



Masters Desertion Showcase Year 2023

Department: Architecture and Planning Programme: Masters of Urban & Regional Planning Specialization: Urban & Regional Planning Programme	
1	Title of the Thesis Role of Playing Fields for Communities at Neighborhood Level
2	Abstract Sports infrastructure has been defined as “the primary physical and organizational construction needed to facilitate sport participation” (<i>Sports infrastructure: Transforming the Indian sports ecosystem</i> , 2019) It enables community members to participate in sports and builds a sports culture for the people. In the hierarchy of sports facilities available in a city, there is a lot of evidence that indicates that professional sports facilities including stadiums, concentrate economic activity temporally (Humphreys, 2019) which in a longer run doesn’t facilitate the surrounding neighborhoods because of the rising real estate prices. Playing fields are recreational grounds principally designed for organized team sports such as football, cricket, hockey, rugby, basketball and volleyball. (Ken Worpole, 2022) Out of all the sports amenities that exist Playing fields at neighborhood level are more significant for communities. Majority literature that exists is for developed countries thus our aim is to justify how playing fields form the heart of sports infrastructure at neighborhood level for a city in a developing country such as Karachi in Pakistan. There is data available about the different types of amenities existing in Karachi but the typology is developed. In our methodology areas are selected based on the noticeable trends after review of literature of Karachi. Two neighborhoods are selected, where one is planned with homogenous ethnicity and the other unplanned with heterogenous ethnicity. The nature of neighborhoods is contrasting in terms of income group and ethnicity to compare nature of significance for playing fields in each neighborhood. The intangible and tangible attributes are evaluated through which these fields are running and deriving the importance of playing fields as sports infrastructure for different neighborhoods. Objective is analyzing the social dynamics between the sports fields and neighborhoods and how important they are for communities.
3	Impact on Sustainability of Urban Regions or SDG-11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities” (min 400 words) Playing fields are open recreational grounds that are abundantly present in Karachi. The hypothesis statement states that playing field forms the heart of sports infrastructure for a community in a neighborhood. Playing field out of the all the sports amenities is more significant for communities and are an integral part of a neighborhood. Research design proposed that we look into what standards and policies of Karachi state about playing fields. Then we look at the typology that exists in Karachi and lead to trends and analysis. All districts in Karachi have highest percentage of playing fields out of all sports amenities present. The status of these playing fields has experienced utilization, encroachment, conversion and un-development. Karachi East had the most developed fields while Korangi



	<p>had encroached and underutilized grounds. Gulshan-e-Iqbal town and Korangi Town had significant large number of playgrounds.</p> <p>An unplanned neighborhood in Gulshan-e-Iqbal with a heterogenous ethnicity and a planned neighborhood of Korangi with homogenous ethnicity are selected to draw a comparison of the significance of nature of the ground. Lal Sports ground in Shanti Nagar, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town is used by the residents formally as a proper ground for team sports. The management is structured with a very strong sense of ownership by the people. The ethnicity of this community is heterogenous but their bonding is homogenous because their needs, problems and struggles are similar. Eid Gah Ground in Korangi No.3 is a playing field used for cricket with an informal nature as many children play at the same time. It doesn't host proper friendly or tournament matches and is not used by sports clubs or teams. The ground is also used for Eid congregational payers, weekly Sunday Market and religious events. The ownership of the ground is divided amongst many stakeholders. Though the ethnicity is homogenous, the income groups are in variation thus the sense of ownership by the locals is divided. The utilization of the ground is informal with respect to being used for sports and multiple other activities. The stark difference seen in the nature of utilization of both grounds is because of the different social structure for the two areas.</p> <p>Factors including drug addicts, non-existing boundary wall and pressure from powerful entities including builders (in case of Lal Sports) and market committee (in case of Eid Gah) is similar for both grounds which clearly indicates that political and economic power has affected the working model of the grounds. Surveys for both pointed towards having strong boundaries and protected environments in future.</p> <p>Lal Sports Ground tells us about the formal significance of usage in unplanned neighborhoods with heterogenous ethnicity. Furthermore, the factors of formal usage including; the ground being used for team sports; the ground hosting tournaments and friendlies and the ground being utilized as a playing field with or without sports infrastructure were seen in three more playing fields in Karachi namely Gizri Football Ground, Chatai Ground and Raja Ghazi Cricket Ground.</p> <p>The communities in both neighborhoods want to create safer boundaries and protect their respective playgrounds from external factors such as drug addicts and private business ventures.</p> <p>The need and significance of these playing fields is immense for the people of Karachi and they want to protect and enhance its integrity even if the usage is formal or informal.</p>
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