STUDY AND APPROACH OF SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL QUALITY OF LIFE IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Ar. Snehal Chaudhari [1], Ar. Pooja Kudale [2]

[1] Architecture, S. B. Patil College of Architecture & Design, Maharashtra, India
[2] Architecture, S. B. Patil College of Architecture & Design, Maharashtra, India
Ar. Snehal Chaudhari (s.chaudhari@sbpatilarchitecture.com)
Ar. Pooja Kudale   (p.kudale@sbpatilarchitecture.com)

Article Information	ABSTRACT
	The Quality of life in urban design is influenced by 7 parameters like physical, social, psychological, economical, etc. Social quality of life contributes various factors, such as transportation, public spaces, and community services whereas psychological quality of life, includes public art, green spaces etc. In this paper, the focus is on two major parameters i.e., social and psychological quality of life (QOL). The availability and accessibility of social amenities is referred to as social QOL, whereas an individual's mental and emotional well-being is referred to as psychological QOL. To compare this parameter, we study of relevant case study and surveys. Also, consider the advantages and disadvantages of various urban design approaches as well as the same crucial elements that enhance the social and psychological QOL. A neighborhood in the core area of Nagpur i.e., Mahal was taken as a case study to understand these factors, their influence and how urban design has helped in shaping the QOL. This paper concludes that urban design strategies play an important role in improving the QOL of city. **KEYWORDS:** Urban Environment1, Quality of life (QOL)2, Social QOL3, psychological QOL4, Community services5, emotional well-being6.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cities have evolved from its core. This core is a place where people come together to make changes to adapt to the evolution giving a character to the Urban form of the core. The core can be a market place, residential area or a historic capital of the ancient rulers. As the cities starts evolving the core become more and more dense and complex and unable to fulfil the needs of the modern people. The core starts experiencing issues like densification, narrow roads leading to traffic congestions, dilapidated old structures etc. The core is not able to cope up with the modern changes in the societies and the cities start expanding where the initial fringes of the city now become a part of it. These areas are the newly developed areas with all the modern facilities and amenities whereas the core is still in a state of chaos. The issues in the core lead to degradation of the quality of life. The initial interdependency of the

core and the newer development is also reduced leading to the city being divided into 2 parts old core and the newly developed area. The core area is changing but the transformation is not guiding creating the issues that we experience today. As, the cities progress the transformation of the core needs to be guided towards a better quality of living for the people. The parameters of the Urban Quality of Life can help to guide this transformation creating a better, self-sufficient city with and better quality of Life.

Similar situation is seen in the Mahal neighborhood of Nagpur city. Mahal is experiencing issues like compact development, poor road conditions, chaotic market places, dilapidated old structures needing redevelopment, neglected structures of Historical Importance, Lack of social spaces etc. All of this has led to degradation of the quality of life of the people in Mahal. And it directly or indirectly affects the

feelings of individual. Quality of life is widely to include social, psychological, physical, economic and community development and aims to fulfill the individuals need.

Aim of the study is to understand the better Urban Quality of Life by investigating the social as well psychological state of Mahal, Nagpur for better future development.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction of Quality of life:

The word "quality of life" is frequently used to describe how one views the various facets of human existence. It is a regular standard level that takes into account what is expected of a person or society in terms of living a good life. The characteristics, elements, and social environment of a given person's life control these expectations. A standard level of enthusiastic, physical, material, and social prosperity is characterized by the conceptual, multi-component idea of QOL.

The general well-being of individuals and societal structures, outlining both negative and positive aspects of existence, is referred to as quality of life. It keeps an eye on the quality of life, which includes everything from physical health to family, wealth, safety, and security to freedom, religious convictions, and the environment. The standard of living, which is mostly based on income, and the quality of life are not the same. The fabricated condition, emotional and physical fitness, education, leisure time, and social environment are all common measures of quality of life.

