

Evaluation of The Suitability of Urban Parks Based on The Characteristic of The Elderly's Needs in Surabaya

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Abstract – *The number of elderly people in Surabaya City is growing fast, with the largest population in Development Unit (UP) Tunjungan. It resulted to the needs of elderly facilities, such as parks. The elderly have certain characteristics, so the designing of elderly park need a specific approach. Therefore, the research's objective is to evaluate urban parks in UP Tunjungan that suitable for characteristic of the elderly's need. The research's methods is qualitative descriptive. The evaluation of eight parks in UP Tunjungan based on general criteria of elderly park through character appraisal analysis. The result is to find out the most suitable park to be designed as Elderly Park that meets 7 out of 10 sub criteria of an elderly park.*

Index Terms - *elderly park, characteristic of elderly people, the suitable park, character appraisal.*

INTRODUCTION

Surabaya City has a rapid growing of elderly people. In 2010, the percentage of elderly people in Surabaya is 10% of total people in Surabaya. It is far bigger than the percentage of elderly people in Indonesia, that is 7,5 % of total people. In 2013, the percentage of elderly people in Surabaya had reach 16,74% of total people^[1]. Demographic data of Surabaya in 2013 stated that the largest population of elderly people is in Development Unit (UP) Tunjungan. Therefore, this Development Unit is more likely to need adequate facilities for the elderly.

The aging process brings many changes to a man, physically and psychologically. Most of them are lonely retired, so they need a facility for them to interact with others, such as parks. The physical limitation of elderly people lead to their limited access to the world outside their house^[2], so the park need to be accessible for the elderly. There are eight urban parks in UP Tunjungan, but none of them is addressed for the elderly. Each urban park in UP Tunjungan has a potential to be designed as an elderly park. The elderly people have different characteristic from the other age group, so the designing of Elderly Park need a specific approach. In order to find out the best location for designing elderly park in UP

Tunjungan, the parks need to be evaluated based on characteristic of the elderly's needs; accordingly, the research question is: "Which park in UP Tunjungan that is potential to be an elderly park?".

METHODS

The methods of this research was qualitative descriptive. The evaluation of eight parks in UP Tunjungan based on general criteria of elderly park through character appraisal analysis^[3]. The data was presented by data display formation contained information of the evaluated parks and analyzed by character appraisal techniques to determine one most suitable park.

FINDING AND ARGUMENTS

According to Carstens (1993)^[4], Mollenkopf, dkk (1997)^[5], and Joseph J. Gallo (1998)^[6], the distinct characteristics of elderly could be divided into two, namely physical characteristic, and psychological characteristic. Physical characteristic of elderly consisted of the decreasing in sensory ability, physical strength, and adaptability towards the surrounding. Psychological characteristic of elderly consisted of the decreasing of social interaction and shock from status change. These characteristics lead to some special needs, such as physical needs, safety needs, and social needs (Henniwati 2008^[7], Maslow in Koswara 1991^[8]). The needs characteristic of elderly must be fullfilled in determining the suitable park for the elderly. The elements and location of elderly park will be assessed due to the elderly needs. Safety needs mostly affect the choice of suitable location for elderly park. Physical needs affect the choice of hardscape and softscape elements in the park. And, social needs affecting the development of interaction spaces in park for senior communities.

Eight urban parks in UP Tunjungan to begin with are Prestasi Park, Korea Park, Apsari Park, Undaan Fruit Park, Surya Park (town hall's courtyard), Alon-Alon Contong, Skate and BMX Park, and Ekspresi Park^[9]. The eight parks to be reduced as five parks due to incompatibility of three parks, Apsari Park, Surya Park, and Skate and BMX Park, to make out of basic elements of elderly park.

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The remaining five parks were presented as “data display” that contained all basic information of the parks. The data became input to be assessed based on 6 criteria and 10 sub criteria of elements and location of elderly park, i.e. accessibility (street, distance from the settlement, and public transportation), safety, comfort (appropriate space for the park), community and social relation (elderly population around the park, facility for the elderly near the park), physical elements (hardscape and softscape), and space for interaction. The park that met most of the criteria and sub criteria was assigned to be most suitable park as elderly park.

Ekspresi Park met 7 out of 10 sub criteria, which was the highest points among the other. Ekspresi Park as the most suitable park was accessible by public transportation, there is a settlement close by, and got adequate space, dense vegetation, also the only park out of the five that has an elderly facility at the park that is foot reflexology path.

CONCLUSION

The result of this research submits that the most suitable park to be designed as elderly park in UP Tunjungan was Ekspresi Park. The park met 7 out of 10 sub criteria of elderly park.

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