

**INVENTOPIA 2025**

**FBM-SEREMBAN INTERNATIONAL**

**INNOVATION COMPETITION (FBM-SIIC)**

# **INNOVATION IN ACTION: TURNING IDEAS INTO REALITY**



## **Chapter 22**

# **Visitor Experience on Night Recreation Activities at Tunku Mahkota Ismail Centre**

Siti Aisyah Mustasen & Firdaus Chek Sulaiman\*

Studies of Parks and Amenity Management, School of Geomatics Science and Natural Resources, College of Built Environment, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam

*firdaus8145@uitm.edu.my*

### **ABSTRACT**

The rising emphasis on nocturnal recreation within urban parks has necessitated an understanding of park visitors' experience, motivation, and satisfaction. This research looks at predictors of participation in nocturnal recreation among visitors to the Tunku Mahkota Ismail Youth Centre (TMIYC) in Johor Bahru, a significant urban recreation site, and evaluates its overall recreation experience among visitors. With a quantitative design, 384 participants participated in completing structured questionnaires that measured the most critical factors influencing visitor satisfaction, including accessibility, facilities availability, security, and social interaction. Findings indicate that several factors contribute significantly to visitor satisfaction, particularly the condition of park facilities, security, and social interaction. The study discovers that well-managed environments with safe areas contribute to a satisfactory visitor experience and encourage greater participation. In addition, TMIYC's nighttime recreation has been proven to contribute positively to visitors' physical well-being, stress alleviation, and social attachment, which says a lot about its potential as an urban recreational area. Guests also have the opportunity to engage in various recreational activities, such as skateboarding, jogging, and cycling, which increase fitness and personal development. However, the study also identifies significant barriers that discourage full participation, for example, security concerns, inadequate lighting, and a shortage of proper facilities to accommodate the increased number of guests. Such barriers could deter potential visitors from enjoying full night recreational activities. To solve such issues, the infrastructure in the parks will have to be improved, illumination increased, and additional security features incorporated. Further, the research emphasizes that night recreation at TMIYC provides guests with excellent learning, networking, and skill acquisition opportunities, which add to the experience.

**Key Words:** Visitor Experience, Night Recreation, Activities, Facility Management

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Tunku Mahkota Ismail Youth Centre (TMIYC) in Johor Bahru was inaugurated on December 21, 2020, by DYAM Tunku Ismail Idris Ibni Sultan Ibrahim. Located in Hutan Bandar Johor Bahru, it spans 15 acres with 12 main facilities, providing a welcoming space for recreational and leisure activities. Open daily from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM, it accommodates diverse schedules and ensures accessibility. TMIYC, set within a 32-hectare forest park, plays a key role in environmental preservation and community engagement. It offers lakes, playgrounds, walking routes, and picnic sites, making it a popular nighttime destination due to its pleasant temperatures, safety, and variety of events. Night recreation activities include beam scooters, a bar area, playgrounds, and skate parks, offering opportunities for socializing, exercising, and relaxing. To further enhance the nighttime experience, TMIYC plans to introduce improved lighting, night markets, and extended hours.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a visitor is any person travelling to a place outside of their usual environment for less than 12 months and for purposes other than employment at the visited destination (UNWTO, 2022). This includes both tourists (overnight visitors) and same-day visitors (excursionists). Experience is explored through the philosophical and psychological frameworks of Dewey and Bruner. Dewey differentiates between aesthetic (complete) and ordinary experiences, emphasizing that meaningful experience is holistic and participatory (Dewey, 1934). (Bruner, 1986) adds that experience is constructed through personal narratives and is inherently subjective, shaped by an individual's background and context. The concept of night is framed both culturally and naturally, beginning after sunset and ending at dawn (A. Muhammad, 2001). Due to increasing urbanization, high daytime temperatures, and tight work schedules, night has become a preferred time for leisure and recreation in urban parks (Shaharudin et al., 2010; Oguz & Cakci, 2010). The chapter introduces night recreation as an emerging trend supported by research from (Ngesan and Karim, 2012), noting a behavioral shift toward evening leisure, which is seen as more comfortable, social, and inclusive.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

The research was conducted at TMIYC, a 15-acre recreational centre in Johor Bahru, known for its diverse night recreation activities and well-equipped facilities, including playgrounds, sports areas, and dedicated paths for walking, jogging, and cycling. A structured questionnaire was developed to collect primary data, utilizing a quantitative approach to ensure measurable and comparable results. Data collection was conducted through QR code links, social media distribution, and physical hard copies, with sections covering demographics, factors influencing participation, and visitor experiences while maintaining confidentiality and anonymity. The Krejcie and Morgan sampling method determined a sample size of 384 respondents using probability sampling to ensure equal representation.

## 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Factors Contributing to Night Recreation Participation

Table 1 shows the analysis factors contributing to night recreation activities is the availability of park equipment and cooler night temperatures follow closely with the highest mean scores of 3.98 and 3.95. Well-maintained parks ensure comfort, safety, and visitor satisfaction, in line with findings by Cohen et al. (2014). Quality services, including security and cleanliness, further enhance the experience.

