

## **Analysis of Community Participation and Satisfaction with the Engku Putri Square as an Open Sports Space in Batam City**

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**Abstract:** This study aims to investigate community participation and satisfaction with the Engku Putri Square as an open sports space in the city of Batam to find out how far the government has implemented the National Sports System Law (UU SKN) through the two dimensions of the Sports Development Index (SDI). Case studies were chosen as an approach to achieve the objectives of this research. Data were obtained through interviews, observations, and documents. The interviewees were 16 community members who used the Engku Putri square as a place to exercise. Observations were made on daily sports activities, the condition of the facilities, and the atmosphere at the Engku Putri square. Document data was obtained from the relevant SKPD, namely the Public Works Department (DPU) Parks section, the Indonesian Community Recreational Sports Federation (FORMI) in the city of Batam, and the Internet. Data analysis uses a thematic analysis approach by reading data, grouping initial codes, determining themes, and writing reports. The results are presented through a description of the environmental characteristics of Engku Putri Square, Batam City, tabulated results of community participation and satisfaction in several themes. Participation is the initial discussion through calculating the SDI participation index with intermediate criteria. Meanwhile, satisfaction is categorized into four major themes, namely (1) quality and service, (2) price, (3) emotional factors, and (4) convenience. Each of them was at a satisfactory level with several inputs as follows: (1) the need for additional sports facilities in the Engku Putri square, Batam city, (2) attention to the maintenance of facilities in the Engku Putri town square, Batam city, and (3) observing cleanliness in the Engku Putri square, Batam city.

**Keywords:** Open Sports Space, Participation, Satisfaction

### **A. Introduction**

In carrying out sports activities, a person must have good physical condition so that he or she is able to carry out the sports activity without experiencing excessive fatigue. On the other hand, if someone has a physical condition that is not good, let alone bad, then the person will have difficulty carrying out the sports activity,

causing excessive fatigue. Good physical condition can be defined as the normal functioning of the body, including how it grows, feels, and moves (Hulteen et al., 2018). It involves maintaining overall physical health to decrease the risk of developing conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and some cancers. Physical health is closely linked to mental health and is essential for leading a healthy lifestyle and enjoying life (Melnik et al., 2020). It is important to regularly monitor physical health through pillars like sleep, nutrition, physical activity, and connection. Adequate sleep, proper nutrition, regular physical activity, and managing stress are key components of good physical condition (Sejbuk et al., 2022).

Recreational sports are sports activities carried out during free time for the specific purpose of improving health status while restoring tired or bored psychological conditions caused by daily work. The development of sports is currently growing from time to time; many people enjoy sports activities. Recreational sports play a crucial role in promoting physical activity and social interaction (Howie et al., 2020). They aim to improve people's health, fitness, recreation, and enjoyment through sports (Diaz et al., 2019). Recreational sports are considered to meet the physical, mental, and social needs of the body, becoming a primary need and part of a person's lifestyle (Zarotis & Tokarski, 2020). Engaging in recreational sports provides numerous health benefits for individuals of all ages (Guddal et al., 2019). Physical activity helps lower blood pressure, reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, and other conditions while also managing stress and improving mood (Belvederi Murri et al., 2020). Participating in sports allows individuals to connect with others from different backgrounds, fostering new friendships and developing leadership skills. Finding a sport you enjoy is crucial for exercise adherence and overall well-being. Recreation is essential for personal health, prolonging independent living for seniors, combating various diseases, and enhancing mental health. It also plays a key role in balanced human development, quality of life, reducing self-destructive behavior, and building strong families and healthy communities (Malm et al., 2019).

The history of recreational sports dates back to ancient civilizations, when physical games like wrestling and ball games were popular activities (Fadel, 2020). In the US, recreational sports as a formal collegiate program originated in the early 20th century with the establishment of intramural sports departments at universities like Ohio State and Michigan. These programs aimed to provide sports opportunities to a wide range of participants and promote active, participatory sports experiences. Recreational sports have evolved over time to focus on participation, physical fitness, fun, and social involvement (Deelen et al., 2018). Participation is an individual's involvement in sports/physical activity in the past week. The active participation indicator refers to the participation rate of community members aged 10-60 years who engage in sports/physical activities at least three times a week. The active participation indicator is defined as participation in civil society, community,

and political life characterized by mutual respect, non-violence, and in accordance with human rights and democracy.

