
PUBLICNESS OF PUBLIC SPACES IN METROPOLITAN CITY OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY: THE CASE OF LAHORE, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Modern urban design has changed the image of traditional public space and proved significant for raising level of publicness. This study evaluates the publicness of commercial public spaces in Lahore, using the Star Model, widely suggested in the literature, to recommend urban design interventions for improving the publicness of similar public spaces. The level of publicness is assessed against five sets of attributes pertaining to, (i) Access and Linkages, (ii) Symbolic Access and Outlook, (iii) Animation, (iv) Control and (v) Civility. Methodology involves interview-based surveys with the visitors and shopkeepers. Findings show a poor performance by the case studies against the criteria of evaluation. Therefore, research suggests necessary design intervention and concludes on the significance of urban design elements in extruding publicness level of public spaces.

Keywords: Publicness, Public Spaces, Star Model, Urban Design, Moon Market, Barkat Market

INTRODUCTION

Public spaces are a very important part of the urban fabric. These places provide the environment for the city's social life to pulsate and create social encounters. They enrich a society's public life by connecting different spaces i.e., homes, workstations, hospitals, etc. A city's image, social capital, investment, and tourism also get promoted through these spaces. But what is the measure of a good public place? According to Dines et al., "the social value of public space is wide-ranging and lies in the contribution, it makes to 'people's attachment to their locality and opportunities for mixing with others, and in people's memory of places'" (Dines et al., 2006). The concept of 'public spaces' is very

subjective; every person has a very personal perspective on what a good public space is to him/her. The discussion of defining "public spaces" can be broached on three broad levels. Firstly, on individual level, a public space is a very personal experience from one's imagination and understanding. The meaning of public space may vary person to person considering the diverse backgrounds and expectations (Lynch, 1962). Secondly, on practical level, where different ethnic, cultural, political and social groups of public collectively give form to a public space. The real-built environment is molded by different objectives, concepts and expectations. Thirdly, theoretical level, which is sub-categorized into multi-sectoral approach and multi-disciplinary approach.

Multi-sectoral approach considers the functionality and different roles of a public space. Firstly, from social perspective, public spaces (parks, plaza, streets) are places where the encounters happen, or an opportunity opens up to engage in an interaction. These places cater diverse publics and unfolds an enriched public life. Secondly, from economic perspective, public places have greater accessibility to markets and local business. These spaces provide propitious environment to grow businesses along with giving shape to the city's image. Thirdly, from environmental perspective, a public space is a well designed element of urban fabric which provides public an experience of interaction with greenery, pedestrian friendly areas, and with healthy and soothing activities along with the social interaction (Mehta, 2014a., Space, 2007, Van Melik, et. al., 2007, Varna and Carmona, 2014).

Multi-disciplinary approach suggests that public spaces do not just fall under the realm of urban design and planning, but the disciplines of social sciences and humanities as well with it. Each discipline deals with public spaces with different. Sociologist for example, focus on the human interactions and demography; planners on design and planning; legal scholars on the ownership of public space, political scientists on the democratization and rights of public space; geographers on placelessness, etc. This array of conceptualization results in diverse understanding of public space (Space, 2007, Varna and Carmona, 2014).

There is a common sense among these concepts of public spaces that something is missing or lost, thereby, publicness comes in the discussion. In general, publicness is the ideal for a public space. "Publicness is conceptualized as something "out there", measurable, and independent of human consciousness" (Habermas, 1991). Publicness is considered to be the measure of a good public space by many scholars, but as public space, understanding publicness is also an arduous effort. A public space reflects the society's norms, beliefs, ideas, views which is in general the culture of the society. Hence, a public space is a cultural construct and publicness is a cultural reality, which means publicness is an ideal for public place of a certain society at a certain time. Times anchoring is important because cultures and beliefs evolve over a period of time. "The ideal of publicness of the ancient Greeks reflected in the agora where women, foreigners and slaves were not allowed to take part (Mitchell, 1995) seems inappropriate for the contemporary western society's values" (Varna and Carmona, 2014). Similarly, cultures also vary geographically, making publicness a dynamic subject in terms place and time. Therefore, assessment of publicness is not universal all over the world.

A good public space against ideal publicness in developed world cannot certainly be a good public place in a developing country since the expectations and understandings vary from place to place and person to person. For example, in developing country like Pakistan certain shopping malls observe family day on weekend when no male is allowed to enter a mall with a female companion, or many activity areas have designated family areas where no male is allowed without family. The subject of public places has been vastly discussed for the developed countries but rarely it has been taken up for developing countries especially with a critical eye for cultural, geographical, and historical disparity. This study, therefore, examines the publicness of public spaces of major city of Lahore, Pakistan, with a perspective of developing world.

TYOLOGY AND PUBLICNESS OF PUBLIC SPACES IN CITIES OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Public space is a common ground where people carry out the ritual and functional activities that bond a community together whether in normal daily life or in festivals. In our daily lives, many places are captivating because of their uniqueness in the architectural plans, or urban designs. Public space is rooted in the ideals of Ancient Greece and is more often associated with citizen group gathering at a place to discuss public issues, to produce open and free public debate, and to formulate public concern. Public space is a stage where the drama of communal life unfolds. The street, public square and park of the city give the form to the ebbing and period of the human exchange. These dynamic spaces are the essential vis-a-vis to the more settled places and routine of the workplace and human life, providing the channels of movement, the modes of communication and the ground for play and relaxation.

All the actors involved in the performance of the metropolis such as architects, businessmen, civil or traffic engineers, and others understand the meaning, the importance, and the value of public space from different points of view. Considering all actors, Public Space is defined comprehensively as: the place were people see and are seen by others as they engage in public affairs, it is thus, the space for town hall meetings, the legislative assembly or any other venues where public business is done" (Mensch, 2018). Similarly, in the context of the above definition "The Cultures of Cities", expressed Public Space as: "Public space is important because it is a place where strangers mingle freely, but they are also important because they continually negotiate the boundaries and markers of human society. As the site and sight, meeting place and social staging ground,

Table-1: Type of Public Space; Descriptions and References.

