valued by users and the organization of spaces in towns would be improved. From the residents' responses, an analysis of humans' preferences could be formulated.

This analysis will emphasize the importance of quality neighbourhood that makes people appreciate the contribution of neighbourhood to health and well-being, hence, quality of life of urban community. Thus, the implications of planning and design will be guidelines that can be proposed to authority and help to improve the conditions of the neighbourhood. Besides, it can also helps in identifying the barrier faced to fulfill the concept of green lifestyle and the suggestion given will then enable improvement or to find solving method to solve the barrier or problem.

1.6 Chapter Outlines

There are six chapters for this study. Chapter 1 highlights on the introduction of the importance of good neighbourhood planning and design. This chapter covers the area of problem statement, objectives of study, significance of study and scope of study. This chapter also briefly discussed on the methodology used and outline of the study.

Chapter 2 emphasizes on the key issue of the study. The literature, theories, ideas and concept of the green lifestyle and related field will be explained in detail in this chapter. Chapter 3 addresses on the background of the study area which are Taman Mutiara Rini and Taman Universiti which is located in Skudai, Johor.

Chapter 4 described the research process created for this study. This includes the method used to gather data and quantitative techniques that adopted in order to produce the information which is required for this study. The analysis and findings of this analysis of this study will be presented in Chapter 5. The ideas, comment, opinions and comments from the targeted research groups will be gathered accordingly to achieve the objectives of this study.

Chapter 6 would be the final chapter that summarizes the findings reported in. Thus, the implications of neighborhood planning and design will be discussed in this chapter and conclusion will be made based on the findings. Summary of findings, limitations of research and recommendations for future studies will state accordingly in this chapter.

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