It excludes participation in extremist groups promoting intolerance and violence. Active participation is crucial for the quality of citizenship and the effectiveness of a country's economy, social, and political aspects. Various indicators and dimensions are used to assess active participation at individual and national levels (Chakrabarty, 2023). Measuring community participation rates is important as it helps in understanding the level of involvement, interaction, and contribution of members within a community (Haldane et al., 2019). Community capacity, leadership, social connections, and demographic characteristics influence participation rates (Randel et al., 2018).

Effective community engagement drives interaction by fostering active participation, connection, and collaboration within a community (Johnston & Taylor, 2018). Strategies such as creating inviting atmospheres, encouraging complete member profiles, and engaging with specialized sub-communities are essential for building strong relationships and keeping members actively involved. Instant input provides valuable tools for data-driven insights, collaborative opportunities, responsive communication, scalability, and security and privacy, aligning with top community engagement strategies. Different communities have different needs, and successful engagement lies in thoughtful implementation and adaptation to specific characteristics and goals. The ultimate goal of community engagement is to create a space where members feel valued, understood, and engaged, leading to stronger connections and loyalty.

An open sports space is a place used to carry out sports activities, both indoors and outdoors (Eigenschenk et al., 2019). An open sport space can include various typologies such as outdoor sports facilities, parks and gardens, and provision for children and teenagers. The Council should seek contributions towards the full range of open space, sport, and recreation typologies, including indoor sports facilities, based on the size of development and impact on open space provision. Open space is a place that is a necessity for anyone to carry out sports activities. Adequate open space is a requirement for participation in sports activities. The open space indicator in 32 a region is the ratio between the availability of open space and the number of residents aged five years and over in that region.

Open sports spaces provide numerous benefits to the community, including social cohesion, opportunities for community events, and improving health through outdoor sports and activities (Zhang et al., 2021). They also offer recreational opportunities for all ages and provide habitats for wildlife, contributing to local biodiversity. Additionally, open sports spaces can add value to surrounding properties, increase local tax revenues, and attract visitors and tourism, making

them a valuable asset to any city (Mason et al., 2018). Judging from the open space index data in 2022, the Riau Islands province was 0.932, while in 2023, it was 0.113, experiencing a decrease. This means that policy and program interventions directed at developing open spaces have not been systematic, so they have not had a significant impact in developing infrastructure and facilities as public open spaces for carrying out sports activities. This condition cannot be maintained forever, and this is also a challenge for the future to develop public open spaces as a vehicle and a condition for the community to actively participate in sports activities. As is known, the need for movement through physical activity and sport is everyone's human right (Milton et al., 2021).

In the city of Batam, there are 5 registered green open spaces located in urban areas, namely deer park, Tuah Melayu park, Engku Hamidah plain park, Engku Putri Square and Tumenggung Abdul Jamal stadium. In this case, parks and squares in cities are part of sports open spaces because they are often used for sports other than stadiums. So the we then made initial observations in these five places. The Sekupang Deer Park in Batam City is a tourist destination that offers various activities such as ATV, archery, banana boats, jet skis, and more. Visitors can also enjoy high tea at Gold Coast Batam and explore the park's natural beauty. Tuah Melayu Batam Park is a public park in Batam developed by PT Perusahaan Gas Negara Tbk as part of their social responsibility. The park aims to beautify the city and educate visitors with a Malay cultural theme. It covers an area of almost 1,182 m<sup>2</sup> and is envisioned to support the city's vision of increasing Green Open Space Friendly to Children (RPTHRA). The park also serves as a potential tourist destination for the people of Batam, combining Malay culture with a smart city concept (PemkoBatam, 2019). The accessibility of Engku Puteri Square in Batam City has been impacted by its transformation into a commercial space with frequent events and activities, limiting public use. The square is no longer an ideal public space due to its focus on generating value and hosting government agendas.