Types of Public Spaces	Description	References
Street and Sidewalks	Sometimes a path becomes destination. As pioneering urbanist Jane Jacobs said: “Streets and their sidewalks, the main public places of a city, are its most vital organs... If a city's streets look interesting, the city looks interesting; if they look dull, the city looks dull”. Streets and sidewalks of the city serves as connective tissue in a society in which people live in interdependence. Streets in city service provide many purposes besides carrying pedestrians	(Efroymsen, et. al., 2009), (Jacobs, 1989)
Neglected Places	Some places are often neglected in a sense that they are littered and poorly maintained, otherwise they serve their purposes perfectly.	(Carmona, 2010)
Invaded Space	In a city where traffic congestion becomes a major problem, public spaces some times get invaded by cars places and loose their purposes.	(Carmona, 2010)
Stealthy Places	The places which have been camouflaged by different intervention and visual hurdles, and often get ignored because of them.	(Carmona, 2019)
Virtual Spaces	With technological advancement people are getting more connected virtually through internet. So virtual spaces can be categorized as chat rooms, radio phone-ins, etc.	(Carmona, 2010)
Unscripted Places	Unscripted place is defined by its effective and robust utilization of space for a wide range of different purposes. “Unscripted places are also efficient places in terms of use of space, as the same space can be used in different ways at different times by different people. A tree is shade, shelter from rain, a place to tie a dog, something to climb on, a source of fruit. Playground equipment can be used by joggers to stretch. A plaza offers itself for concerts, events, tai chi, ballroom dance, football, a festival”. An unscripted place includes parks, public gardens, plazas, squares, lakes, etc. Some are vast green spaces with paths, and some are paved areas for exercise or events, lakes, restaurants, cafés, and informal shops and eateries. Such spaces are much loved and do much to enhance the quality of life of those who can use them.	(Efroymsen, et. al., AR 2009)
Commercial Places	Commercial places include shopping malls, markets, supermarkets, and covered bazaars. All these areas are new spatial forms, as a synthesis of world life and retail gained new meaning besides economic interchange as a gathering space for social exchange and as a site of communication and interaction. These are not only a collection of shops; but also carefully designed to promote consumption and to provide entertainment.	(Morrison and Art 2003)
Indoor Public Places	Places in city where people meet, interreact, read, eat, drink and play in a closed environment, can be categorized as indoor public places. For example, libraries, cafes and restaurants, clubs and bars, gyms, recess rooms, and shopping malls.	(Efroymsen, et. al., 2009)
Outdoor Public Places	Public spaces which provide an open environment can be termed as outdoor public spaces. For example, parks, playgrounds, lakes, beaches, sidewalks, stadiums and picnic areas.	(Efroymsen, et. al., 2009)

public spaces enable us to conceptualize and represent the city” (Zukin, 1996). It can be deduced from the above definitions that such spaces are highly public in nature rather than private, and accessible to common people for many purposes.

Types of Public Space

Several contextual definitions to public spaces can be found with respect to different aspects. These aspects can include the use of public space, design of public space, safety and control of public space, ownership of public space, etc. A public space can be described as commercial space if the predominant use of space is commercial or it can be called stealthy space if the design elements makes the place inconspicuous in urban form of the city. Therefore, contextual definitions of the public spaces are explored in (Table 1) to grasp the nature of public space.

Quality of Publicness and Public Spaces in Developed Countries

The quality of public spaces is a big determinant of quality of life. The proper scale of urban space is very important for the enhancement of public space like in the case of Japanese cities priority is given to pedestrians that’s why open spaces are given near the crossroads where benches are provided for people sitting and small open spaces are provided before the entrance of major commercial buildings. Mass transit stops are also provided on these crossroads to enhance people’s interaction and it becomes the meeting place of people. Tokyo, the Capital of Japan, has created stations as a public space and gives an image that stations are the face of the town that interconnects the city and socialization of citizens also increases by these places (Sorensen, 2009).



Figure-1: Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, England

In European cities, public spaces are symbolic landmarks and used as an instrument to portray the image of an urban city of Europe. European cities have public spaces that create a sense of Roman architecture in their theaters, buildings, museums, gardens all are built upon this pattern. Public spaces create a sense of belonging to the city because the urban forms are so beautifully developed and interrelated with each other.

Stockholm, Sweden, known as the city of island, the waterfront is the heart of the town, along with many other public spaces present with multiple uses. Quality of many publicness is also good as access is easier, different types of activities are present there. Due to the low level of traffic flow, cycling and walking is a great pleasure and attraction along the shores. The intriguing design of city halls also adds to the beauty of shores.

Venice’s famous canals make its streetscape into the seascape. In Venice, roadways/seaways are the most beautiful parts. Its urban environment, urban design and publicness feature make it unique. Every scene gives us a unique imprint that lasts forever in our minds. Life is present on pathways where you are lost and enjoy lots of things.

Publicness of Public Spaces in Developing Countries

In the scenario of developing countries, public spaces do not seem to be a priority of people and their government authorities. They are not properly regulated. Whereas, private developers who establish large commercial centers with a profit-oriented approach, aim to maintain their standards for attracting people toward these public spaces through proper regulation. In Mumbai besides conventional site allocation for the public spaces through urban planning, people also poach the streets to use them as public spaces.



Figure-2: Street Market, India

Frequently they are outside on the streets for various purposes i.e. seating for a nearby tuckshop. The mixed uses and minimal traffic flow on streets allow people to turn them into a playground or the public square. People have leisure chats with each other in the street sitting, and conduct marriages or festival celebrations in streets through a temporary transformation of streets into venues with the help of tents. Only 6% of the total spaces are made up of open spaces and the remaining 45% are partially or fully encroached (Biswas, 2013).

Ekdi and Cyracy (2015) evaluated the publicness of public spaces of Istanbul, Turkey, through fuzzy logic modelling. The study takes account for the fuzziness in the definitions of public place and publicness. The public spaces i.e. Taksim Square Beyoglu, Besiktas Barbaros Square, Beyazit Square Fatih, Tunel Square Beyoglu, Kadiköy Square Kadikoy and Aya Sofya Square Fatih were evaluated on the parameters of management, accessibility and users. The novelty in study superimposes qualitative and quantitative parameters of different dimensions of publicness. However, the notion of publicness in the study was majorly influenced by Turkish perspective which is different from the western world in terms of production of the place, democratic involvement and public participation. The empirical results show that no matter if all six places were centrally placed in Turkey, there were still variations in the dimensions of publicness. Findings also highlight the relationships between different dimensions of publicness such as control measures affect the public's perception of safety or the prevailing relation between animation and user's activity. All six places were publicly owned but they had varying management regimes. Excessive control and policing have caused the erosion of the publicness in these places. Aya Sofiya Square was found with the best

score in publicness. The study concluded that the publicness of the public space strongly depends upon the politics and governance of leading authority.

In India, Praliya and Garg (2019) employed Public Space Quality Index (PSQI) to develop and apply a framework for evaluating public spaces from three different cities i.e. Delhi, Dehradun and Roorkee. The study postulates on the narrative that there is a distinct difference between western and Indian contexts with respect to norms and provisions of public space. The quality of the public places was assessed against 49 different parameters categorized in 8 dimensions i.e. Accessibility and Linkage, Maintenance, Attractiveness and Appeal, Comfort, Inclusiveness, Activities and Uses, Purposefulness, and Safety and Security. The study considers five parks from Delhi i.e. SwarnaJayanti Park, ParshuRam Park, Central Park, Children Park and Mahavir Park, two from Dehradun i.e. Gandhi Park and MDDA Park, and one from Roorkee i.e. Ganga Park. Comparative evaluation between the case studies shows that parks from Delhi have high index level in comparison to Dehradun and parks from Dehradun have high index level than Ganga Park from Roorkee. Delhi is the capital city of India and Dehradun is a medium city with high amenities observation study depicts that satisfaction with different parameters of the quality of public place is directly related to the governance and management policies of the city. Safety and security were seen as the major concerns for almost all case studies, whereas, Children Park, Delhi had the maximum level of space quality index.