As per the World Health Organization (WHO), Quality of life is characterized as-

"The person's view of their situation in life with regards to the way of life and worth frameworks wherein they live and comparable to their objectives."
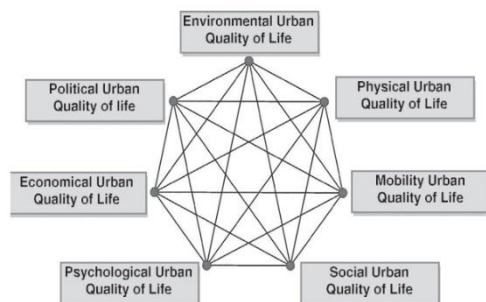
Quality of life improves step by step that requires different methodologies from different perspective. There are numerous attempts to define what comprises quality of life in the various orders. There is various definition of quality of life written by many researchers. According to that Quality of life is –

''the satisfaction in your life that comes from having good health, comfort, good relationship etc., rather than from money'' ... It is ''the personal satisfaction with the cultural or intellectual conditions under which he lives''

4.METHDOLOGY

An observational approach was employed to gather data for this study. We have conducted field visits to Mahal, systematically observed and documented the observed issues, and collected relevant information. Data collection included visual surveys, Online interviews and Questioner with local residents, and consultations with urban planning experts. Statistical analysis and qualitative interpretation were used to analyse the collected data and derive meaningful insights.

4. CASE STUDY:
Chandni Chowk and Kashmere Gate, Delhi

4.1 Location:

The site area of this case study is very old and hence it has its past. It has old settlement, organic development. Which further results in the problem with ongoing development, which will be similar area as Mahal (Nagpur).
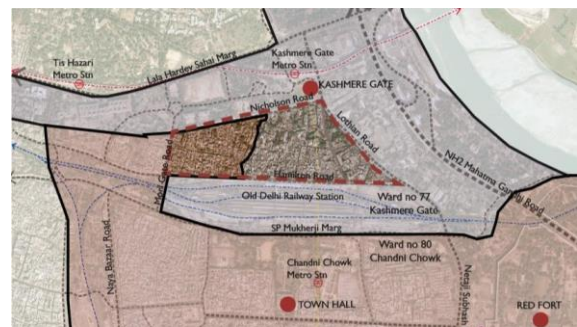

Figure 1 Site context

4.2 Site Context:

The site location is bounded by two roads, Hamilton Road to the south and Nicholson Road within the north. These roads are the main connection to the city. There is the metro connectivity. Due to the commercial nature of the area, it witnesses heavy traffic jam.

This case study is the revitalization project. Which mainly solve the onsite issues and improve its quality of life. It specifically focuses on five parameters of revitalization, which are-

1. Mobility improvement,
2. Adaptive reuse,
3. Redefine the urban fabric,
4. Inducing urban relief spaces and
5. Edge redevelopment.

On the idea of those five parameters it improves the urban quality of life.

4.3 Connectivity and Transport Conditions:

The following map showing the hierarchy of all the road networks of the location. And therefore, the study concludes the varied issues like Dead urban façade which create unsafe place, Lack of maintenance makes the area less user-friendly, the edge lacks clarity, parking issue and since of encroachment the pedestrian ways are unusable.
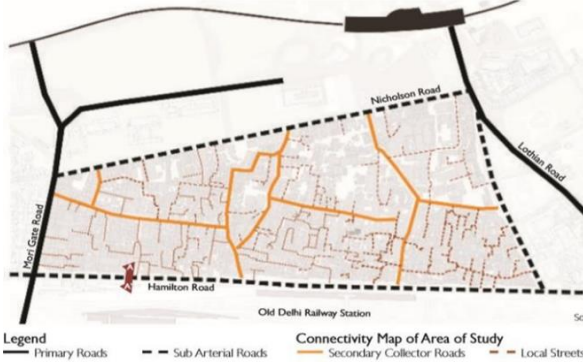

Figure 2 Connectivity Map

4.4 Building Use:

After studying the building use, it shows most of the area is under commercial built use. These building mostly has the facades which has historical importance. And in today's scenario, some are in good condition but mostly are in dilapidated condition.
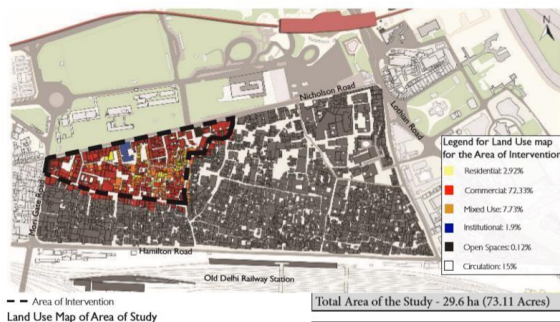

