



ABSTRACTS

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AcE-Bs2026Kuching

14th Asian Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies

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Damai Beach Resort,

Kuching, Malaysia

27-28 Mar 2026

AMER



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AcE-Bs2026

**14th ASIAN Conference
on Environment-Behaviour Studies**

Damai Beach Resort, Kuching, Malaysia
27-28 Mar 2026

Editor

Mohamed Yusoff Abbas

Acknowledgement

The organiser, Association of Malaysian Environment-Behaviour Researchers (AMER), wishes to extend their gratitude to the many who made this conference possible. In particular, the Abstract contributors.

Thank you all !

Foreword

This, 14th ASIAN Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies, being held at Damai Beach Resort, Kuching, Malaysia, from 27-28 Mar 2026, is organised by AMER (Association of Malaysian Environment-Behaviour Researchers). It marks AMER's 53rd international conference to be organised, which is fully managed by AMER's subsidiary, emAs (AMER Event Management & Services) under emAs emAs Resources

The Game Changer 2021 (#GC2021), initiated in early 2021, requires that contributions from Malaysia include international co-authors and aims to increase the number of publications contributed by multinational authors. We believe that the initiative would significantly increase the likelihood that our publications will be indexed by more reputable indexing bodies, such as Scopus. As such, commencing in 2021, only multinational-authored contributions from Malaysia shall be accepted for publication.

As anticipated, the new Clarivate Analytics ruling for publications commencing Jan 2026, which would not be automatically WoS-indexed as in previous years, has significantly reduced the number of participants. Nevertheless, AcE-Bs2026Kuching, still managed to attract a total of 22 approved abstracts, with authors from 13 countries. The majority of the abstracts were in collaboration with Malaysian authors. International contributions were obtained from Indonesia (8 numbers / 36%), followed by China, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and the UK (2 each), and Cyprus, Jordan, New Zealand, the Philippines, Spain, and Thailand (1 each).

The approved abstracts were grouped into 8 subcategories, although many could have been easily placed under more than one category. The top four categories, in order of popularity, were Health / Healing Environment (HE) with 7, and followed by Legal Matters, Rural Environment, and Urban Environment (2 each).

Hopefully, this conference will inspire and encourage more researchers to participate in our forthcoming serial conferences.

Thanks again for your continuous support and contributions, as always, and hope for an enlightening conference!

Looking forward.

Mohamed Yusoff Abbas, PhD.
Chair
AcE-Bs2026Kuching, 27-28 Mar 2026
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About AcE-Bs

Background

The success of the 1st National Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies, InCEBS2009 held at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam, Malaysia, from 14-15 Nov 2009, inspired the organiser to organise future conferences beyond the nation. The AcE-Bs, an initial acronym for the ASEAN Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies, targeted venues in ASEAN countries; it was later extended to Asian countries, giving rise to the current acronym for the Asian Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies.

The main theme of the AcE-Bs conferences addresses Environment-Behaviour (E-B) issues affecting Asian communities living in both Asian and non-Asian countries. E-B issues affecting non-Asian communities are also most welcome.

Prior to 2012, AcE-Bs was organized by cE-Bs (Centre for Environment-Behaviour Studies, FSPU, UiTM, Malaysia, supported by AMER (Association of Malaysian Environment-Behaviour Researchers) and ABRA (Association of Behavioural Researchers on Asians). Post-2012, with AMER being formalised, it became the main organiser for all the four annual conferences organised. AMER's Event Management & Services (emAs), a subsidiary of AMER and also a private entity, manages all of AMER's events, under emAs (Emas Emas Resources).

Thus far, AcE-Bs conferences successfully organised are as follows:-

- 1st AcE-Bs2010Kuching, Malaysia, 07-08 Jul 2010
- 2nd AcE-Bs2011Bandung, Indonesia, 15-17 Jun 2011
- 3rd AcE-Bs2012Bangkok, Thailand, 16-18 Jul 2012
- 4th AcE-Bs2013Hanoi, Vietnam, 19-22 Mar 2013
- 5th AcE-Bs2014Seoul, South Korea, 25-27 Aug 2014
- 6th AcE-Bs2015Teheran, Iran, 21 – 23 Feb 2015
- 7th AcE-Bs2016Taipei, Taiwan, 09-10 Apr 2016
- 8th AcE-Bs2019Langkawilsland, Malaysia, 18-19 Dec 2019
- 9th AcE-Bs2021KotaBahru, Malaysia, 28-29 Jul 2021 (Virtual)
- 10th AcE-Bs2022Cherating, Malaysia, 08-09 Jun 2022
- 11th AcE-Bs2023KualaTerengganu, Malaysia, 14-16 Jul 2023
- 12th AcE-Bs2024Langkawi, Malaysia, 01-03 Mar 2024
- 13th AcE-Bs2025Bangkok, Thailand, 04-06 Apr 2025

14th ASIAN Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies, Damai Beach Resort, Kuching, Malaysia, 27-28 Mar 2026

The conference focuses on current Environment-Behaviour issues affecting the Asian/African/Arabian communities in both their countries and nons. Issues affecting other communities are also most welcomed.

Paper presenters are allowed to either present F2F or virtually. However, only those who present F2F shall be in the running for the Best Paper awards, amounting to more than cash MYR 10,500.00 with the grand prize of cash MYR 3,000.00 for THE Best Paper.

The e-IPH, UK published both the Abstract Book (eISBN 978-1-913576-20-2), and the Proceeding in the E-BPJ (Environment-Behaviour Proceedings Journal), eISSN 2398-4287, 10(34) Nov 2025, issue. Currently, the E-BPJ is indexed in Clavirate Analytics Web of Science (WoS). Extended versions of the selected papers shall be published as freely accessible articles, online, in our other international journals –ajE-Bs or jABs, @ no publication charges.