Hagenbjork (2011) conducted an analysis on Chinese urban spaces in Beijing. The observation/interview based qualitative study peruse the form, activity and image of 4 different



Figure-3: Colombo, Sri-Lanka



Figure-4: Alhambra Art Centre, Pakistan

types of places i.e. Zizhuyuan Park, Tian'anmen Square, and Yingtao Byway. The study presents that the Chinese urban places tend to be huge and intimidating expressing the insignificance of individuals and the power of regime. Chinese architecture is full of expression symbols and meaning, and is hard for those who do not have depth of Chinese knowledge. The study describes the difference between the European cities' spaces and Chinese cities' spaces i.e. in European urban spaces you can see the vastness of the place whereas Chinese urban spaces consist of several enclosed spaces.

In Sri Lanka, public spaces are attractive venues for physical activities. Public spaces live up to their full potential as they are accessible by neighborhoods at walkable distances. But improvements in the urban designs of the existing places require new lively elements designing to make it more captivating for people. Therefore, the Sri Lankan government has started a renewal program for those grounds which are either encroached or neglected for a long time and have the potential to be uplifted. Different projects have been initiated to enhance the quality of public space.

In local context, not much is done in exploration of evaluation criteria for the publicness of public spaces. Mazhar et al. (2015) evaluated the thermal comfort of outdoor spaces in Lahore, Pakistan. The study compared two public spaces: first modernistic with concrete pavement known as Alhamra Art Centre and second 16th century-built Shalimar Garden, Shalimar Garden, have greener environment in comparison to the Alhamra Art Centre.

Microclimatic parameters were measured for both places and data was used to stimulate thermal sensation through energy budget model COMFA. Exposure of solar radiations



Figure-5: Shalimar Garden, Pakistan

was seen much higher for Alhamra Art, Center in comparison to Shalimar Garden. The study states that Shalimar Garden, a centuries-old open space consists of 62% shade trees, 18% grass, 7% water ponds, and 13% brick pathways and brick boundary wall, whereas the Alhamra Front Courtyard, a contemporary open space, consists of 100% hard, unshaded surfaces (brick, steel, glass, asphalt, and concrete) (Mazhar, et. al., 2015).

In another study, Pasha (2012) explored the urban environment issues in retail oriented area of Tariq Road Karachi. The study aimed at establishing insights for context sensitive design through theoretical foundation from other cities. Problems and issues regarding the built environment were explored through observation sheets, interviews and surveys. The case study presents a typical look of a commercial street in Pakistan.

Methods for Assessing Publicness

Publicness is not universal all over the world. Publicness is a very subjective term as public spaces change geographically, culturally and historically. In the past, major work has been done for the developed countries in the discipline of public space which cannot be universally applied for developing countries because of varying cultural and historical backgrounds. But there are assessment models build to gauge the publicness of public spaces against certain parameters which can be used for developing countries after some modifications pertaining to the subjectivity of the definitions of those parameters. The debate on the assessment of publicness of public spaces starts with the dual nature of public spaces: historical construct and cultural reality. Historical construct of public spaces has various methods of assessment available such as focus groups interviews or



Figure-6: Nodes at Tariq Road, Pakistan

questionnaires from key actors and detailed document analysis of the available literature. But cultural reality is tricky subject for assessment because of subjective variability in its definition. Many partial attempts have been made to narrow down this broad subject, but each attempt is destined to be flawed due to the subjective nature of concept of publicness.

Benn and Gaus Model was one of the earliest model for assessment discussed in “Public and Private in Social Life” (Benn and Gaus, 1983). The criteria used to evaluate were access, agency, and interest. The authors wanted to evaluate how much public space is open to citizens of society. But this model was a limited exploration for the dimensions of public spaces. Similarly, Van Melik et al. (2007) has explored the assessment of public spaces with respect to one dimension, management, in the study, “Fear and fantasy in the public domain: the development of secured and themed urban space”. The study compares two differently managed spaces: ‘secured’ and ‘themed’ ones. Németh and Schmidt, (2007) have also explored the dimension of management of public spaces and tried to quantify measurement on the security of public spaces. Both of these studies have been significant in initiating the work on the assessment of public spaces, but Melik et al., (2007)’s work was also a limited exploration and Nemeth and Schmidt, (2007)’s work had become complicated for the practical application due to major

emphasis on the dimension of ‘design’ and ‘use’ of public spaces. Another study for assessing the publicness of public spaces was conducted on the Parks of Colombo and Sri Jayewardenepura, using the parameters such as visitor’s environment, available facilities, vicinity, mode of access and level of shelter (Bandara et al., 2013). But a rather wholesome approach was developed by CABE’s publication of ‘Spaceshaper’ (Space, 2007). The Spaceshaper has been developed as a practical toolkit for almost anyone with the exploration of each dimension of public space. But this toolkit evaluates the quality of a public space through the users’ perception and interest in the public place. Therefore, the evaluation is subjective to the user’s interest in the place and what is a good public place to that user. After all this document analysis on the techniques and methods to assess the publicness of public spaces, it was concluded to find a balance between the subjectivity, objectivity, robustness and applicability of the approach. Two approaches were felt suitable for this study: Public Space Index and Star Model approach. Public Space Index is true wholesome approach, evaluating all five dimensions of public spaces with a mix of objective observation by research and subjective perception by user (Mehta, 2014b). Public Space Index explored the dimensions; ‘inclusiveness’, ‘meaningful activities’, ‘comfort’, ‘safety’, and ‘pleasurability’. A total of 45 variables were used along with their weightages to assess the publicness on the scale of 0, 1, 2, 3 as very limited, low,

Table-2: Star Model; Dimensions, Indicators, Descriptors, and Measuring Criteria.

Dimensions of Public Space	Indicators	Descriptors	Descriptors
Ownership Status	1. Ownership Status	Degree of influence general public has on management of public space. Therefore, place owned by public authority, elected democratically would have high publicness.	Determined by observation using document analysis and interviews with key actors
	Physical Configuration		
	Macro Design		
	2. Access Routes	Access and permeability to the place can be measured through observing enough access points. In case of busy road near public place, provision of pedestrian crossing and bridge needs to be observed	Determined by observation and layout plan of a public space
	3. Access to Activities	Special consideration needs to be given to the use of public space by differently abled people. If the public space is on ground level, then it is public for users of wheelchair. Otherwise, provision of ramps and stairs needs to be observed.	Determined by observation

