

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**ASSESSMENT OF WALKABILITY TO
COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN PROMOTING
GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD CONCEPT IN
URBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS**

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ABSTRACT

The rapid growths of the cities in terms of economic and social development are the reasons that lead to major development problems in most of the country around the world. Many approaches have been made to Malaysia in encounter the development problem such as green neighbourhood concept. However, the concept still lacking in certain areas especially for encourage people to walk to reach the community facilities in the neighbourhood area. In addition, there is the need to evaluate the community facilities planning guidelines toward walkability approach. This research intends to fill these two gaps in Malaysian community facilities planning study through walkability approach to encourage more sustainable environment for all. Other than that, this research also supports to achieve the objective of Putrajaya Green City Plan 2025. This research aims to assess the neighbourhood walkability to improve the community facilities planning in spatial and behaviour context toward a 'green neighbourhood concept'. The research was conducted in Putrajaya in two Precincts of different housing characteristic but similar community facilities planning characteristic namely Precinct 8 and Precinct 9 neighbourhood area. Findings show that all four research domains namely socio-demographic domain, walkability domain, community facilities domain and neighbourhood environment domain significantly influence the level of walkability in Putrajaya neighbourhood area. The priorities of each domain are different from Precinct 8 and Precinct 9. Moreover, the findings also indicate that residents in high density residential area (Precinct 9) tend to walk more compare to residents with low density residential area (Precinct 8).

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Climate change is a widely accepted fact. Industrialization and urbanization are the main causes of the climate change phenomena all around the world. According to United Nation survey, by 2050 nearly 70 percent of global population will be living in the cities. The rapid growths of the cities in terms of economic and social development are the reasons that lead to major development problems in most of the country around the world. According to Hashim (2005), as urbanization rate increase, there is a pressing need to improve community living in today's neighbourhoods as "neighbourhood is seen as the most important urban element that establishes the social and economic sustainability of the area, providing the community ties which hold it together...". Effort to improve neighbourhood living in today's urban community must be taken seriously because the social values in the urban area are characteristically different than the rural community (Ibrahim, 1995)

Moreover, one of the main problems of urbanization is the increase in growing dependence on automobiles. The main mode of transportation even in the neighbourhood area is the private cars because it is the norm of urbanites to use the motorized vehicles rather than to walk. This also leads to the sprawling development and unsustainable lifestyle which disconnect pedestrians to the neighbourhood cores by creating housing that sprawled outside of the residents walking zone (McNally, 2010). Thus people realized that there must be sustainable approaches to encounter the climate change phenomena. One of the initiatives is to design a neighbourhood area towards a walkability living because the design of the neighbourhood can influence the walkability of the housing area. The walkability of the neighbourhood can be measured by identifying the several factors that contributes to increase the walking activity of the residents to community facilities provided. Increasing the walkability of the neighbourhood *means* that the planning and design needs to be improved towards more sustainable living.