Conference Tracks

Paper contributions involved the following environments (though not exhaustive): -

Children / Youth Environment;
Climatic Environment
Commercial/Retail/Services Environment;
Communication / Social Media Environment;
Community Environment / Social Psychology;
Construction Environment;
Design & Creative Environment;
Educational / Learning Environment;
Elderly Environment;
Energy Environment;
General Psychology;
Green Environment;
Healthcare / Healing Environment;
Hospitality / Tourism Environment;
ICT Environment
Inclusive Environment;
Landscaping Environment;
Legal Matters;
Leisure / Recreational / Sports Environment;
Local Cultural / Heritage Environment (Food included);
Management & Production Environment;
Natural Environment;
Policy Matters
Public Sector Environment,
Residential Environment;
Rural Environment / Rural Psychology;
Sustainable Environment;
Technology-related Environment;
Transportation / Travelling Environment;
Urban Environment / Urban Psychology;
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Communication / Social Media Environment

A 01 CSME 001

Scroll, Speak, Resist: Deconstructing colonial narratives through women-owned Moroccan TikTok pages

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Abstract

In an era where colonial legacies are being rejected, social media offers an opportunity to redefine and challenge Western-centric feminist paradigms for women from the Global South. This paper explores how Moroccan women use TikTok to confront colonial narratives and reshape the story of feminist agency. Drawing on decolonial feminist theory, this article examines how women-owned Moroccan TikTok pages discuss issues of gender, power and cultural identity in ways that oppose colonial legacies and local patriarchal norms. The paper specifically aims to see how these pages deconstruct colonial and Western-centric narratives while promoting localised forms of feminist expression. The objectives are to identify common decolonial and feminist themes and to analyse how music, captions, design and visuals challenge patriarchal and colonial power structures and empower viewers. This research uses qualitative content analysis of three Moroccan TikTok pages — @amazigh-cultures, @sofi777, and @jooj —

selected for their relevance to themes of cultural pride, feminist advocacy and resistance to colonial and patriarchal structures. Five videos from each page were chosen for their high engagement and thematic depth, offering a balanced sample that captures recurring visual and textual patterns. Though limited to three women-owned TikTok pages, this focused approach allows for a deeper look at how digital resistance turns into lived agency. Findings reveal that each page uses unique strategies—such as historical reclamation, humour and sarcasm, and educational advocacy—to resist colonial and patriarchal discourses. Ultimately, this study stresses TikTok's and other digital platforms' potential to empower marginalised groups and serve as decolonial spaces where women reimagine gender and identity. The paper is significant as it demonstrates that Moroccan women are active producers of decolonial feminist discourse rather than passive participants. The findings show that new media is a crucial site for decolonising knowledge and increasing women's visibility, thereby improving Moroccan women's overall well-being, an area still underexplored in feminist media studies.

Keywords: Decolonial feminism; Moroccan women; TikTok; Digital empowerment

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A 02 CSME 002

Threads and Informal English Language Learning among University Students

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Abstract

The increased presence of social media tools in students' lives has opened further avenues for learning English informally and outside the classroom. Within the Informal Digital Learning of English (IDLE) framework, this study examined how undergraduate students engaged with Threads as an informal space for English language learning. It specifically examined students' engagement in learning English, self-regulated learning, perceived outcomes of learning English, and perceived distractions. A mixed-methods explanatory sequential study was conducted to address the two objectives and determine whether a pattern emerged in the data or an underlying reason. In the quantitative phase, data were collected via a self-administered questionnaire administered to 119 undergraduates at a public university. Descriptive statistics, reliability analysis, and Pearson correlation analysis were performed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). In the qualitative phase, 16 purposefully selected students were interviewed using semi-structured interviews to provide additional context for the survey data and to explain the findings further. Quantitative findings revealed that

respondents demonstrated moderately high levels of engagement in learning English ($M = 4.98$, $SD = 0.83$) and self-regulated learning ($M = 4.72$, $SD = 0.79$), and had positive perceptions of English learning outcomes ($M = 5.12$, $SD = 0.76$). The level of perceived distraction was moderate ($M = 4.21$, $SD = 0.91$). All scales showed good to excellent internal consistency ($\alpha = .86-.91$). Strong positive correlations were found between self-regulated learning and students' perceived English learning outcomes ($r = .67$, $p < .01$), as well as engagement ($r = .62$, $p < .01$). Perceived outcomes ($r = .58$, $p < .01$) were also positively associated with engagement. In contrast, perceived distraction was negatively correlated with engagement ($r = -.41$, $p < .01$), self-regulated learning ($r = -.49$, $p < .01$), and perceived outcomes ($r = -.44$, $p < .01$). Qualitative findings showed that Threads provided a stress-free and authentic space for using English. It offered sufficient opportunities for practice to develop confidence and fluency. However, the learning gains were contingent on the extent to which learners could control their goals, strategies, and focus, with distraction being a primary constraining factor. Overall, the findings underline the extent to which learner agency influences the digital language learning environment.