Figure 3 Building use

4.5 Heritage Study:

Study says that building which have heritage value (architecturally) but in today's context these buildings are in bad condition and required to preserve their essence to maintain the character of the area and develop sociocultural ties.
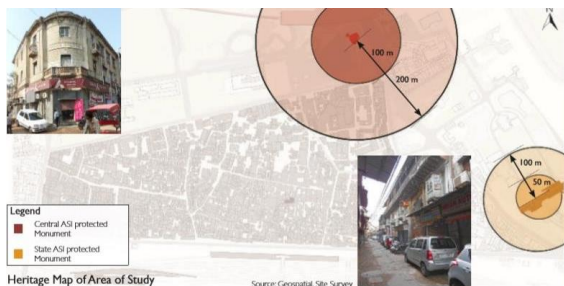

Figure 4 Heritage study Map

4.6 Urban Fabric:

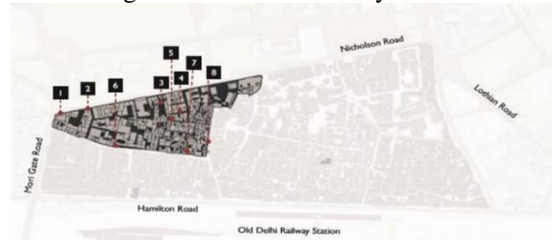The urban fabric study concludes, the compactness of the area along with its narrow road system.

Figure 5 Urban Fabric Map

4.7 Case study Analysis:

Mobility Improvement: Mobility principles promote the utilization of personal vehicles and encourage use of para- transit alongside promoting walk connectivity.

Adaptive Reuse: Restore the architectural heritage by influencing Cohesion Policy of improving physical urban environment.

Redefine the Urban Fabric: Optimizing use of land resources and redeveloping existing vacant and underused building stocks to realize higher density and mixed uses.
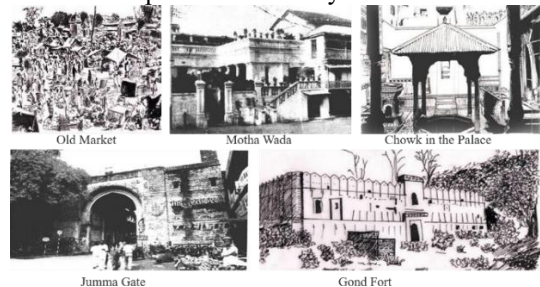
Inducing Urban Relief Spaces: Integrated Development: Improvements within the Urban Infrastructure, Disaster Management and Social Inclusion.

4.8 Inference:

This study is talking about inner core of Delhi and issues of that part. It tells about why these issues are increases and how people get affected by it and because of this how the quality of life decreases. For the solution, they give various design strategies which helps to increases the quality of life.