Micro Design

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 4. Public Walkways | Availability of public walkways promotes pedestrian lifestyle and positively affect publicness | Determined by observation using counts |
| 5. Public Walkways | Availability of public walkways promotes pedestrian lifestyle and positively affect publicness | Determined by observation using counts |
| 6. Fences | Presence of fences have an adverse impact on the visibility and accessibility of the public place. Therefore, tall and opaque fences with less entrance points were considered less public and vice versa. | Determined by observation |
| 7. Parking Plaza Slope | Comfort of parking is considered positive for the publicness of the public space | Determined by observation |
| 8. Sitting opportunities (benches) | There is no standard as to how many benches and of what size need to be provided for public space of a certain area. Therefore, rating can be given on the basis of position and comfort of the benches. | Determined by observation |
| 9. Walking opportunities (pavements) | Walking pavements need to be easy going for the children, elderly and women with heels. Lowest rating was given if the easy pavements were available in less than 25 percent of public space. | Determined by observation |
| 10. Opportunities for active engagement (Fountains, monuments, landmarks) | People's interaction happens when there is something to look. Lack of these elements was given lowest rating and presence of more than 3 were considered for highest rating. | Determined by observation |

Control

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 11. Control presence: presence of security guards/ policemen | It is debatable if the presence of guards/policemen should either be there to ensure safety or not, to ensure open access. Here the highest rating was given where there were policemen to ensure safety. Private guards were rated medium and absence of guards/policemen was considered lowest. | Determined by user's subjective rating |
| 12. Control Technology: CC TV Cameras | Similarly, presence of CCTV cameras was also taken subjectively. Their presence was considered highest rating in terms of ensuring security. | Determined by observation |

	13. Control Signage	Signage like ‘no photography’, ‘no pets allowed’, ‘no food and drinks allowed, etc. will discourage the publicness. Hence, their absence was marked highest rating.	Determined by observation
	14. Control design: barriers for security	Security barriers and checking points are made to check if a person not wearing anything. Presence of such elements adversely affect the publicness, therefore, rated lowest.	Determined by observation
Ownership Status	15. Presence of small-scale vendors	Diversity of public is not a measurable indicator as one cannot be sure of the gender ratios, ethnicity variances, or cultural/class variances etc. for a certain account. Secondly, it is not measurable standard as what ratios of these different groups of public should be present. Therefore, existence of micro-economic activity in form of vendors depicted the diversity of public attracting the economic activity. Their presence on entire site was considered of highest rating.	Determined by observation
	16. Diversity in Activities	Diversity of activities i.e. food, restaurants, shopping areas, playing areas, etc., is also the depiction of number of users coming to the place. Therefore, less than 3 activities happening simultaneously at a public place were rated as lowest.	Determined by observation
Control	17. Facilities of public toilets, ramps, stairs	Facilities of public toilets, ramps and stairs were rated high when their provision was ensured along with their tidiness and cleanliness.	Determined by observation and user’s subjective rating
	18. Physical maintenance of soft and hard components of landscape	Physical maintenance of soft and hard landscape elements was rated high when the benches, dustbins, lighting poles etc. were in right condition.	Determined by observation and user’s subjective rating
	19. Management of land use, green spaces and parking	Management on land use was rated high when there was no restricted land use/encroachment was contracted. Green spaces were rated high when the branches and shrubs were trimmed, and greenery looked alive. Parking provision was rated high when there was proper parking place ensured along with security of the vehicles.	Determined by observation and user’s subjective rating

Notes:

Weightage of each of the Dimensions of Public Space is 1.

Scoring Criteria for Ownership Status: 5 = Owned by Public Authority; 4 = At arm's length to public ownership; 3 = Jointly owned by public and private; 2 = At arm's length to private ownership; 1= Privately owned.

Scoring Criteria for all other dimensions: 5 = Highly Public; 4 = Public; 3 = Moderately Public; 2 = Less Public; 1= Poorly Public.

Average: Highest possible score can be 5, which will be measured by taking average of the scores of sub indicators.

medium and high respectively. The applicability of public space index was challenged in the developing country because the weightages of the variables were not felt to be universal culturally and geographically. For example, due to subjective nature of publicness presence of CCTV camera might present control over public in western world but in a developing country like Pakistan which is struggling from terrorism, the presence of such elements is positively for publicness ensuring safety. Moreover, scale of 0, 1, 2, 3 leaves the place for assessment where there is mediocrity in the response.

A Star Model, is based on the principles of simplicity and usability (Varna, 2016; Varna and Damiano, 2013). The model provides a complete objective and observation-based method to evaluate the publicness of public spaces. Therefore, modifications of user's perception evaluations were incorporated to add the local subjectivity of the place.

Nevertheless, it still is a very straightforward method for practical application due to equal weightages to all its indicators of publicness. The star model is based on five meta themes of publicness of public spaces: Ownership, Animation, Civility, Control and Physical Configuration. Each of these meta themes had originally a total of 19 sub-indicators which were equally weighted and to be measured objectively by the researcher. Critics may argue giving equal weightage to all factors was not a right approach. But it is also not possible to apply same weightages for different cultures. While different weightages may increase the accuracy in the assessment of publicness, but it also limits the applicability of the model universally as well. Observation based analysis can also be critiqued, for example, negative connotation given to those places which have security guards because their presence radiate a sense of control over public, can be wrong. Because, users'

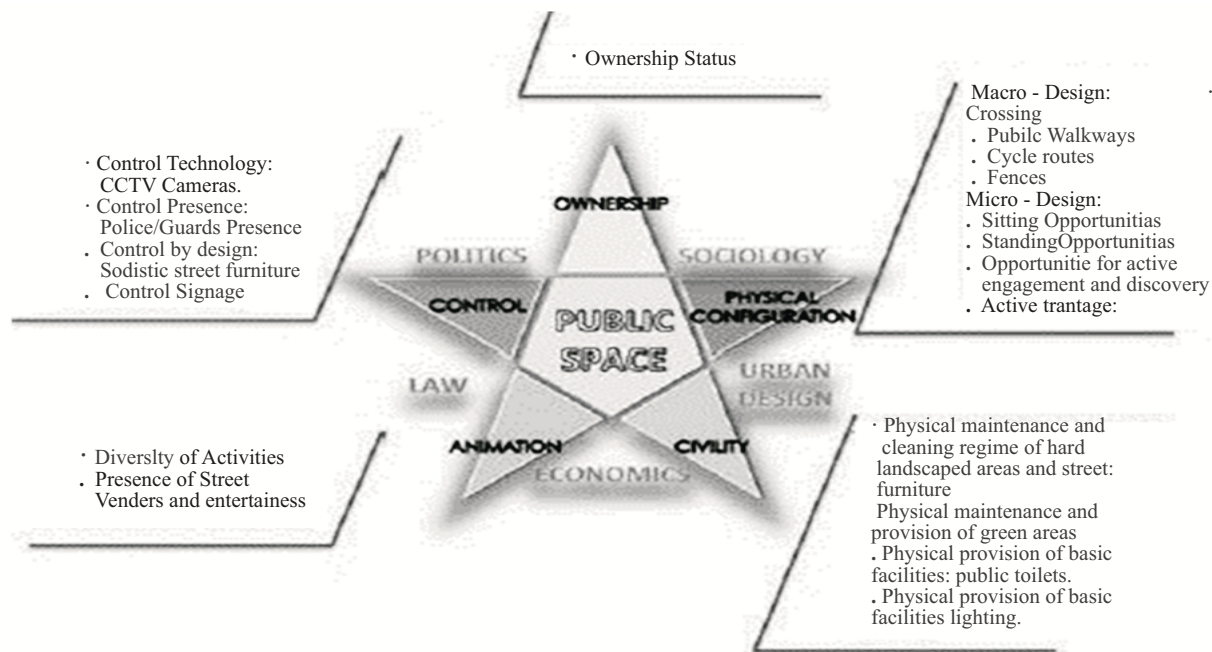


Figure-7: Varna's Star Model

experience, on the contrary, can perceive a sense of safety in their presence. Therefore, observation-based analysis can be biased because user's point of view is also important who visit these public spaces frequently.