Keywords: Threads; Self-regulated learning; Learner engagement; Social media

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Design / Creative Environment

A 03 DCE 001

Expanded Printmaking Development in Malaysia through the Go Block Exhibition

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Abstract

This study argues that the Go Block exhibitions have fundamentally challenged and redefined the boundaries of contemporary printmaking in Malaysia. By examining selected printmakers and their distinctive artworks, the study demonstrates how expanded printmaking has evolved in response to these events. The initial Go Block exhibition was confusing because it featured works that defied traditional printmaking methods. However, this series of exhibitions has provided a platform for print practices to extend beyond image-on-paper, evolving into hybrid, spatial, sequential, and socially engaged forms. Through an analysis of exhibitions, artists, and artworks, the study highlights the conceptual and material shifts that call for a reconsideration of established printmaking definitions. The discourse centers on how artists introduce new matrix terminology and experiment with unconventional materials and hybrid processes that transcend the limits of traditional print media. Using a qualitative method through artwork-led review, the study analyzes visual sources from multiple Go Block editions, including catalogues, e-catalogues, curatorial statements, exhibition texts, and artist lists. It applies purposive sampling to capture the diversity of media and presentation formats. Close visual material

reading is combined with thematic coding to construct a typology of expanded print strategies, followed by cross-edition mapping to identify longitudinal patterns of change. The analysis identifies four recurring trajectories, including the hybridization of media and process in printmaking; the spatialization of print, where works operate as installations and activate exhibition surfaces; sequential and editioned formats; and socially situated production, where collaboration, workshops, or residency contexts shape both form and content. Across different editions, the evidence indicates a move away from technique-focused presentations toward more conceptual and environmental approaches, in which context, display design, and intermedia relationships are central to understanding “print”. The study contends that Go Block contributes to the expansion of printmaking by legitimizing experimentation, consolidating networks, and repeatedly staging conditions for artists to test hybrid forms and develop new print languages through cycles of production, display, and reception. However, uneven archival availability across editions limits comparability, highlighting the importance of future research to deepen understanding of how platform conditions drive artistic innovation.

Keywords: expanded printmaking; Go Block; Malaysia printmaking; printmaker artist.

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Educational / Learning Environment

A 04 ELE 001

PE Teachers' Understanding of Physical Literacy and Behaviour-Supportive School Environments

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Abstract

Physical literacy is acknowledged as a foundational element for promoting lifelong physical activity, health, and overall quality of life. Schools represent behavioural settings where structured movement activities, social interactions, and pedagogical practices in Physical Education classes influence students' attitudes toward active living. Thus, teachers function as key environmental factors, as teachers' beliefs and approaches can enhance or hinder positive health behaviours. Although transnational analyses of Physical Education (PE) teacher knowledge exist globally, research on PE teachers in specific Asian contexts remains limited. This paper, therefore, strives to examine the knowledge and understandings of physical literacy held by Malaysian teachers, more specifically, to identify teachers' knowledge and interpretations of physical literacy; to establish whether pedagogical practices stretch or constrain behavioural affordances of student engagement; and what kind of role they play in creating school climates supportive of behaviour. This

qualitative study used semi-structured interviews and reflective narratives to explore teachers' professional perspectives and classroom practices. Fourteen participants were purposively selected based on their teaching experience and active involvement in implementing the PE curriculum. Thematic analysis was used to interpret patterns related to environmental design and behavioural outcomes. The findings reveal that teachers demonstrate a robust understanding of physical literacy, which encompasses motivation, confidence, physical skills, and the commitment needed to maintain physical activity, beyond just sports performance. Their interpretations align closely with international frameworks yet remain responsive to local educational and cultural contexts. More significantly, the findings show that teachers intentionally create inclusive and supportive student-centred learning environments. These environments encourage participation across diverse ability levels, promote psychosocial safety, and develop students' desire to stay active after school. This suggests that PE plays a key role in shaping early health behaviours linked to lifelong well-being. However, although teachers show strong practical skills, the study identifies a gap in theoretical understanding, highlighting the need for ongoing professional development. The study highlights how student behaviour and learning environments influence each other, moving beyond the focus on teaching effectiveness. So, the Malaysian case contributes to global discussions by demonstrating how culturally responsive strategies can put physical literacy ideals into practice. In conclusion, the findings emphasize the importance of empowering teachers to design behavior-supportive learning environments that foster physical literacy and enable students to lead active, healthy lives.

Keywords: Physical Literacy; School Environments; Health Behaviour; Lifelong Well-Being.

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Financial Matters

**A 05
FM 001**

**Embedding Facilities Management
Epistemology into Mutawalli Competencies
Training Modules**

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Abstract

The underperformance of waqf assets in many Muslim countries, including Malaysia, often stems from a lack of strategic asset and property management knowledge among mutawallis (waqf managers). This paper explores integrating Facilities Management (FM) epistemology into mutawalli competency training to enhance the sustainable performance of waqf assets. As an interdisciplinary domain, FM provides a structured framework encompassing strategic planning, operational efficiency, stakeholder engagement, and life-cycle asset management, which are essential for optimising waqf properties. This research explored the key principles in FM epistemology that should be embedded into the Mutawalli

competencies training module. Despite their pivotal roles, many mutawallis are inadequately trained in these areas, leading to missed socio-economic opportunities and underutilisation of valuable waqf assets and property. A qualitative research approach was used, and 7 in-depth expert interviews were conducted to collect data. The analysis revealed that nine FM epistemology components must be embedded into the Mutawalli competencies training module. It consists of Strategic Alignment, Performance-Based Framework, Integration of Engineering and Business, Use of Information Technology, Accountability and Transparency, Community and Beneficiary Engagement, Sustainable and Productive Management, Ethical and Value-Based Management, and Sustainable Tenancy Management. In addition, in the context of waqf asset property management, the integration of Islamic Work Ethics, *the Tawhidic Concept, and Maqasid Shariah* is an additional component to be included in the competencies training module. By implementing these components, Waqf institutions can address current inefficiencies and achieve long-term sustainability and growth. The study concludes that a comprehensive framework for enhancing Mutawalli competencies is provided by integrating Facilities Management epistemology, which emphasises systematic planning, performance optimisation, sustainability, and integrated asset management. This research contributes to the continuous professional development of Mutawalli by proposing a comprehensive competencies training module to develop competency among Mutawalli and by offering practical insights for policymakers and waqf institutions to improve the long-term sustainability and performance of waqf assets in Malaysia.

