



Youth Space Development in Urban Kampong of Pondok Cina, Depok City, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Youth spaces are necessary for adolescents to express themselves, build community, and strengthen identity. The study aims to identify needs and preferences and obtain alternatives for developing youth spaces in the urban kampong of Pondok Cina, Depok City. Qualitative research was conducted from February to April 2024. Data was collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and Focus Group Discussions. The study found that adolescents need multifunctional youth spaces, including places to socialize, develop talents, and exercise. An attractive, comfortable, and inclusive space design is essential, including complete facilities that support young people's activities. This study also emphasizes integrating youth spaces with environmental health, such as waste management and environmental education. Developing youth spaces that are managed effectively, sustainably, and integrated with environmental health can improve quality of life, prevent juvenile delinquency, and build a healthy community.

Ruang kumpul menjadi kebutuhan remaja untuk mengekspresikan diri, membangun komunitas, serta memperkuat identitas. Penelitian bertujuan mengidentifikasi kebutuhan dan preferensi, serta mendapatkan alternatif pengembangan ruang kumpul di kampung kota Pondok Cina, Kota Depok. Penelitian kualitatif dilakukan dari Maret hingga Juni 2024. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan observasi, wawancara mendalam, dan *Focus Group Discussion*. Hasil penelitian mendapatkan bahwa remaja membutuhkan ruang kumpul yang multifungsi, mencakup tempat untuk bersosialisasi, mengembangkan bakat, serta berolahraga. Desain ruang yang menarik, nyaman, dan inklusif sangat penting, termasuk fasilitas lengkap yang mendukung aktivitasnya. Penelitian ini juga menekankan pentingnya integrasi antara ruang kumpul dengan kesehatan lingkungan, termasuk pengelolaan sampah dan edukasi lingkungan. Pengembangan ruang kumpul yang dikelola secara efektif, berkelanjutan, serta terintegrasi dengan kesehatan lingkungan dapat meningkatkan kualitas hidup, mencegah kenakalan remaja, dan membangun komunitas yang sehat.

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1. Introduction

Adolescence is a period of development experienced by every individual as a transition from childhood to adulthood (Fhadila, 2017; Rijal, 2016). Although the exact age range can vary, generally, the adolescent phase occurs between the ages of 10 and 24 years (Zukor et al., 2018). The adolescent phase is a period full of rapid changes and

developments, both physically, emotionally, and socially. Puberty in adolescence triggers physical changes and sexual maturity (Dalrymple et al., 2014). In the emotional aspect, adolescents begin to develop their self-identity, explore their values and beliefs, and build independence. In addition, they also begin to feel various complex emotions, such as love, happiness, sadness, anger, and confusion (Suryana et al., 2022). Meanwhile, in the

social aspect, adolescents begin to free themselves from dependence on their parents and seek their roles in society and the environment (Putri, 2018). Therefore, adolescents need a place to exchange ideas and express themselves (Fhadila, 2017; Hantono, 2019; N. Sari et al., 2024).

Youth space is a place or forum that focuses on youth development and empowerment. They are also places where adolescents express themselves, build community, and strengthen their identity. In addition, that place can also be a refuge for adolescents who feel marginalized or not accepted in other environments (M. N. Sari, 2023). Limited public spaces and environmental facilities often hinder adolescent self-development (Maharani et al., 2024).

Youth spaces for adolescents in urban areas often face various challenges. Urban areas that continue to develop not only present skyscrapers and the hustle and bustle of activity but also the phenomenon of "urban kampung" (Nursyahbani & Pigawati, 2015; Sudarwanto et al., 2017). In this environment, adolescents become a vital group that helps to enliven social dynamics. Urban kampung are considered slum areas, and low-income urban communities mostly inhabit them. Cleanliness, sanitation, and public facilities are often neglected, causing environmental, health, and social problems (Runkat, 2017; N. Sari et al., 2024).