In the context of Pakistan, the Star Model was applied with 5 meta themes and 19 sub indicators Table 2. The descriptions or definitions of some sub-indicators were modified with respect to local and cultural subjectivity. For example, families prefer those environments which restrict male entry to the place without a female companion or the presence of guards/policemen give sense of security to the general public in place of feeling control over the extent of access to the activities. Moreover, the objective and biased nature of the Star Model was neutralized by involving user's perception evaluation for some indicators.

After defining the indicators, descriptors and measuring criteria, decisions were needed to be made on how to calculate the publicness. Initially, case studies were needed to be chosen for the practical application of the star model. Most of the new public spaces were created in the newer parts of Lahore city in the contemporary period. Two case studies i.e. Moon Market and Barkat Market from Lahore were agreed upon on following reasons. Firstly, as the model has not been explored subjectively in the local context, therefore, it was found suitable to have a study on two areas. Secondly, scope of the study was limited to one city for the in-depth analysis because subjectivity of the indicators was changing over different cities, therefore, a study on different cities would have been at the cost of losing depth in analysis. Thirdly, it was decided to have similar case studies, with a more robust and comprehensive comparison between the sites. Majority of new public spaces from newer part of Lahore share similarities in terms of their layout planning, time and purpose of development at vital points of the new city aimed to increase cohesion between local population. The new public places were also selected on the thought

that they will be better for assessing if indeed these sites have successfully added into the urban fabric of the city.

Several reconnaissance trips were made to the case study site to collect the research's own observation and user's subjective rating. Observation sheet and questionnaires were used as the research instruments. Converting the user's subjective rating into scores for a certain indicator was a tricky matter. Scoring criteria for judgement of an indicator was kept same for the user and rating given by majority was considered to be score by user. Average for both of the scores of researcher and user were taken to calculate the final score for a certain indicator which was to be determined by both observation and user's subjective rating. Next decision was about selecting the number of users for the representation of local subjectivity of whole population. Researchers' community have a consensus that the minimum sample size for generalizability of a study is 30 (Louangrath, 2014). Nevertheless, Multistage Nonfinite Population method was consulted against the confidence interval of 0.95 and error margin of 0.05 to get sample size for users as 100 to represent the whole population. This new method is based on the specified alpha level. Using the random error: alpha level as the basis to calculate the sample size. Shopkeepers and users were selected through random sampling. After calculating scores for all the indicators, averages of the indicators under a certain meta-theme were taken to find the score for that meta theme. Scores of these meta themes were used to generate the star diagram and to represent the publicness of the case studies.

Description of Selected Spaces

Moon Market and Barkat Market were chosen as case study areas. Originally these markets were planned and developed for the people who were living in Allama Iqbal Town and Garden Town. Later on these became the central market of surrounding schemes. People came here to enjoy shopping



Figure-8: Location of Moon Market



Figure-9: Location of Barkat Market



Figure-10: Street View Moon Market



Figure-11: Street View Barkat Market

and get together with their families. By the increase of traffic these areas became overcrowded with congestion developed other problems developed in these areas. These two centers are important in terms of public life, and then its design features and characteristics, will be discussed in detail in later paragraphs. These markets are pedestrian oriented, still due to encroachments and traffic congestion the situation gets worst. These markets are under control of (LDA Lahore Development Authority). The following section describes the existing situation of case study markets.

Location

Moon Market is a popular market situated in Allama Iqbal Town serving the town and its surrounding areas. Allama Iqbal town, named after the national poet of Pakistan, comprises of 1600 acres of land and envelopes Moon Market with 7.2 acres of land. As per latest estimate Iqbal Town population is 843,133 (Alhasan Pvt. Ltd., 2014). Iqbal town is surrounded by Nistar Town, Samanaabd Town and Gulberg Town. Gulberg and Samanabad are good in terms of socio-economic conditions. Diversified activities are present in the market like grocery shops, garments, jewellery, stationary shops, Banquet hall and offices. Moon Market is accessible from different major roads of Lahore i.e. Nadeem Shaheed Road, Main Boulevard Allama Iqbal Town, Fazl-e-Haq Road, Multan Road, Wahdat Road, and Hafeez Taaib Road.

Whereas, Barkat Market is a commercial area in the Gulberg Town, Lahore. Barkat Market has an area of 16.3 acres while Gulberg town has an area of 10,760 acres. Gulberg town has a population of 849,081. Gulberg town has become the center of Lahore and is surrounded by Samanabad town, Iqbal town, Nistar town, and Cantonment. People of Gulberg town majorly belong to upper and middle class. Socio-economic conditions are very promising in this town. It is serving the posh areas like Model Town, Faisal Town, and Gulberg. It is accessible from different major roads i.e. Ferozepur Road, Khayaban-e-Jamia Punjab Road, Main Boulevard Garden Town, and Usmani Road.

Salient Features

In Moon Market, building height of most of the buildings is 1 to 2 stories. The facade or the physical appearance of most of the buildings is not attractive. Most of the buildings have old design and architecture and also in poor condition. There is a parking plaza which is at present under construction, meanwhile visitors park their vehicles along the fence of the central park. At night, visitors feel difficulty in movement due to congestion in the area.

Barkat Market is formed in semi-square shape. There is segregation in the placement of activities in Barkat Market. Number of food shops and restaurants are at the left side of the market, while right side is for garments, grocery,

Table-3: Scores Against Indicators of Star Model

Indicators		Moon Market	Barket Market
Ownership			
1	Ownership status	4	4
Average		4	4
Physical Configuration			
Macro Design			
2	Access Routes	4	5
3	Access to Activities	1	1
4	Public Walkways	1	4
5	Cycle Routes	1	1
6	Fences	4	4
7	Parking Plaza Slope	5	5
Micro Design			
8	Sitting Opportunities (benches)	3	4
9	Walking Opportunities (pavements)	1	2
10	Opportunities for Active Engagement (fountains, monuments, landmarks)	1	1
Average		2.3	3
Control			
11	Control Presence: presence of security guards/policemen	2	2
12	Control Technology: CC TV Cameras	2	3
13	Control Signage	3	4
14	Control Design: barriers and bollards	2	3
Average		2.25	3
Animation			
15	Diversity of Activities	5	5
16	Presence of small-scale vendors	4	4
Average		4.5	4.5
Civility			
1	Facilities of public toilets, ramps, stairs,	1	1
2	Physical maintenance of soft and hard components of landscape	3	4
3	Management of land use, green spaces and parking	2	4
Average		2	3

jewelry, shoes and other retail shops. In basement there are number of tailor shops. At the rear side there are small shops of clothes, shoes, saloons and parlors.