Keywords: Mutawalli, Facilities Management Epistemology, Islamic Work Ethics, Content Validation

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Gender Issue

**A 06
GI 001**

Decolonizing Women's Rights: A case study of BATIK International's French-Moroccan partnership

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Abstract

In Morocco, international NGOs play a significant role in promoting gender equality, but their actions sometimes raise questions about cultural understanding and power imbalances. In a postcolonial context, it becomes essential to examine how these organizations interact with local realities while avoiding the reproduction of Western-centered models. This study is particularly relevant due to the historical relationship between France and Morocco, as well as the ongoing need to advance women's rights in Morocco. By focusing on the French NGO BATIK International, which runs programs related to violence against women, this paper contributes to the discussion on how cross-cultural partnerships can apply decolonial and intersectional feminist approaches in practice. This paper aims to explore how BATIK International negotiates the postcolonial context of its work in Morocco. More specifically, it seeks to identify how the NGO engages with local voices, determine

how intersectionality is addressed in its programs, and establish how decolonial feminist theory can be reflected in its daily operations and advocacy work. This research is based on qualitative methods, including an internship experience at BATIK International, participant observation, document analysis, and interviews with the NGO's staff. This mixed approach enables a deeper understanding of how the organization operates from both internal and critical perspectives. The study focuses on a single organization and therefore cannot represent all international NGOs in Morocco. However, it offers valuable insights into how a French NGO adapts its approach in a postcolonial setting. The results highlight both tensions and opportunities in French-Moroccan collaboration. BATIK International shows genuine efforts to balance global feminist ideas with culturally sensitive actions, especially in its programs addressing violence against women. The findings also demonstrate how the NGO promotes community awareness while attempting to minimize potential neocolonial effects in its advocacy. The study suggests that stronger local leadership, community participation, and culturally responsive advocacy can enhance the effectiveness and fairness of international cooperation. By demonstrating how decolonial feminist theory can guide NGO practice, this paper contributes to broader debates on decolonizing international development and fostering genuine partnerships for gender equality.

Keywords: Decolonial feminism, Violence against women, international partnerships, Gender equality.

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Health / Healing Environment

A 07
HE 001

Chronotype and Chrononutrition Behaviours of Adults with Coronary Artery Disease

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Abstract

Biological rhythms and daily environmental cues closely shape human behaviours. Chronotype is an individual's behavioral expression of their circadian rhythm. Chrononutrition is the synchronization of food intake with circadian rhythms. Chronotype and chrononutrition may contribute to the progression of coronary artery disease (CAD). Cardiometabolic health is determined not only by the quality and quantity of food but also by the distribution of energy, the frequency and regularity of meals, meal timing, diurnal energy distribution, and the length of eating and fasting periods throughout the day. This study offers insights into an individual's preferences for activity and rest timing, as well as the temporal eating behaviour that comprises six selected chrononutrition behaviours. This study aimed to explore chronotype and chrononutrition behaviours of adults with coronary artery disease. A cross-sectional study was conducted involving 259 adults diagnosed with CAD. Chronotype was assessed using the Modified Munich Chronotype Questionnaire for short-interval split-sleep in non-shift workers (MCTQ-split sleep), and chrononutrition behaviours were evaluated using the Chrononutrition Profile

Questionnaire (CP-Q). Descriptive analysis was used to characterize chronotype and chrononutrition behaviours. The cross-sectional design limits causal inference. There was a slightly higher proportion of morning chronotypes (n=133) than evening chronotypes (n=126). Morning chronotypes were more common among females, older age (61.40 ± 9.078), and retirees. Evening chronotypes were more common among males, younger age (56.48 ± 9.120), and active workers. Chrononutrition behaviours showed mixed patterns where the majority of the participants reported good behaviours for night eating (94.2%) and breakfast skipping (90.3%), while poor/fair behaviours for evening eating (70.3%), evening latency (96.9%), largest meal (89.6%), and eating window (57.9%). Among those with poor/fair evening eating behaviours, 66% were evening chronotypes. Other chrononutrition behaviours showed only minor differences between morning and evening chronotypes. The findings suggest that adults with CAD had a relatively balanced chronotype distribution with a slight predominance of morning chronotypes, and diverse chrononutrition behaviours, with a predominance of poor behaviours. The findings highlight that chronotype and chrononutrition behaviours could be important factors to consider in planning secondary management strategies for CAD.

Keywords: Chronotype; Chrononutrition; Coronary artery disease; Eating behaviour

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**A 08
HE 004**

Environment–Behaviour Dynamics in Informal Settlements and Health Outcomes in Lagos, Nigeria

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Abstract

Rapid informal urban expansion has emerged as a distinguishing spatial and socio-environmental phenomenon in Nigeria's secondary cities, particularly Lagos State, where population growth and limited official housing supply continue to transform residential settings and daily living habits. Using an environment-behavior lens, this study investigates the associations between informal settlement growth, housing

standards, environmental conditions, and health effects. The research used a mixed-methods approach, combining secondary literature with primary data gathered from 184 people of selected Lagos areas. The findings show that there is a widespread perception of increasing informal expansion and declining housing quality, with nearly half of respondents strongly agreeing that residential structures are poorly constructed and a significant proportion emphasising the lack of coordinated planning and infrastructure. While statistical analysis reveals that informal expansion has a limited direct impact on construction practices and drainage systems, it does show a significant relationship with access to potable water and sanitation services—key determinants shaping daily environmental interactions and health behaviour. Residents noted that poor housing conditions have an impact on their lifestyles, hygiene routines, and exposure to environmental dangers. Environmental inadequacies were highly associated with health outcomes, with malaria and other vector-borne infections being the most common concerns. Respiratory problems, skin infections, diarrhoeal diseases, and rising mental health stress as a result of overpopulation and environmental insecurity have also been recorded. Poor waste management, recurring flooding, and insufficient utilities were identified as major environmental stressors that influence vulnerability and behavioural response. The study emphasises the necessity of knowing how built environment factors influence human behaviour, well-being, and health in informal urban settings. It finds that integrated housing-health interventions, enhanced governance frameworks, and community-led upgrading plans are critical for improving environmental quality and fostering better living habits in Lagos' growing informal settlements. Such environmental-behavioral informed techniques provide routes for sustainable planning and equitable urban development in increasingly urbanising secondary cities.

