

ALTERNATIVES TO STANDARDS: A STUDY OF OPEN SPACES PLANNING GUIDELINES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

PUTRI HARYATI BINTI IBRAHIM

ABSTRACT

This study builds on to contribute to the realization of the Malaysian government's target to provide two hectares of open spaces for every 1000 people in its urban populations by 2020. Although numerous studies have examined the importance of open spaces to human life, little attention has been given to the implementation of open spaces provision. The Federal Department of Town and Country Planning of Peninsular Malaysia (FDTCP) has produced a planning standards and guidelines to supervise the implementation of open spaces policy in Peninsular Malaysia. Unfortunately the provision of open spaces in a development is often seen as unimportant. As such, this study provides additional insight into the implementation of open spaces policy by 98 local authorities in Peninsular Malaysia that is govern under the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172). 240 respondents (with response rate of 52.6%) answered the questionnaire surveys and 13 respondents were interviewed to obtain information with regards to the execution of the open spaces policy at the planning permission stage. Since the open spaces planning guidelines is not mandatory, it allows the local authorities to adopt and adapt the open spaces provision freely. The analysis of this study focuses on the variations of open spaces policy implementation that is differs among local authorities, from a simplistic general approach of land ratio techniques to an ergonomics method. This study also analyzes the problems faced by local authorities with regards to the implementation of open spaces policy at their jurisdiction area. This study found the allocation practices using 5 different approaches by the local planning practices requires knowledge and understanding by planning profession towards a long term sustainable green development.

University of Malaya