According to its design, it has an arcade of almost 7 ft. and then footpath of 30 ft. for pedestrian movement but due to encroachments pedestrianized movement is hindered. Mostly buildings are 4 stories high.

Results and Discussion

Evaluation results were found by accumulating the scores of user's subjective rating and research observation into single number. Following is the detailed scoring done against all the indicators, discussed separately in coming section:

Users' Profile

The demographic section consisted of information about name/gender, age, level of education, marital status, occupation, income level, residency, mode of transport frequently used. Majority of the visitor respondents from both case studies were female with a percentage of 68% collectively. Similarly, collectively 83% respondents were in age group of 21-30 years old and collectively 78% were unmarried. In addition, 80% of respondents from both areas collectively were graduates or under graduation. Employment status of the respondents was, 40% public servants, 29% private workers and rest were students.

Surveys were also conducted from the shopkeepers of both commercial centers in order to understand the sense of publicness that shopkeepers attribute to these shopping centers in relation to access, interest, and control.

Based on data all the responding shopkeepers were male, only there is one shop/ boutique in Moon Market whose owner is female. The age distribution shows that most of the shopkeepers are young between the ages of 20- 40 years. Most of the respondents come from near-by areas as 40% shopkeeper belongs to Iqbal Town while in Barkat Market 70% respondents come from the Garden Town. Due to the proximity between residential and commercial areas maximum respondents use motorbikes as mode of transport. Talking about the level of education most of the respondents of both areas have qualification up to higher secondary school level.

Ownership

Ownership status defines the legal status of the public space and illustrates the degree of role that general public has in the management of a public space. Only one indicator was taken for the ownership status. The indicator was divided

into five levels of variation: publicly owned, majorly public and minorly private, public private jointly owned, majorly private and minorly public and privately owned. General public has more role when a public space is owned by a public authority elected democratically. User's subjective interpretation about this indicator was that no matter who owns the place our voices are least heard in the matters of management of the public places. There was also a prevalent belief that a public space owned by private owners is well-managed and looks after the interests of users because they have to maintain their market. Anyhow, there is an aggregate way to measure the ownership status of a public space where both actors are involved in the management. In case of ownership both of these public spaces were similar as both were entirely managed by a public body i.e. Lahore Development Authority, which is held accountable to democratically elected representatives of public. But the shops ownership was private. Still the management of the places were at the arms' length to public ownership. Therefore, a score 4 was evaluated for both places.

Ownership status of the case studies was found similar to the public spaces of developing countries i.e. public places of Indian and Turkish cities (Ekdi and Cyracy, 2015; Praliya and Garg, 2019). Praliya and Garg (2019) pointed out in their study that all 8 case studies from three different Indian cities were publicly owned and managed Similarly, Ekdi and Cyracy (2015) described six case studies from Istanbul as publicly owned. Meanwhile, Glasgow's experience of regeneration of riverfront from developed country, shows a divided ownership in Varna's study (Varna and Carmona, 2014). Varna and Carmona (2014) also explain in their study that if the publicness of a public place is measured against an axis which has one end as ideal private place and the other end as ideal public place then most of public places would lie in between of this axis. As Kohn (2004) explained that most of the public spaces are neither private nor public but they exist in grey area in between these two. But in depth examination of Moon and Baket Market also resonate with Marcuse (2004)'s scale of legal ownership i.e. public ownership/public function/public use (street, square), public ownership/public function/administrative use, public ownership/public function/private use (e.g. space leased to commercial establishments, café terrace), private ownership/private function/public use (e.g. shops, cafes, bars, restaurants) and private ownership/private use (e.g. home). Therefore, the case studies have a certain level of similarity with public places of developed countries but Varna and Carmona (2014) argue that a most public situation transpires when a public place is owned by a public body, mandated to act in favor of public interest and answerable

to elected representatives. But in a developing country where the priority areas include food, clothing and shelter, a diligence towards owning, controlling and managing public places do not fill the vote banks. Hence, the public spaces are often neglected areas in terms of matching the quality of public spaces from developed world.

Physical Configuration

The dimension of physical configuration was divided into two types of indicators: Macro design and micro design. Macro design represents the signification of accessibility and permeability while designing a public space, keeping ease of movement and legibility as objective outcomes of the process (Carmona, 2010). Macro design was evaluated with six indicators: access routes, access to activities, public walkways, cycle routes, fences and parking plaza ramps.

Access routes to market is not a problem for the visitors as 70% visitors in Moon Market and 86% visitors in Barkat Market, felt that the public places were easily accessible. Easy access was observable because both markets are joined into city's urban fabric through a major road. While most of the shopkeepers live in the proximity to case study areas, therefore, 77% shopkeepers of Moon Market and 80% of Barkat Market have easy access to their workplace. A cumulative score of 4 for Moon Market and 5 for Barkat Market was calculated for the indicator.

The indicator access to activities represent how easily the activities can be accessed by different types of people, for example by those with challenged abilities. Almost all respondent felt that both public places do not facilitate person with disabilities in terms of providing ramps and stairs where there is a change in elevation levels. People felt it is a dilemma of planning community in Pakistan where cities overall are not planned with inclusivity for the disabled. Therefore, a score of 1 was given to both public spaces.

Regarding public walkways and cycle routes, it is considered when a public place is surrounded by a busy road, river or an obstruction, etc. pedestrian and cycle crossings or bridges should be provided. It was observed in Barkat Market, there was a pedestrian crossing bridge within access to the users of Barkat Market and it was also equipped with ramps to be friendly for cycle users or disables. Whereas there were no dedicated walkways or cycle routes in both study areas although footpaths were available but mostly were encroached by hawkers. Therefore, a score of 4 and 1 against the indicator walkways was evaluated for Barkat Market and Moon Market respectively. Whereas, against cycle routes both areas given a rating of 1.

Presence of fences have a negative effect on the visibility and accessibility of the place. There were very few fences presents at both areas which were short and with many access points. So, after observation and user's subjective rating both places were equally marked with rating of 4. Lastly, ramps for parking are considered to influence the accessibility of the public spaces. There were no parking plazas, but ramps were still seen at the areas of parking. People were rather satisfied with provision of ramps, therefore, a rating of 5 was given to both markets.