Keywords: Informal urban expansion; Housing quality; Environmental health; Environment-behavior

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**A 09
HE 003**

Environment–Behaviour Perspective of Health Vulnerability of Residents in Lagos, Nigeria

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Abstract

Rapid urbanisation and the spread of informal settlements in Nigeria have increased environmental and housing-related health risks, particularly among women and children. This study uses an environment-behaviour perspective to investigate how built environment conditions and housing deficiencies influence health risk exposure and daily coping strategies in Makoko, a well-known informal settlement in Lagos Nigeria. The study looks into the quality of housing and infrastructure, gendered health risks linked to environmental circumstances, and how governance and communities respond to these difficulties. A combined qualitative-quantitative strategy was used, with in-depth interviews, field observations, and 200 home questionnaires (143 of which were evaluated). To further understand the relationships between environmental factors, social variables, and health outcomes, descriptive and regression statistics were used in addition to thematic analysis. The findings demonstrate significant overcrowding,

with nearly half of households housing six or more people, as well as low educational attainment and pervasive economic precarity, all of which influence environmental awareness and health behaviour. Housing and infrastructure conditions were generally regarded as inadequate, notably in terms of drainage, ventilation, sanitation, and access to clean water which underpinned the factors that influence daily routines, hygiene practices, and exposure to environmental risks. Regression results show that longer residential tenure predicts perceptions of dangerous housing structures while decreasing recognition of overcrowding and gendered health burdens, implying behavioural adaptation and normalisation of environmental risk. According to qualitative research, poor ventilation, inadequate sanitation, and unstable tenure increase the risk of malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, and maternal health issues. Women are disproportionately impacted by caregiving responsibilities, poor healthcare access, and exposure to gender-based risks in constricted living settings. Despite these obstacles, communities show resilience through informal coping mechanisms and communal support networks. However, institutional solutions remain scattered, with little government involvement and insufficient policy inclusion. The study suggests that Makoko's built environment has a major impact on health behaviour, susceptibility patterns, and socioeconomic inequality. It promotes community-led slum development, gender-responsive health infrastructure, better water and sanitation systems, and participatory urban governance. Integrating housing, health, and social equity into urban planning is critical for generating healthier and more inclusive living environments in rapidly urbanising cities.

Keywords: Environment–behavior; Informal settlements; Gendered health vulnerability; Nigeria

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**A 10
HE 007**

Impact of Digital Health on Dementia Caregivers' KAP: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

Background: As dementia cases rise globally, informal caregivers, often lacking formal training, are experiencing growing challenges. Gaps in their Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) contribute significantly to caregiver burnout, mental health struggles, and suboptimal care for people living with dementia. While digital health interventions, including mobile applications and online resources, have the potential to provide educational and emotional support at scale, there is a lack of synthesized evidence regarding their specific impact on caregiver KAP.

Objective: This systematic review aims to assess and summarize current evidence on the impact of digital health interventions on KAP outcomes among caregivers of people living with dementia.

Methods: Following PRISMA 2020 standards, we systematically searched five major databases (PubMed, Scopus, Cochrane Library, ScienceDirect, and ACM Digital Library) for studies published up to February 2025. Eligible studies included randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental studies, and qualitative

assessments that measured at least one KAP-related outcome. Study quality was evaluated using the Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP) tool to assess risk of bias and methodological quality.

Results: Out of 1,928 identified records, seven studies met the inclusion criteria. The digital interventions analyzed included web-based platforms, virtual support groups, and mobile applications. Most studies reported significant gains in caregiver knowledge, with several also noting improved attitudes. However, changes in caregiving practice, the practical application of skills, were less consistent. Although most studies demonstrated robust data collection methods, quality assessments were undermined by insufficient blinding, resulting in no study receiving a "strong" rating.

Limitations: The interpretation of these findings is limited by methodological shortcomings in the existing literature, particularly around confounding factors and insufficient blinding. Additionally, heterogeneity in intervention formats, settings, and outcome measures complicates direct comparisons and broader generalizability.

Conclusion: Digital health interventions appear promising for enhancing informal caregivers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding dementia care. Nevertheless, the current evidence base is not sufficiently robust for unequivocal recommendations. Future research should prioritize rigorous experimental methodologies, adopt standardized KAP assessment tools, and address digital equity to broaden access among diverse caregiver populations.

Keywords: Dementia, caregivers, KAP, systematic review.

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A 11
HE 006

Impact of Refractive Errors on Visual Acuity and Academic Performance among Schoolchildren

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Abstract

Background: Uncorrected refractive error is a leading cause of visual impairment among school-aged children, and it may influence their academic performance.

Significance: This study emphasizes the importance of correcting refractive error and its impact on academic performance in schoolchildren.

Aim: To investigate the changes in visual acuity and academic performance during pre- and post-correction of refractive errors in school-aged children.