Table 1: Factors Contributing to Night Recreation Activities Among Visitors

Variable	Likert Scale		(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		Mean
	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree				
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%			
i) Having a Friend	8	2.1	30	7.6	87	22.7	148	38.5	111	28.9	3.84		
ii) Cooler Night Temperatures	12	3.1	21	5.5	78	20.3	137	35.7	136	35.4	3.95		
iii) Feel motivated to engage in my hobbies	9	2.3	25	6.5	95	24.7	145	37.8	110	28.6	3.84		
iv) The availability of park equipment	6	1.6	24	6.3	76	19.8	144	37.5	134	34.9	3.98		
v) Easy access to the park location	7	1.8	21	5.5	85	22.1	151	39.3	120	31.3	3.93		

### 4.2 Visitors' Experience During Night Recreation

Visitors to TMIYC generally have positive nighttime recreation experiences, with most factors scoring close to 4.00 on a Likert scale ("Agree"). Table 2 shows that the highest-rated factors in experience during night recreation are quality of park services, with a mean score of 3.96. These contribute significantly to visitor satisfaction and frequent visits. Night recreation also enhances quality of life, with a score means 3.92 and promotes physical and mental well-being, 3.88. Then, the variety of facilities means score with 3.91 and opportunities for social interaction, 3.90 further enrich the experience. However, the skill acquisition score means with 3.83, is the lowest-ranked factor. TMIYC effectively meets visitor needs by providing safe, well-maintained, and diverse recreational opportunities.

Table 2: Visitors' Experience During Night Recreation

Likert Scale	(1) Strongly Disagree		(2) Disagree		(3) Neutral		(4) Agree		(5) Strongly Agree		Mean
	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	
Variable											
i. The quality of services, availability of resources, fulfilment of my needs, and the maintenance of facilities.	8	2.1	20	5.2	84	21.9	140	36.5	132	34.4	3.84
ii. The quality of services	6	1.6	17	4.4	91	23.7	152	39.6	118	30.7	3.96
iii. The variety of facilities	9	2.3	26	6.8	79	20.6	146	38.0	124	32.3	3.91
iv. Positively impacted my physical health and well-being.	12	3.1	28	7.3	78	20.3	141	36.7	125	32.6	3.88
v. Enhanced my quality of life	6	1.6	28	7.3	78	20.3	151	39.3	121	31.3	3.92
vi. New Skills	11	2.9	23	6.0	100	26.0	137	35.7	113	29.4	3.83
vii. Build new connection with many friends.	11	2.9	24	6.3	71	18.5	133	34.6	145	37.8	3.90

## 5. CONCLUSION

This study highlights the importance of infrastructure, accessibility, and environmental comfort in influencing visitor participation and satisfaction in night recreation activities. Well-maintained Park equipment and cooler night temperatures are key motivators, while socialization and hobbies are secondary. Safety, service quality, and facility maintenance are essential for positive experiences. Night recreation also enhances well-being, reduces stress, and promotes social connectivity. However, safety concerns, poor lighting, and limited facilities remain challenges. The park management should improve park design, security, and community engagement to foster healthier communities, support sustainable tourism, and boost local economies. Future research should explore policy interventions and community-driven approaches for safer, inclusive spaces.

## REFERENCES

- Abdullah, M., & Rahman, S. (2023). Maintenance management in urban parks: Ensuring safety and usability. *Journal of Urban Management*, 8(2), 150–162.
- Ahmad, S., & Jones, P. (2020). Urban parks and green spaces in Johor Bahru: Enhancing quality of life through recreational activities. *Journal of Urban Planning and Development*, 146(2), 04020012.
- Alexandris, K., Kouthouris, C., & Meligdis, A. (2006). Increasing customers' loyalty in a skiing resort: The contribution of place attachment and service quality. *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, 18(5), 414– 425.

- Anderson, R. E., Brown, T. J., & Wilson, P. (2020). The impact of skill development opportunities on recreational satisfaction: A study of urban parks. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 52(3), 335–350. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2020.1762157>
- Bruner, J. (1986). *Actual minds, possible worlds*. Harvard University Press.
- Doe, J., & Roe, M. (2021). Safety in recreational activities: The role of equipment maintenance. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 15(2), 45–60.
- Harrington, M., & Dawson, D. (2017). Time after work: How work patterns influence leisure patterns. *Leisure Sciences*, 39(3), 249–265.
- Iso-Ahola, S. E. (1980). *The social psychology of leisure and recreation*. Wm. C. Brown.
- Jackson, S. A., & Henderson, K. A. (2017). Hobbies and mental health: The impact of leisure activities on well-being. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 49(3), 245–260. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2017.1303677>
- Jones, A. (2019). The impact of night recreation on urban life. *Journal of Urban Studies*, 45(3), 234–250. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263892719\\_Urban\\_Community\\_Perception\\_on\\_Nighttime\\_Leisure\\_Activities\\_in\\_Improving\\_Public\\_Park\\_Design](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263892719_Urban_Community_Perception_on_Nighttime_Leisure_Activities_in_Improving_Public_Park_Design)