With respect to micro design elements of physical configuration, there were 3 indicators: sitting opportunities (benches, podiums, stairs, chairs, etc.), walking opportunities (footpaths, arcade, walkways, etc.) and opportunities for active engagement (fountains, monuments, landmarks etc.). There is no standard to how many and what type or size of benches or chairs are required for sitting opportunities. Therefore, this indicator was left to observation and subjective user rating, which was found to be 3 and 4 for Moon Market and Barkat Market. Similarly, criteria to judge walking opportunities firstly relate to user's experience and secondly to the observation. There were footpaths and arcade present at both areas, but public was generally dissatisfied with adequacy of walking opportunities. In Moon Market 63% and in Barkat Market 58% felt that there are enough opportunities for walking purposes but mostly deteriorated due to neglect or encroached upon by food vendors, illegal parking, hawkers, etc. Therefore, rating of 1 and 2 were given to Moon Market and Barkat Market respectively. Regarding opportunities for active engagement, it is considered spontaneous interactions happen when people have something to look at. Both places were lacking in this area as there were no such elements provided for active engagement. Therefore, both places were scored lowest.

In terms of physical configuration, studies from developing world showed a negligent or careless behavior. In Turkey, Ekdi and Cyracy (2015) states the disables were nowhere to be observed and in India, Praliya and Garg (2019) explains the same neglect towards inclusivity of disables and maintenance of soft and hard landscape elements. Meanwhile, the Glasgow's experience of regeneration from European city shows that physical configuration is used as a seducing element for the tourists and locals (Varna and Carmona, 2014).

Control

Four indicators were identified for the dimension of control: control presence; policemen/guards, control technology; CCTV cameras, control signage and control design; barriers

for security. In the western world, it is thought that these control measures inhibit the public from active engagement in different activities and adversely affect the publicness of public space (Varna, 2016). But in developing countries like Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, Nepal, etc. where there are some cultural similarities, these control measures are considered to have a positive effect on the publicness by conveying a sense of security to the general public. Therefore, descriptors for these indicators were reversely modified.

Control presence were not to be seen in the public spaces except for two private guards outside buildings of banks. People felt secure in the presence of policemen or guards. Literature prefers presence of public policemen in place to private guards because policemen can be held accountable to some extent. However, both public places were ranked for low publicness due to the absence of control presence. Similarly, control technology i.e. CCTV cameras was also nowhere to be found and if cameras were present at some place, they were mostly dysfunctional. A score of 2 and 3 for publicness was given for the indicator of control technology to Moon Market and Barket Market respectively. Absence of control signage i.e. no photography affects publicness positively. However, signage as no littering is not included in the control signage. There was complete absence of such control signage except for the signage of no parking in both public places. Therefore, the score of 3 and 4 was given to Moon Market and Barket Market respectively. Control design includes the elements such as barriers, bollards or check post. Ideally these interventions negatively affect the publicness of public space, but users' subjective rating proves that people felt secure with these measures. Therefore, their absence was ranked for low publicness by users with scores of 2 and 3 for Moon Market and Barket Market respectively.

Restriction of the use of land use was also explored as an additional effort. In both commercial areas there is non-significant difference between the free uses of shops. Shop owners of both markets are free to change the use of their shop without following any restriction from union authority or Lahore Development Authority. They didn't have to follow any rules and regulation for the change of use of their shop. This shows the publicness of Moon Market and Barket market in this respect are at same level.

Control in terms of safety and security is a major concern for the public places of developing countries. In India, Praliya and Garg (2019) expressed the safety and security as top priority area for improvement. The public places from Delhi, the capital of India, are lacking in the issue of safety. Street

harassment exists in many different forms in most developing countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, etc. and it is, therefore, considered one of the main reasons for public's inclination towards increasing control measures i.e. CCTV cameras, guards, etc. Pakistan suffers from terrorism which is also why the control measures are more expected by the public. Whereas, the developed world considers the control measures as an obstruction in the freedom of use of space (Nemeth and Schmidt, 2007; Van Melik et al., 2007; G Varna and Carmona, 2014; Varna, 2016).

Animation

Regarding the dimension of animation there is a consensual thought of urban designer that a public place is not public if multiple publics cannot enjoy and benefit from it (Carmona, 2010). Three indicators are necessary to measure the animation of the public space: diversity of activities, number of users and diversity of users. There was not a concrete method to measure number of users or diversity of users in a certain public space. Therefore, a measurable approach was taken from Varna's Star Model which measures the diversity of public and number of public through the generation of micro-economic activities happening in the area. Two indicators were finalized: diversity of activities and presence of small-scale vendors.

Both markets were assessed as highly public in respect to diversity of activities because both markets were enriched with activities such as food, clothing, jewelry stores, play areas etc. Similarly, both markets were evaluated as public because there were a great number of small-scale vendors and hawkers present at both places.

Both developing and developed world was seen as flourishing in the dimension of animation. Perhaps, people tend to naturally produce diversity in activities and interactions even if they are from different backgrounds. India, Praliya and Garg (2019) observed fun rides and swings in the parks along with all sorts of sport facilities. Glasgow's regeneration gave a captivating view of the river along with many land marks (Varna and Carmona, 2014). Animation is sometimes infused in the urban fabric and sometimes it transpires naturally. For example, Barket Market became lively with interactions of public naturally which in reality lacks the elements which could have been beneficial to the aspect of animation of the place. Therefore, the quality and content of activities of public places from developing world might be different from developed world but their lively life will match developed world through quantity.

Civility

Civility is tidiness and cleanliness of the place. Three indicators were taken as the measure of civility: facilities of public toilets, ramps, stairs, etc., physical maintenance of soft and hard components of landscape, and management of land use, green spaces and parking. Majority of the user's subjective rating presented dissatisfaction with respect to facilities as public toilets, ramps and stairs. Firstly, there were not enough facilities of such kind and secondly their maintenance and cleanliness were highly neglected. Both

markets were rated 1 for publicness against the indicator of facilities of public toilets, ramps and stairs.

Soft and hard elements of landscape include street furniture to shrubs, plants and greenery. People were most dissatisfied with the physical maintenance of these elements. Moon Market was lacking lighting poles to light the area at night. Furthermore, both public spaces had a central park which was highly neglected in terms of maintenance. Overall rating for evaluation of physical maintenance was 3 and 4 for the Moon Market and Barkat Market respectively.

Management of land use, greenery and parking was also highly neglected area of the civility. Vendors had encroached public walkways and no one ensured the management of land use. Similarly, management of greenery was assessed as good if the greenery was not gone brown and dry. People were somewhat satisfied with the greenery. Lastly, parking was found to be insufficient and neglected for both markets. Overall a score of 2 and 4 was evaluated for Moon Market and Barkat Market respectively.