5. CITY PROFILE

Nagpur is the sub-capital city of Maharashtra state, India. It is an industrialized and third most populated city in Maharashtra alike Pune and Mumbai. The core and oldest part of Nagpur city is Mahal, which has historical importance for today's scenario.
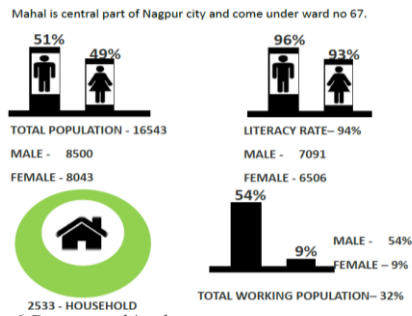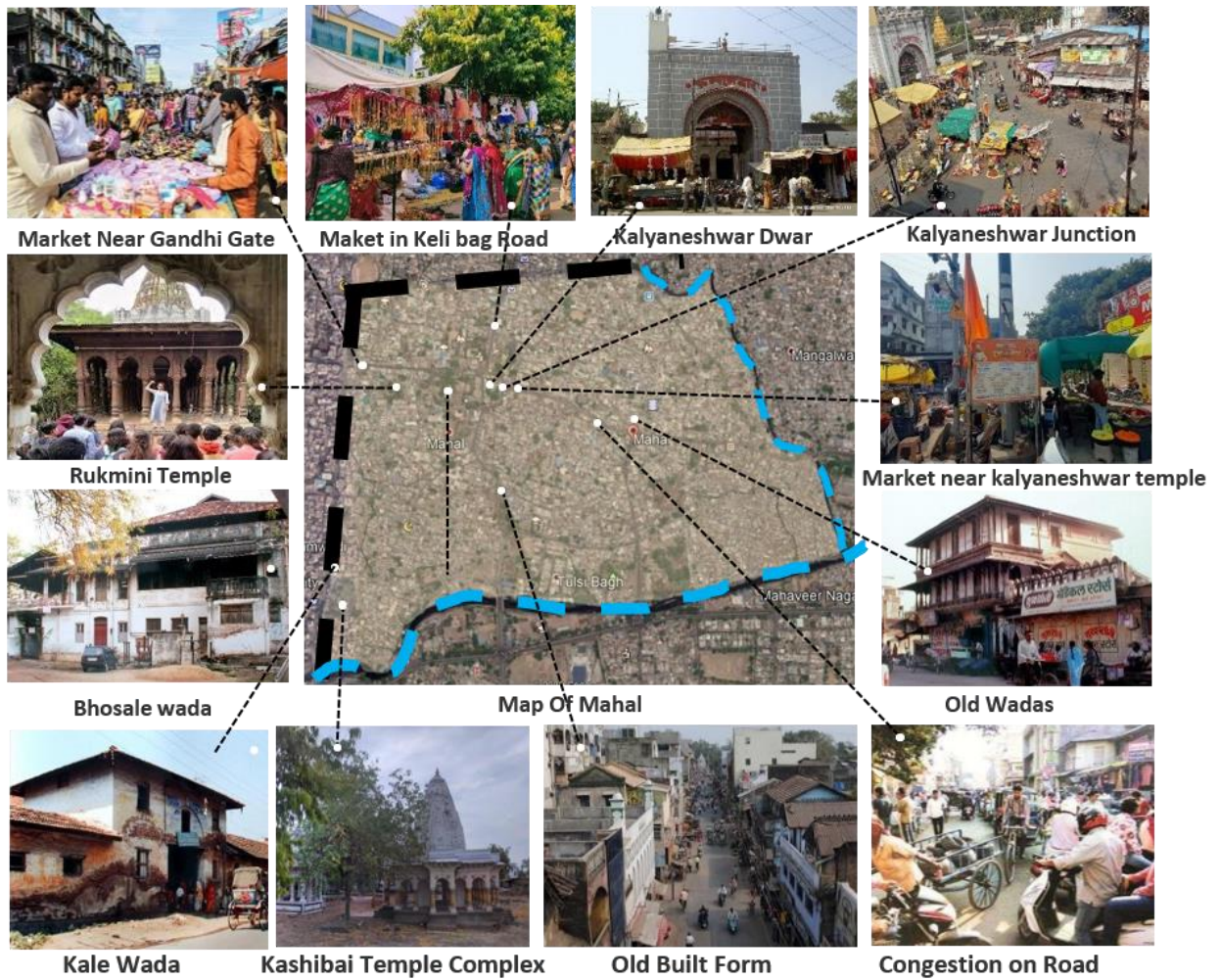

5.1 Demographic study Of Mahal:

Mahal is central part of Nagpur city and come under ward no 67.

51% 49%

TOTAL POPULATION - 16543

MALE - 8500

FEMALE - 8043

2533 - HOUSEHOLD

96% 93%

LITERACY RATE– 94%

MALE - 7091

FEMALE - 6506

54%

9%

MALE - 54%

FEMALE – 9%

TOTAL WORKING POPULATION– 32%

Figure 6 Demographic charts

major landmarks in the markets and others fulfilling the daily requirements of the people. The major landmarks in the area are Kalyaneshwara temple, Gandhi Gate, Mothe Bhosale wada, Kashibai temple complex, Vitthal-Rukmini temple and Gond killa.

6.2 Site Study:

The site study is limited to the physical Quality of life dimension. The study is done on different Physical feature like quality of existing connectivity network, quality of open spaces and heritage spaces, quality of commercial area and quality of residential area**.**

5.2 Imageability of Mahal:

Imageability is defined as the ease with which a word gives rise to a sensory mental image. It is defined as a "character or quality held by a physical object".