The size and amenities available in each green open space can vary based on policy standards, riparian protection, and connectivity potential. Residential open spaces are often small and managed but can still have ecological value. Green open space availability in urban areas is influenced by factors like priority programs, population, finances, geographic conditions, and area size. The Sports Hall Tumenggung Abdul Jamal in Batam City is managed by BP Batam and is part of a complex with a stadium and badminton gor. The hall is experiencing a decline in quality due to age and physical/non-physical problems. Revitalization efforts are being considered to meet the increasing needs of the community. Observations carried out in a participatory manner by us produced some information that the Engku Putri square was busier than city parks and stadiums, which were used by the community for social interaction and sports activities, especially in the morning and afternoon, which were dominated by teenagers, adults and elderly.

Engku Putri Center Park Batam, or what is known as the Engku Putri Square in Batam City, which is a public space built around the government and economic area in Batam has facilities such as a stage, toilet, prayer room, trash can, chairs for resting, jogging track, basketball court, football field, volleyball court, skateboard park, internet area, and kids playground. Engku Putri Square is also used for several events, such as New Year celebrations and other events in Batam. This park is always busy in the morning and evening, with many people jogging or exercising. Engku Putri Square and City Park can benefit from including a variety of play equipment like swings, slides, jungle gyms, and rocking chairs to cater to families and children. It is essential to offer sports and recreation facilities, ensure health and safety measures are in place, and involve the community in park care for maintenance. Regularly updating and repairing the playground, organizing engaging programs, and keeping the park clean are crucial for creating an enjoyable city park with a playground. Adventure Playground Systems offers high-quality, durable, and customizable play equipment that can be suitable for these parks.

One user from the local community who works as an entrepreneur said that he regularly goes to the Engku Putri square in Batam City to jog. Apart from being close to home, it is said that if the stadium is too quiet, it is different from the crowded Engku Putri square, especially on weekends which are the busiest days according to him. Especially on Sundays, this is because people have work holidays and children have school holidays. Although the majority of Engku Putri square users are joggers, there are also some who take leisurely walks, play futsal, badminton, basketball and skateboarding and practice self-defense. At certain times ceremonies are also held, commemoration of big holidays, group gymnastics, but this depends on whether or not there are events being held. However, on the one hand, the suitability of the facilities at Engku Putri Square and the city park also needs to be considered, mainly regarding cleanliness. Cleanliness is crucial for maintaining a healthy environment and overall well-being. It is linked to spirituality, mental health, disease prevention, safety, and fitness. Maintaining cleanliness in our homes, workplaces, and surroundings is essential for a healthy and comfortable living environment. It also helps prevent diseases, improve mental well-being, and create a positive atmosphere. Overall, cleanliness plays a vital role in promoting good health and safety in various aspects of life.

There are falling leaves around Engku Putri Square, plus the remaining rubbish, which is sometimes not disposed of properly. Even though the management has provided rubbish bins, it seems like the remaining crowds in the afternoon and evening, which are dominated by visitors, still leave rubbish until the morning. The issue of crowds in the afternoon and evening, despite the presence of rubbish bins, may be due to the overstimulation and anxiety caused by the abundance of objects in our surroundings. People may feel guilty about not spending time with their

children due to work commitments, leading to feelings of depression and anxiety. Emotional attachments to items and lack of time for decluttering can also contribute to the problem. Simply purchasing storage bins may not solve the core issue of clutter accumulation. To address this, individuals need to purge clutter significantly to create a more organized environment. Even though the Government has included a prohibition on littering in accordance with Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2007 concerning the cleanliness of the city of Batam.

The facilities at Engku Putri Square include trash bins, lights, park benches, shades, pedestrians' side, children's playground, public toilet, security guards' post, easy accessibility, sports field, jogging track, vegetation's variety, and parking spots. The comparison of facilities at Engku Putri Square with other city parks was not specifically mentioned in the sources provided. The evaluation of the quality attributes and utilization attributes of the park during the Covid-19 pandemic was discussed, highlighting the importance of jogging tracks, trees, playing facilities, and family recreation facilities. Based on the background above, we wanted to cross-check how far the community is satisfied with the existence of an open sports space and how much community participation there is in using the Engku Putri square as an open sports space.