Objectives: To characterize the types of refractive error, examine the changes in visual acuity and academic performance before and after receiving spectacle correction in schoolchildren.

Methods: This was a retrospective analysis of 648 schoolchildren undergoing school vision screening programmes in Kuala Lumpur. Visual acuity was measured before and after spectacle correction using an electronic visual acuity chart. Of that,

255 children were randomly selected for evaluation for academic performance using *Tahap Penguasaan* (TP) levels.

The score ranges from TP1 to TP6 in accordance with Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia, for four subjects, Bahasa Melayu, English, Mathematics and Science. Refractive errors were categorised into myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism. Descriptive statistics and the Paired-T test were used to examine differences in TP score and visual acuity improvement, respectively, across refractive error groups. Limitations: The observational design limits causal inference, and academic performance was measured using teacher-assigned performance levels rather than standardized examination scores. Findings: Myopia was the most prevalent (64.0%), followed by hyperopia (28.5%) and astigmatism (7.5%). Spectacle correction resulted in statistically significant improvements in visual acuity across all refractive error groups for both eyes ($p < 0.001$). Among the academic subsample, academic performance (TP levels) improved across all subjects following spectacle correction, with a notable shift from lower TP levels (TP1–TP3) to higher TP levels (TP4–TP6). Higher achievement levels (TP6), which were minimal or absent at baseline, emerged consistently after spectacle correction across all academic subjects. Implications: Spectacle correction is associated with clinically meaningful improvements in visual acuity and enhanced academic performance in school-aged children, supporting the importance of school-based vision screening and timely spectacle provision.

Keywords: Refractive errors; Visual acuity; Academic Performance; Vision Screening

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A 12 HE 005

Self-Reported Visual Clarity and its Association with Refractive Error in Schoolchildren

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Abstract

Background: Refractive errors are highly prevalent among Malaysian schoolchildren, and self-reported visual clarity is commonly used in vision screening programs. However, the validity of these subjective responses and their association with refractive error types remains uncertain.

Significance: This study addresses an important gap by evaluating the concordance between self-reported visual clarity and the different types of refractive error and their respective visual acuity, thereby informing a more comprehensive screening approach.

Aim: To investigate the association between self-reported visual clarity and different types of refractive error among primary schoolchildren.

Objectives: To determine the pattern of subjective self-reported visual clarity across different refractive error categories and examine its association with objective visual acuity.

Methods: Data from vision screening programs conducted at 10 primary schools in Kuala Lumpur (2024–2025) were reviewed retrospectively. A total of 930 children aged 7 to 9 years old with complete records were included. Extracted variables included self-reported visual clarity using the Eyes and Vision Survey, monocular distance visual acuity, and subjective refractive findings. Types of refractive errors (ametropia) were classified as either myopia, hyperopia, antimetropia, or astigmatism, while those with no refractive error were classified as emmetropia. **Limitations:** The retrospective design and reliance on self-reported clarity may introduce recall or reporting bias. Additionally, refractive errors were assessed using non-cycloplegic subjective refraction, and descriptive analyses preclude causal inference.

Findings: Myopia was found as the most prevalent refractive error (39.6%), followed by hyperopia (25.9%), astigmatism (7.4%), and antimetropia (7%). The remaining were found to be emmetropic (20.1%). Most participants (71.6%) reported being able to see clearly, despite 56.3% demonstrating sub-optimal visual performance. A significant association was observed between self-reported visual clarity and refractive errors ($p=0.018$), specifically for myopia ($p<0.001$). No significant associations were found for hyperopia, antimetropia, or astigmatism. Additionally, self-reported visual clarity was significantly associated with visual acuity in both eyes ($p<0.001$), despite the majority of participants with reduced visual acuity continuing to report clear vision.

Implications: Despite the high prevalence of reduced visual acuity and refractive errors, many children did not perceive visual difficulty. This highlights a mismatch between subjective perception and objective visual status, particularly in myopia, and underscores the limitations of relying solely on self-reported visual clarity or refractive classification in vision screening programs. Incorporating objective functional assessments alongside symptom-based measures may enhance early detection of unrecognized visual impairment.

Keywords: Refractive error; Self-reported visual clarity; Visual acuity, Vision screening;

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**A 13
HE 002**

Utilisation of Red Spinach Powder to enhance Nutrient Density in Bakery Products

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Abstract

Background: Leafy vegetables such as red spinach (*Amaranthus tricolor* L.) are highly nutritious but prone to rapid spoilage due to high moisture content. Converting fresh leaves into powder may extend shelf life while enabling their incorporation into value-added food products.

Significance: The utilisation of vegetable powders in bakery applications offers a practical strategy to improve nutrient density while reducing post-harvest losses of perishable produce. Red spinach powder (RSP), rich in iron and dietary fibre, presents potential as a plant-based fortificant in commonly consumed snack products.

Aim: This study aimed to investigate the potential of dehydrated red spinach powder to enhance the nutrient density of a model bakery product.

Objectives: (1) To determine the effect of varying levels of RSP substitution on proximate composition; and (2) To establish the iron and dietary fibre contribution of the selected formulation.

Methods: RSP was prepared through controlled oven-drying and grinding before incorporation into banana cake formulations at 4%, 6%, 8%, and 10% substitution levels as partial wheat flour replacements. Proximate analysis (moisture, ash, crude protein, crude fat, and carbohydrate) was conducted using AOAC standard methods. Iron and dietary fibre contents were analysed for the selected formulation through an accredited laboratory. All analyses were performed in triplicate. Although sensory evaluation was conducted with 35 untrained panellists to assess product feasibility, the present analysis focuses on nutrient enhancement outcomes.