Market Near Gandhi Gate

Maket in Keli bag Road

Kalyaneshwar Dwar

Kalyaneshwar Junction

Rukmini Temple

Market near kalyaneshwar temple

Bhosale wada

Map Of Mahal

Old Wadas

Kale Wada

Kashibai Temple Complex

Old Built Form

Congestion on Road

6. SITE DELINEATION AND SITE STUDY

6.1 Area Context:

Mahal area is the oldest part of Nagpur city. It stretches over 5.7 sq.m. Between two sides surrounded by Nag River and the other two sides are surrounded by road. The area is well connected to the other part of the city and, therefore, has in close proximity all the necessary amenities and facilities like schools, markets and others fulfilling the daily requirements of the people. The

6.3 Landuse Plan of Mahal:

Mahal dominantly cover by residential and

open area % 3%

Green area % 1%

Mahal
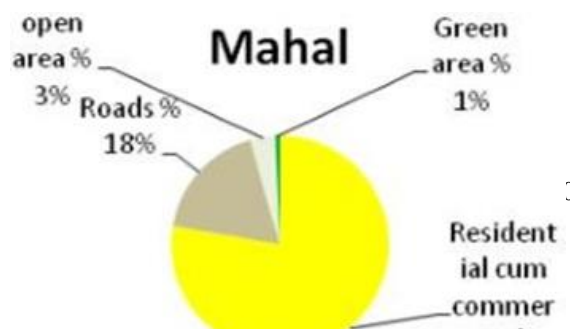
Roads % 18%

Resident ial cum commer

Figure 7 Landuse Study

commercial   land use. It is famous for its heritage
and old architecture. But as per new land use plan,
the most of the old building are replace by new
building.

6.4 Quality of Open Spaces:

From the study of Mahal, it is observed that
Mahal have very fewer open spaces. And these spaces
are very poor in condition. Hence it is not used in day to
day life. As per the survey these spaces deserted and not
safe for people.
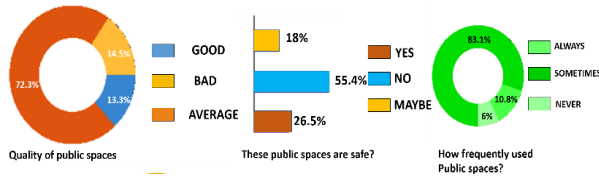
6.5 Heritage Building Condition:

From the study of Building condition of mahal it is
observed that the old heritage building is in very bad in
condition. Mostly these buildings are on the main
commercial spine (Mahal road). The building which are
in residential zone is in average condition.

Bhosale Wada Complex   Kalyaneshwar Temple

6.6 Quality of Commercial Area:

Mahal is the third largest market area in Nagpur city.
But right now, day to day urbanization impact on this
area. The current quality of commercial infrastructure
is very bad. There are no proper frontages, no proper
parking spaces for shopper and most of the hawker
are on street.

Market area of mahal

6.7 Site issues and Potential:
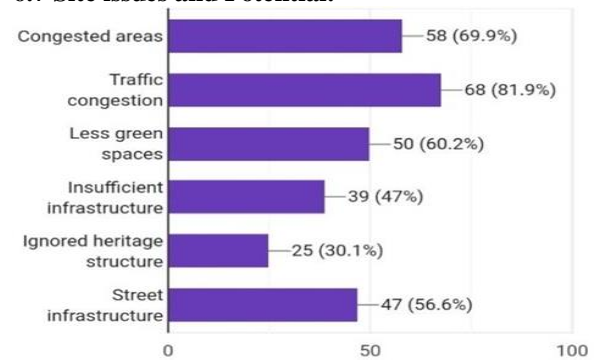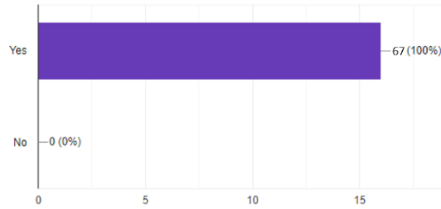

6.8 Surveys and Analysis

This researche content qualitative analysis via surveys
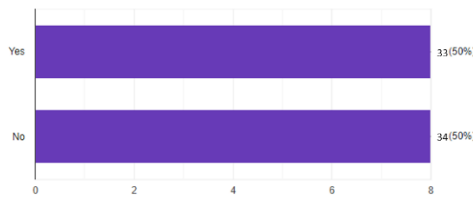and user experience. Following charts shows the

Figure 8 Site Issues and Potential

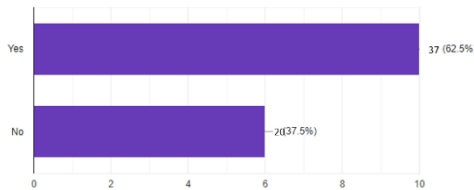41

various observation and experience from residents of Mahal.
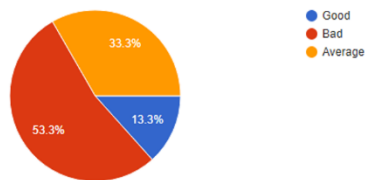
Have you visited Mahal (Nagpur)?