In Turkey, Ekdi and Cyracy (2015) found in their study that the civility was scored an average of 3 out of 5 for six case studies of Istanbul. Similarly, in India Praliya and Garg (2019) found out the satisfaction scores near to 50 percent against maintenance of the places for 3 case studies out of total eight and rest of the case studies were ranked more than 70 percent. Meanwhile, civility in European cities is

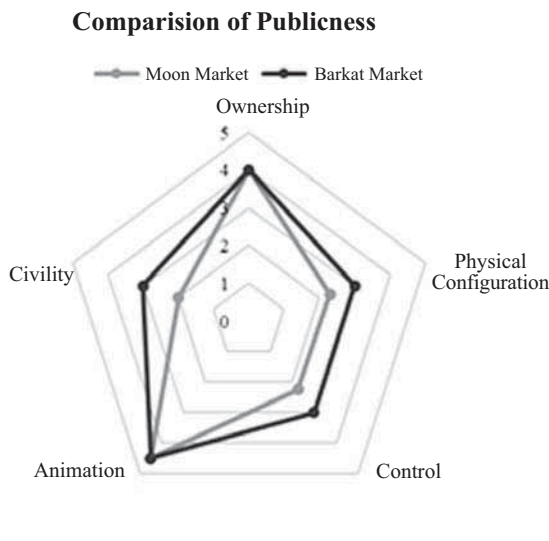


Figure-12: Star Diagram of Moon Market

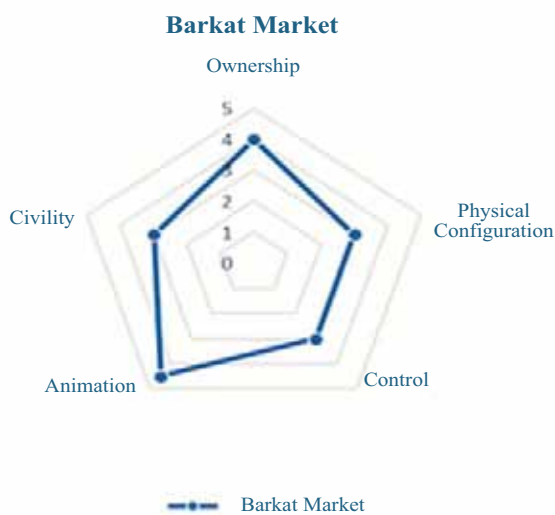


Figure-13: Star Diagram of Barkat Market

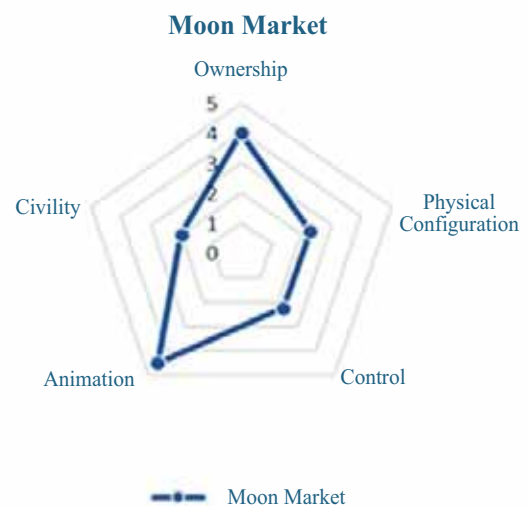


Figure-14: Star Diagram for Comparison

satisfactorily observable in the public spaces (Varna and Carmona, 2014). Although the satisfaction with the aspect of civility is seen in developing country but it is still unmatched with developed world in terms of quality and level of civility.

Publicness of Moon Market

The Radar diagram of Moon Market shows that dimensions of ownership and animation got highest scores. It explains that the location of Moon Market is suitable and accessible as many road linkages are available to market. In terms of Animation, market is accessible by all age groups, gender, and to all types of socio-economic classes of society. However, control got the average score as people are not satisfied with the security arrangements. They want more control on the environment, check and balance by the Moon Market security itself. In addition, the dimension of civility got the least scores which indicates that there is a need for proper maintenance and cleanliness of basic facilities. In the dimension of physical configuration satisfaction level regarding hard landscape elements is average and provision of soft landscape elements is much lesser because Moon Market park is in a poor condition.

Publicness of Barkat Market

The radar diagram demonstrates the scores received by the Barkat Market by evaluation. According to the diagram Barkat Market has high score animation and ownership. Security has lower value as the absence of control measures has compelled private businessmen to make their own investment for security measures and install CCTV cameras or arrange a guard outside their business area. As far as animation is concerned, the score is high for Barkat Market as it is accessible by all genders, age groups and socio-economic classes. But civility has low value due to encroachments affecting the management of land use and low cleanliness level for basic facilities i.e., public toilets. But it is commendable that the soft landscaping in the central park is good.

Comparative Analysis of Publicness

Comparative analysis of both the markets is depicted in the diagram and it is deduced that publicness in Barkat Market is more as compared to Moon Market. Ownership and Animation have equal values in both markets. Civility, Control and Physical Configuration have lesser scores in Moon Market than in Barkat Market.

Recommendations and Conclusion

There is need for increasing harmony in the design for the market shops at Barkat Market. Ramps should be provided to make Barkat Market inclusive for differently abled people. Moreover, provision of streetlights and dustbins cannot only enhance the aesthetics of the market but can also ratchet up the functionality of the place. Consequently, the visitors will feel more comfortable with the environment. Adequate security arrangement was the demand of both shopkeepers and visitors for both areas. Putting barriers and standing guards in the markets will make it more secured. Security can also control the car snatching problem. Improvement of soft and hard landscaping was a major need in Moon Market. An improved environment also needs a proper maintenance to keep thriving. Cleanliness and encroachment were much neglected areas for Moon Market. In Moon Market, congestion becomes a major problem during peak times which needs to be addressed preferably through the promotion of pedestrian walkability and lifestyle of cycling in the area. Otherwise, city development authority has built up a parking plaza in the premises of this market which needs to go operational as soon as possible. Pedestrianization of this area with the help of bollards and security personnel restricting the entering of vehicles in the market would enhance the level of publicness. In this way, congestion can be removed.

It is essential for better urban design, to identify key success factors for developments from the perspective of publicness. The way markets affect urban form and the life that take place within them makes the urban designer's job more crucial than before. Findings of this research suggest that the study areas have several deficiencies with respect to the quality of publicness. However, Barkat Market has relatively high level of publicness as compared to that of Moon Market. Access and linkages as well as animation have almost equal values in both the markets. Civility, control and symbolic access and outlook received lesser score in Moon Market than in Barkat Market. It was unfortunate to find out that no consideration was given to the provision of facilities for disabled people. Parking is a serious issue being faced by the visitors of both the markets.

Publicness around the globe have different subjective meaning which is a debatable topic. But comparison between the publicness of developing and developed world has shown that public spaces have been neglected in developing to meet their full potential. In developing world hence do not countries, where food, clothing and shelter are the priority areas, both governance and public overshadow the livability, publicness and potentials of public places. People

are found highly satisfied where even a light intervention is made to liven up the place. Therefore, the publicness scores might match for public places from the developed and developing world but in reality, there would still be a major gap between these two types. A framework is still needed to measure and compare the actuality of public places from both developing and developed world in true sense.

A way forward developing countries can be beforehand designing of any market through a proper analysis i.e. assessment of publicness through star model. Keeping in

view the socio-economic characteristics of prospective visitors, it is better to consider the ownership status of the public place and the level of facilities to be provided. The publicness of a public space can be examined by using the five criteria of ownership, physical configuration, control, animation and civility. In this way, results can be compared systemically to produce a more detailed study about the publicness of a public space in Lahore. A thorough study should be conducted to justify the development of public space at a certain place.

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