Limitations: Iron and dietary fibre analyses were performed only on the selected formulation, and iron bioavailability was not assessed. Long-term storage stability was also not evaluated.

Findings: Increasing RSP substitution resulted in progressive increases in protein (7.29% to 8.27%) and ash content, indicating enhanced mineral contribution. Carbohydrate content decreased modestly with higher substitution levels. The 6% formulation provided 5.4 mg iron and 3.6 g dietary fibre per 100 g, demonstrating meaningful micronutrient enrichment without substantial changes in energy content.

Implications: Dehydrated red spinach powder shows potential as a viable nutrient-dense fortificant in bakery products. Incorporating vegetable powders into baked goods supports product innovation while promoting improved nutrient profiles and extended utilisation of perishable leafy vegetables.

Keywords: Bakery Formulation; Iron Enrichment; Nutrient Fortification; Red Spinach;

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Landscaping Environment

A 14 LaE 001

From Heritage to Landscape: Indigenous public art through creative placemaking in rural Sarawak

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Abstract

In the evolving landscape of Sarawak, Malaysia, the rapid pace of modernization and rural development frequently prioritizes functional infrastructure and utility at the direct expense of cultural distinctiveness. This approach often results in a concerning phenomenon of "placelessness" within indigenous settlements. For specific communities, such as the Bhuket and the broader Orang Ulu groups residing in Belaga and Kampung Sungai Asap, the physical erosion of traditional longhouse aesthetics poses a severe threat. It significantly disrupts the intergenerational transmission of cultural heritage, effectively severing the link between the community and its architectural history. Although creative placemaking is a well-established strategy for regenerating urban environments, its potential application within rural, indigenous contexts remains largely

underexplored. Consequently, there is a critical need to understand how the built environment can actively reinforce, rather than obliterate, the unique visual and spatial narratives inherent to these communities.

This research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of creative placemaking as a dual mechanism for cultural preservation and rural revitalization. It specifically investigates how tangible indigenous motifs, ranging from traditional Bhuket patterns to broader Orang Ulu material culture, can be reinterpreted through contemporary public art. The objective is to strengthen place attachment and community identity by bridging the gap between static heritage conservation and dynamic landscape architecture, ultimately proposing a comprehensive model for culturally responsive planning.

Adopting a qualitative case study methodology focused on the Bhuket community, the research employed three distinct data collection phases: ethnographic fieldwork to document artifacts, visual analysis to deconstruct geometric and organic motifs, and semi-structured interviews with elders and artisans to interpret the intangible significance of these symbols. Using a "research through design" framework, the study tested the translation of two-dimensional motifs into three-dimensional public art interventions. Findings indicate a disconnect between infrastructure and cultural self-image, yet identify specific "cultural anchors" rooted in mythology that reactivate communal memory when integrated into functional landscape elements. Furthermore, the co-creation of these forms fostered ownership among younger generations, helping to counter out-migration. Ultimately, the study concludes that creative placemaking is a vital strategy for cultural sustainability, offering a novel "Indigenous Rural Placemaking" framework that empowers policymakers to balance modernization with the preservation of indigenous identity.

Keywords: Indigenous Public Art, Creative Placemaking; Rural Built Environment; Sarawak

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Legal Matters

A 15
LM 002

AI-Driven Employment Practices and Privacy Rights: Legal Implications from a systematic literature review

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Abstract

The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in the employment sector particularly in recruitment, performance evaluation, and workplace surveillance, has significantly reshaped employer–employee relations. While these technologies enhance organisational efficiency and managerial control, they simultaneously intensify risks to employees' right to privacy through extensive data collection, algorithmic profiling, opaque decision-making, and automated monitoring. Existing legal and regulatory frameworks struggle to respond effectively to these developments, raising concerns about adequacy, enforcement, and rights protection in AI-mediated workplaces. Although academic discourse on AI and data protection has expanded considerably, the literature remains fragmented and lacks a systematic synthesis focused specifically on privacy implications within the employment context. This article aims to systematically review and synthesise existing scholarship on the implications of AI usage on privacy rights in the employment sector. The study objective is to examine the rights of privacy

regulatory challenges arising from AI-driven employment practices. The study aims at providing propose consolidated reform on the existing data protection and labour law frameworks to AI-driven workplace surveillance and decision-making. Employing a systematic literature review methodology, this study analyses peer-reviewed journal articles indexed in major academic databases using predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. The review follows a transparent and replicable process of identification, screening, eligibility assessment, and qualitative thematic synthesis. The findings reveal recurring concerns relating to excessive surveillance, imbalance of power between employers and employees, lack of transparency in algorithmic systems, consent deficiencies. The literature further indicates that existing legal frameworks are often reactive, fragmented, and lacking to address AI-specific risks in employment relations. This study is subject to certain limitations, including reliance on secondary sources, exclusion of non-English publications, and the absence of empirical workplace data. Nevertheless, the study makes a significant contribution by consolidating interdisciplinary scholarship, identifying regulatory gaps, and offering a conceptual foundation for rights-based AI governance in employment. The findings provide valuable guidance for policymakers, regulators, employers, and scholars seeking to balance technological innovation with the protection of employee privacy in AI-driven workplace.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; workplace privacy; employment law; employee surveillance; systematic literature review