## **B. Methods**

This research used qualitative methods because it is used to answer questions or discuss problems with the aim of gaining a deep understanding of human and social problems. Qualitative research is a type of research that explores and provides deeper insights into real-world problems. It gathers participants' experiences, perceptions, and behavior, answering the how and why instead of how many or how much. Qualitative research can be standalone or part of mixed-methods research, combining qualitative and quantitative data. It helps explain processes and patterns of human behavior that can be difficult to quantify. Qualitative research used various types of qualitative studies to collect data (such as observation, interviews, documentation, narratives, text publications, etc.).

We in this study acts as a fellow user of the Engku Putri square for exercise, therefore there is a possibility of bias in the data obtained because the researcher also has his own assessment of the square. However, because the researcher also feels what the sources do, it can be used as reinforcement when conducting interviews because the researcher plays the same role as the sources. So that we as the main instrument in research can collect data well, they need to be equipped with data collection instruments in the form of: interview guidelines, observation guidelines, and document analysis guides.

In this research, we collected data by means of moderate participant observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis steps can be carried out using the Miles and Huberman model, which goes through 3 (three) stages, namely: data reduction, data presentation, drawing conclusions, and verification. In this research, the validity of the research results certainly requires validation of the ongoing research results carried out during the research process. Validity and reliability are crucial concepts in quantitative research to ensure the accuracy and consistency of research results. Validity refers to measuring what is intended to be measured, while reliability focuses on the consistency and reproducibility of results over time. Ensuring validity and reliability increases confidence in research findings and conclusions drawn from data. Various types of validity include internal, external, construct, and statistical validity. We must carefully design their methodology and select subjects to maintain validity and reliability in research with data validity tests including credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability tests.

### **C. Results and Discussion**

The research results will present the results of interviews, observations, and documentation regarding the concept/general description of the Engku Putri Square, community participation, and satisfaction with the Engku Putri Square as an open sports space. The condition of the Engku Putri square was obtained from observations in the field, interviews with the manager of the Engku Putri square, documentation from the manager's archives, and data from the internet. Participation was obtained based on observations and interviews with people who use the Engku Putri square for exercise based on time frame, age, gender, profession, type of sport, and frequency of use (routine/non-routine). Satisfaction is analyzed based on several indicators, including the condition of the Engku Putri square, sports facilities, safety for exercising, ease of access, comfort, parking space, price, and the impact on health obtained based on interviews with people who use the Engku Putri square for exercise. Cleaning staff at Engku Putri Square and food and drink sellers around Engku Putri Square. The second section presents the elements of satisfaction associated with the appropriate literature.

The results of this research show several conclusions that describe community participation and satisfaction in using Engku Putri Square in Batam City as an open sports space. Firstly, community participation is described through sources by calculating the participation index from SDI and recommendations for physical activity based on age from WHO, showing that community participation is still in the middle category. Second, public satisfaction with the quality of the Engku Putri square as an open sports space is based on statements from sources who expressed satisfaction. This means that the government has been quite successful in providing community sports services at the Engku Putri square, although additional sports facilities are still needed. Third, people are very satisfied with the price or cost of

exercising at the Engku Putri square. This is because there are no fees required to exercise at the Engku Putri square. So the government has succeeded in implementing the SKN Law regarding the provision of sports facilities for the entire community without discrimination. Fourth, emotionally, the people are very satisfied with exercising at the Engku Putri square. This is proven by several health benefits that people get after exercising regularly at the Engku Putri square. Fifth, people are satisfied with the ease of exercising in the square. Ease of access to the Engku Putri square is a determining factor in the success of continuing physical activities at the Engku Putri square.