Yes — 67 (100%)
No — 0 (0%)

Did you know historical importance of Mahal?

Yes — 33 (50%)
No — 34 (50%)

**Did you visited Kashibai Temple complex of Mahal?**

Yes — 37 (62.5%)
No — 20 (37.5%)

What do you think the current condition of Kashibai complex area? (Infrastructure, Visibility, Quality of life).

- Good — 13.3%
- Bad — 53.3%
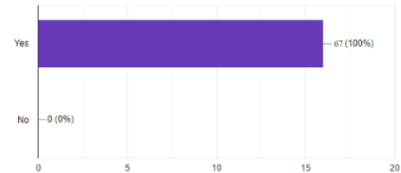- Average — 33.3%

How frequently you visit Mahal Market area?

- frequently — 37.5%
- very frequently
- sometimes — 56.3%
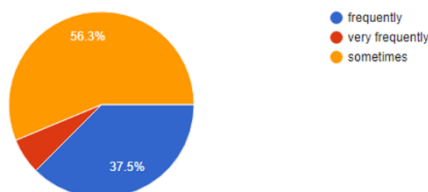
How frequently you use public places in Mahal area for recreation activities?

- Frequently — 3 (20%)
- Very Frequently
- Sometimes — 73.3%
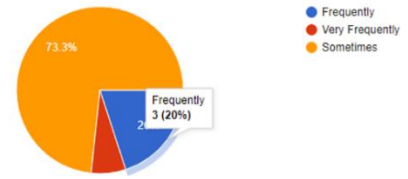
Do you think enhancing infrastructure can boost the economy of Mahal?

Yes — 67 (100%)
No — 0 (0%)

Do you think the area needs to redevelop to enhance its quality of life?

Yes — 67 (100%)
No — 0 (0%)
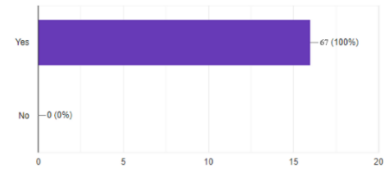
This analysis shows Psychological disconnect between people and social spaces of mahal which needs to redevelop and enhance its quality of life.

7. RESULTS

The findings indicate that psychological disconnection is the most prevalent issue faced by the people of Mahal. This disconnection is primarily attributed to neglected public spaces that were intended for social gathering but have fallen into disrepair and lack maintenance. The absence of vibrant communal spaces negatively impacts community cohesion and individuals' sense of belonging, leading to feelings of isolation and disconnection. The second significant issue identified is the presence of dense areas in Mahal. These unplanned settlements lack sufficient infrastructure and fail to provide opportunities for individual mental and emotional well-being. The absence of proper planning and amenities in these areas further contribute to a diminished quality of life and overall dissatisfaction among residents.

8. CONCLUSION

The research study highlights the critical issues of psychological disconnection and dense areas in Mahal. These challenges negatively impact the quality of life and satisfaction of the residents. It is essential for relevant authorities to prioritize the revitalization of neglected public spaces and the development of infrastructure that supports

individual mental and emotional well-being. By fostering social connections and creating opportunities for personal growth and well-being. Mahal can improve its residents' overall quality of life by addressing psychological disconnect and creating a more contented and connected community.

9. REFERENCES

[1] Cvetić, J. M.., " Quality of life in cities – Research aspect.," 2017.

[2] Din, H. E.” Principle of urban quality of life for neighbourhood”. HBRC journal, 7 (2013).

[3] Ghozlane fleury - Bahi, E. P. “Urban design and Quality of life”. In E. P. Ghozlane fleury – Bahi (2017).

[4] Handbook of Environmental Psychology and Quality of   Life Research (pp. 1-8). Massam, B. H. (2002).