The lack of inclusive and comfortable youth spaces makes adolescents in urban villages challenging. The busyness of individuals with their work and activities increases the distance between adolescents. Low socializing intensity will affect the social dynamics in the village (Herdiana & Nurul, 2020).

The urban kampung of Pondok Cina, Depok City, is a densely populated residential area. The

high population density and limited land make it difficult for adolescents to find a place to express themselves in their residential environment (Hantono, 2019; UNICEF, 2005). The study aims to identify needs and preferences, as well as to find alternatives for developing youth space in the urban kampung of Pondok Cina. This study will likely contribute to developing the concept of effective and environmentally friendly youth spaces so that it can be applied in other areas. According to Ihle et al. (2024), in addition to being important for social and psychological development, effective and environmentally friendly youth spaces also contribute to improving residents' quality of life and environmental conservation.

2. Methods

This study uses a qualitative research method conducted in the urban kampung of Pondok Cina, Depok City, West Java, from February-April 2024. Data was collected through observation, interviews, and Focus Group Discussions (FGD).

Qualitative research methods have a significant role in social science and health research. Qualitative methods allow for a comprehensive understanding of the concept of youth space in the urban kampung of Pondok Cina. Meanwhile, FGD and in-depth interviews are reliable and valid methods (Adler et al., 2019).

Observations (Fig. 1a and 1b) were conducted in the field for several days to assess the physical conditions of the study area and individual factors such as knowledge, perception, lifestyle, motivation, interest, activity, and expectations. According to Rau et al. (2021), individual factors can influence a person's physical activity.



Figure 1: Observation of activities (a) morning and (b) evening; (c) interviews; (d) FGD

In-depth interviews (Fig. 1c) were conducted to obtain information about youth places, frequent activities, and unhealthy habits of adolescents in the study area. Following Arofah & Suheri (2018), informants are sources who have a close relationship or deep understanding of the stages of developing creative villages.

FGD (Fig. 1d) is a structured discussion between residents with specific characteristics or experiences on the topic being studied. Following Adler et al. (2019), FGD was chosen as an alternative in participatory development. FGD involves 6-12 residents selected based on research criteria. The results of the FGD can be used to determine the participants' aspirations.

3. Results

3.1. Youth space needs and preferences.

The study results found that, in general, adolescence in the urban kampong of Pondok Cina needs a youth space that can guarantee socialization and activities and develop interests and talents. They also need a healthy space to socialize with peers and make new friends. In addition, the space must provide a healthy and open atmosphere to facilitate positive social interactions.

The youth space also functions to develop talents, interests, and physical activity. Therefore, it must provide facilities and programs that support the development of adolescent talents and interests, such as music, art, and sports.

The study also found that adolescents want a space that can function as a place to study and exchange information. Therefore, the youth space must provide a comfortable study area or library for reading and studying together.

3.2. Youth space concept.

The youth space concept developed is multifunctional and inclusive. Therefore, its development must consider five main elements: room design, health aspects, facilities, programs, and sustainability. The design of the youth space must be attractive and comfortable for adolescents. Using modern decorative elements and bright colors can increase the attractiveness of the space. Ergonomic chairs, tables, and sufficient

natural lighting are also part of a comfortable design.

The youth space must have good lighting, air quality, humidity, and cleanliness to make users comfortable. It must also have adequate facilities to meet the various needs of adolescents, from basic facilities such as clean toilets to stable internet access.

Various interesting programs are important so that the youth space remains of interest. Options include training, seminars, competitions, or arts and cultural events. In addition, effective management must be carried out to be sustainable.

4. Discussion

The study results found that, in general, adolescence in the urban kampong of Pondok Cina needs a youth space that can guarantee socialization and activities, develop interests and talents, and self-discovery. Therefore, it must provide facilities and programs such as music, art, and sports.

This space is crucial in providing a healthy environment for adolescents to socialize and foster positive social interactions. It is not just a space but a catalyst for community development.

