

## Planning Green Spaces in Poverty Line Areas; Shadab Colony and Chak. No-7 Case Study

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**Abstract:** The study aims at improving social and physical environment in urban poverty line areas through planning and development of open spaces. This especially concentrated development according to public perception, demand and incorporating their resources in form of cash, physical work, providing land and supervising the developmental work for development according to their aspirations.

**Key Words:** Socially Depressive Area, Concentrated Development

### Introduction

Green spaces play imperative role in the provision of quality air for breathing and other biological activities, provide key input towards employment, recreation and beneficial for personal psychology and shaping behavior. The study highlights beneficial impacts of providing access to an environmentally good space in urban slum areas by considering public perception and need of areas.

There is evidence that if poor and / or marginalized communities are provided with necessary tools and technical assistance to develop their internal capacities, they can mobilize themselves into effective organizational set-up at local or occasionally at city level. This organizational set-up can provide a huge assistance to the Government line departments if they are taken as equitable and equal partner in the development process. This case study was especially designed to highlight the importance of local residents in the planning process of the improvement of their areas. It had been documented the considerable benefits of public open spaces in daily life and towards minimizing the commonly existing diseases emerged due to poor sanitation and inadequate health facilities in the slum areas. The slum areas provide an opportunity for the breeding of insects, which helps in the transformation of diseases like Malaria, Diathorrea and Scabies. The study was specifically focusing on the park development at Shadab Colony Faisalabad, benefits ascribed with community participation and parks contribution on surrounding environs, health linkages and its impact on individual life. Furthermore, this study will also highlight opportunity for the local communities to actually visualize the impact and the end product of the development process and its benefits.

### Materials and Methods

**Sampling:** Out of total 156 Katchi abadies in the environs of Faisalabad three representatives areas were chosen having all the characteristics of slum areas and Katchi abadis or socially deprived areas. Peoples living in these areas were fighting for the development of open

spaces, where neighboring community members were keeping their buffaloes and calling the right of possession. Hence these sites were used as dumping sides for local solid waste.

**Sampling Size:** The samples were selected in three replicates of 50 respondents from each locality designated as study area. List of male and female MPCOs were taken from FAUP and members of Multipurpose Community Organizations (MPCOs) and representatives of areas were interviewed.

**Preparation of Interview Schedule:** An average fifty representatives from each locality were selected randomly for the interview and for data collection. The data was conducted in regular intervals and each interview took 15-20 minutes. Structural questionnaire was used for data collection comprises personal information about respondents, public perception about green spaces, opinion on the existing vegetation and effective ways of community participation.

### Results and Discussion

The central ethos of the project was the introduction of tree as natural guard against modern technological hazards like pollution, dirty industrial water and gases. Among the selection of plants 27.33 percent respondents preferred the annuals, different colors and size followed by evergreen plants were preferred by 23.33percent of respondents. Deciduous trees are very important because of there bearing habit, which provide direct sun light in winter season and shade during summer. Percentage of peoples favored these plants was 19.33. Only 21.33 like shrubs in landscape as compared with creepers preferred by 8.6percent respondents.

Selection of appropriate plants is always a difficult task because it requires good knowledge of soil condition and its properties for selection suitable species of the plants, which could survive in the typical landscape of area. Mostly in the village landscape the people like large shady trees due to our cultural and social settings. Shrubs and annuals are the important components of urban landscape where paths and drives are dressed with these plants for the beautification of the areas.

Generally respondents like shrubs and annuals but they think that maintenance of shrubs and annuals is relatively costly than huge trees and it is easy for them to handle huge trees rather than small trees. Traditional huge trees were preferred by most of respondents like *Ficus banghalen*, *Dalbergia sisoo* and *Ficus religiosa* due to their large shade to keep the cultural identities live. Although respondents prefer these plants but soil conditions and properties were not favoring all these plants. Therefore, mostly installed plants were *Eucllyptus Citnioora* and *Acasia arabica*. Meerow and Black (1993) found that trees are both effective provider of shade and modifier of air movement. How a particular tree species perform these functions depends upon how tall it grow, whether or not the leaves stay on the tree all year, and the shape and density of the canopy.

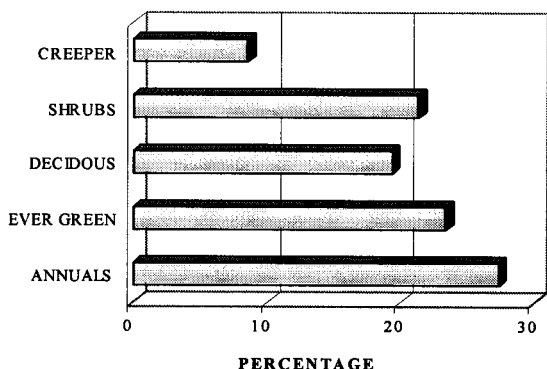


Fig.1: Selection of Plants by Respondents

One of the main aim of this study was to explore possibilities of potential community participation in the development of the most poor and vulnerable class residential areas by pooling their resources and considering their aspirations. In this respect respondents were interviewed and discussion was made. A good percentage of the respondents nearly 78 percent give positive response as for as contribution is concerned. Numbers of beneficiaries from different age groups were studied. Only 42.73 percent were willing for cash contribution according to the decision taken by different working local organizations while very low percentage of respondents agreed on monthly contribution for the maintenance of the parks. The respondents who could perform simple physical work for the maintenance and development of the green spaces were only 22.22

percent. Only 13.67 percent were agreed for providing sufficient space for general meeting and to discuss the issues related to parks. The business community belonging to shopkeepers and venders showed their desire for supervision of the developmental work. The percentage of this community was about 22 percent. Open spaces are integral part of our land played a vital contribution in providing fresh air and enjoyment facilities to visitors. Green masses are helpful in decreasing temperature and humidity. These are also helpful for producing seasonal changes through various colors and increases beautification. The plants are also helpful in prevention from solar radiation and temperature control, Wind control, noise control, air filtration and enrichment, control of precipitation and humidity as well as aesthetic values. The communities in all three study- areas shows substantial willingness to contribute in the development and maintenance of green spaces either through cash, physical work, providing land and in the supervision of development process in the presence of Government agencies with meager resources. This will lead toward community-based infrastructure under the umbrella of technical assistance of Government agencies for self-help initiative.

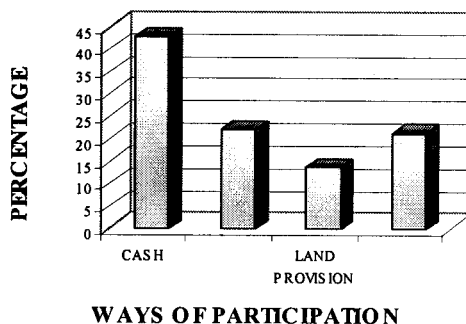


Fig.3: Ways of Public Participation

**References**

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