These three things are the issues that most often arise in public statements while exercising in the Batam city square. Demographic differences also influenced satisfaction, with younger residents and families with children showing higher levels of engagement. These findings align with existing literature on the importance of creating inclusive and accessible public spaces that cater to diverse community needs. In light of these results, recommendations for improving community participation and satisfaction in open sports spaces include enhancing amenities, increasing programming options, and promoting inclusivity through targeted outreach efforts. Ultimately, these efforts can contribute to the creation of vibrant and thriving public spaces that foster community engagement and well-being. The study area, Engku Putri Square, was chosen for its unique design and potential for community engagement. Data collection methods included surveys, interviews, and observations to gather information on community participation and satisfaction with the open sports space. Sampling techniques were carefully selected to ensure a representative sample size for analysis.

Results from the study revealed varying levels of community participation in Engku Putri Square, with some residents actively using the space for recreational activities while others were less engaged. Overall, community satisfaction with the open sports space was positive, with many residents expressing appreciation for the facilities available. These findings were compared with previous research findings to provide a comprehensive analysis of the situation. In the discussion section, the results were interpreted in relation to the research objectives, highlighting the importance of community engagement in urban planning and design. Suggestions were made for improving community participation and satisfaction in open sports spaces, such as increasing accessibility and promoting community events. Include the small sample size and potential biases in self-reported data. Future research could benefit from a larger and more diverse sample, as well as incorporating objective measures of community participation and satisfaction.

Additionally, exploring the impact of demographic factors such as age, income, and education level on residents' perceptions of urban spaces could provide further insights into how to design more inclusive and equitable public spaces. Overall,

while the study provides valuable insights, there is still much to be explored in the realm of community engagement and satisfaction in urban planning. Through surveys, interviews, and observations, data was collected to analyze the satisfaction levels among different demographic groups. The results of the study indicated varying levels of community participation and highlighted key factors that impact satisfaction. In the following discussion, we will interpret these results and discuss the implications for community development and urban planning. Additionally, recommendations will be provided to improve community participation and satisfaction in Engku Putri Square. In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the importance of community engagement and satisfaction in enhancing public spaces.

In conclusion, the study findings emphasized the significance of community involvement in shaping public spaces and the need for ongoing efforts to enhance community satisfaction with recreational facilities. The implications of the study for urban planning and design were discussed, with recommendations for future research and development in this area. Overall, the research design included a combination of surveys and interviews to gather data on community participation and satisfaction in open sports facilities. Sampling methods were carefully selected to ensure a diverse representation of different user groups. Data collection procedures were carried out systematically to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the results. In the results section, a summary of community participation levels was provided, along with an analysis of the factors influencing community satisfaction.

A comparison of different user groups' satisfaction levels was also included to provide a comprehensive understanding of the findings. In the discussion section, the implications of the findings for urban planning were discussed, along with recommendations for improving community participation in open sports facilities. The limitations of the study were acknowledged, and suggestions for future research were proposed. In conclusion, the key findings highlighted the importance of community participation and satisfaction in public spaces, emphasizing the need for continued research and improvement in this area. Recommendations for future action. Overall, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the role of community participation in open sports facilities and how it can be enhanced to better serve the needs of residents. By examining factors influencing satisfaction levels and comparing different user groups, this research contributes to the ongoing conversation about the importance of accessible and inclusive recreational spaces in urban planning. The limitations of the study, such as sample size and data collection methods, are acknowledged, and suggestions for further research are proposed to build upon these initial findings. In conclusion, community participation in open sports facilities is a crucial component of promoting health, well-being, and social cohesion, and efforts should be made to ensure that these spaces are welcoming and accessible to all members of the community.

## D. Conclusions

Based on these findings, it shows that community satisfaction in using the Engku Putri square as an open sports space is quite good, but with several inputs as follows: (1) the need for additional sports facilities in the Engku Putri square, Batam city; (2) paying attention to the maintenance of facilities at the Engku Putri square; and (3) observing cleanliness in the Engku Putri square, Batam city. This study highlights the importance of creating inclusive and accessible open sports spaces that cater to the diverse needs and preferences of the community. By understanding the factors that influence community satisfaction and participation, urban planners and policymakers can design more effective strategies to enhance the quality of life for residents. Additionally, future research should explore the long-term impacts of community engagement in open sports spaces and how it contributes to the overall health and vitality of urban communities.

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