The study also found that adolescents want a space that can function as a place to study and exchange information. Therefore, the youth space must provide a comfortable study area or library for reading and studying together. It is about the space and creating an environment that encourages learning and knowledge sharing (Nakano et al., 2013).

Youth space management must involve its users. Adolescents' involvement in managing youth spaces is important to create a sense of ownership and responsibility (Nolas, 2014; Wicaksono, 2022). Integrated needs and concepts, it is hoped that youth spaces can become effective, inclusive, healthy, and sustainable places to meet adolescents' various needs and aspirations (Jaya, 2018; Maswakang et al., 2023; Srinaga et al., 2020).

Effective and sustainable youth spaces can benefit adolescents (Abbott-Chapman & Robertson, 2001; Nolas, 2014; Wicaksono, 2022) by improving their quality of life and well-being, building a sense of togetherness and social

solidarity, preventing juvenile delinquency and drug abuse, developing their talents and potential, and supporting sustainable community development.

Based on the results of identifying the needs and preferences of adolescents, the ideal youth space that can be developed in the urban kampong of Pondok Cina should meet several aspects, namely accessibility and comfort, design and facilities, environment and health, programs, and management and sustainability.

Regarding accessibility and comfort, the youth space should be in a strategic and easily accessible location, have flexible operating hours, and provide a sense of security and comfort. Therefore, choosing a location in the middle of a residential area, operating hours until the evening, and the availability of lighting facilities and security officers are options to realize this.

Designing a youth space according to adolescents' tastes in color and decoration can fulfill design and facility aspects. Meanwhile, the facilities provided include comfortable tables and chairs, a stable internet network, audio-visual equipment (including television, sound system, and projector), a library and reading room, and sports equipment to ensure physical activity.

The youth space must have adequate environmental health facilities, such as clean water, toilets, and trash cans. In addition to being a center for activities, the youth space is also an educational space for adolescents and the surrounding community to increase environmental awareness. According to Nugroho et al. (2020), an inclusive and comfortable youth space can be a center of education for adolescents about the importance of protecting the environment. Environmental training programs (workshops), environmental clean-up activities, tree planting, and plastic reduction campaigns can increase awareness and active participation of adolescents and the community in protecting the environment.

Environmental health aspects are important factors that must be considered when developing youth spaces. In addition to reducing the risk of disease, environmental health aspects can create a comfortable space for daily activities (Widyakusuma, 2020). Environmental factors in the room that must be considered include temperature and humidity, lighting, ventilation, and noise.

According to the Indonesian Ministry of Health (2023), the standard for environmental health quality for indoor rooms is a temperature of 18-30°C, humidity of 40-60%, minimum lighting of 60 lux, air flow rate of 0.15-0.25 meters/second, and maximum noise of 55 dB(A).

Activity programs attract interest and develop adolescent talents in specific fields. Programs that can be provided include educational activities (such as workshops and training to develop knowledge and skills), social activities (such as community service, blood donation, and integrated health posts), arts and cultural activities (such as music, dance, and theater performances), and sports activities (such as football, basketball, and badminton matches). Program development must involve them, from planning to implementation. According to Wicaksono (2022), involving adolescents in managing youth spaces is important to create a sense of ownership and responsibility. Effective management and sustainability are important aspects that must be considered so adolescents can continue operating and using youth spaces in the long term. Forming a management organization consisting of adolescents and adults and preparing a comprehensive management plan are important efforts that must be made. In addition, a permanent funding source for maintenance and operational costs is an inseparable part of managing youth spaces. Funding sources can come from various parties, such as the government, the private sector, and the community.

5. Conclusions

Youth spaces are an important part of the social and psychological development of adolescents, especially in densely populated areas. They are expected to be places for socializing, education, developing interests and talents, and physical activities. The study's results showed that adolescents need multifunctional and inclusive youth spaces. Developing effective, sustainable, and integrated youth spaces with environmental health requires careful planning, cooperation between various parties, and involving adolescents from the planning process to its implementation.

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