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A 16 LM 001

Regulating Digital Pharmacies in Malaysia: Lessons from the United States

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Abstract

The rapid expansion of e-commerce has fundamentally reshaped access to pharmaceutical products, raising complex regulatory and liability challenges in digital marketplaces. In Malaysia, over 70% of consumers engage in online purchases, including health-related products, while similar growth trends are evident in the United States. Although both jurisdictions maintain comprehensive regulatory regimes governing drug safety and efficacy, the migration of pharmaceutical sales to e-commerce platforms exposes significant legal lacunae, particularly concerning platform accountability and the proliferation of unregistered or counterfeit medicines. This article addresses the problem of regulatory fragmentation and inadequate oversight of online pharmaceutical sales, especially where prescription-only medicines are offered without proper authorisation. In Malaysia, statutes such as the Poisons Act 1952 and the Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984 were primarily designed for brick-and-mortar

pharmacies, leaving ambiguity in their application to digital intermediaries. In contrast, the United States operates under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act 1938, yet platform immunity under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act complicates questions of intermediary liability. The central issue, therefore, is whether platform self-regulation suffices to protect consumers or whether direct statutory liability is necessary. The objectives of this study are threefold: (i) to evaluate the adequacy of Malaysia's existing legal framework governing pharmaceutical e-commerce; (ii) to compare it with the United States' regulatory and liability approach; and (iii) to propose reforms that enhance consumer protection while maintaining regulatory coherence. Employing doctrinal and comparative legal methodologies, this qualitative research analyses primary legislation, regulatory guidelines, enforcement reports, and relevant scholarly literature through library-based research. The study is limited by restricted access to post-2023 enforcement statistics and the unavailability of empirical data on the newly announced Pharmaceutical Tracking and Detection System (PTTS). Nevertheless, the findings reveal that Malaysia's evolving consumer-protection-oriented framework may be more conducive to imposing direct platform responsibility, whereas the United States continues to rely heavily on sector-specific enforcement layered over intermediary immunity doctrines. The study argues that enhanced statutory clarity on platform liability, coupled with regulatory harmonisation and technological authentication mechanisms, is imperative to curb illicit online pharmaceutical sales. The implications extend to policymakers, regulators, and scholars, contributing to global debates on digital governance, consumer safety, and the rule of law in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 16.

Keywords: Pharmaceutical products; E-commerce; Online platform liability; Digital health regulation

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Residential Environment

**A 17
RE 001**

Housing Crisis Paradox: A comparative analysis of Malaysia and Spain

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Abstract

The global housing sector faces persistent challenges that defy conventional interventions, resulting in what this paper identifies as the “housing crisis paradox”: the coexistence of rising demand and repeated failures of policy, design, and market-led solutions. This paradox manifests differently across urban contexts, shaped by socio-economic, institutional, and cultural factors. This paper explores the systemic paradoxes of housing provision in Malaysia and Spain and examines their implications for future housing strategies. The objectives are to identify structural contradictions in housing supply, affordability, and urban density; compare housing dynamics and speculative pressures across the two contexts; and highlight the potential value of structured, foresight-informed approaches, such as the Strategic Speculative Futures Framework (SSFF), to support proactive and context-sensitive housing planning. The study employs a comparative case study approach, synthesizing secondary data, policy documents, and literature from Malaysia and Spain, focusing on macro-level housing supply, market trends, policy

interventions, and spatial patterns. The analysis is limited to structural and market-level dynamics and does not address housing challenges arising from natural disasters, conflicts, or localized informal settlements. Findings reveal that in both countries, housing supply appears sufficient at the aggregate level, yet affordability and accessibility remain critical issues. In Spain, rising homelessness, escalating prices, and vacant dwellings reflect a misalignment between supply and social need. In Malaysia, overhang in medium- and high-cost segments coexists with constrained access for lower- and middle-income households. Market-driven and speculative pressures exacerbate these paradoxes, while urban concentration and spatial misalignment further intensify challenges, demonstrating that housing crises are systemic rather than merely a function of shortage. These insights underscore the limitations of conventional, reactive housing strategies and point to the value of future-oriented, structured approaches that integrate strategic foresight. By framing the SSFF conceptually, this paper provides a natural foundation for subsequent research and policy exploration, enabling planners and researchers to anticipate complex socio-economic and spatial dynamics and to design proactive, context-sensitive strategies to address the housing crisis paradox.

Keywords: Housing Crisis Paradox; Affordability; Strategic Foresight; Futures Thinking

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Rural Environment

A 18 RuE 001

Ecological Experience and Spatial Perception in Age-Friendly Rural Public Spaces

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Abstract

As rural populations in China age rapidly, public spaces in these areas are becoming increasingly vital for supporting healthy aging, psychological well-being, and social participation among older adults. Under the dual background of rural revitalization and demographic transition, the spatial environment of rural communities directly affects elderly residents' daily mobility, comfort, and opportunities for interpersonal interaction. High-quality public spaces not only provide physical accessibility but also contribute to emotional attachment, social cohesion, and environmental satisfaction. However, existing research has predominantly focused on barrier-free design and infrastructural provision, with comparatively limited attention given to how ecological environmental qualities and

spatial perception interact to shape the overall age-friendliness of rural public spaces from an environment-behaviour perspective.

This study investigates a typical rural village in Jinan, China, to examine the relationships among ecological experience, spatial perception, and perceived quality of age-friendly rural public spaces. A mixed-methods research design was employed, integrating systematic field behavioural observations with structured questionnaire surveys. A total of 176 valid responses were collected from elderly residents. Based on these data, an analytical framework was developed encompassing three core dimensions: ecological experience (e.g., greenery continuity, shading, and microclimatic comfort), spatial perception (e.g., safety, accessibility, and environmental satisfaction), and user satisfaction. Statistical analysis and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) were applied to examine the relationships among variables and identify key ecological and spatial determinants influencing perceived age-friendliness.

The findings reveal that ecological features—particularly tree canopy shading, continuous green landscape systems, and improved microclimatic conditions—are strongly associated with more positive spatial perception among older adults. In addition, semi-open spatial nodes equipped with shaded seating areas significantly encourage longer stays, informal social gatherings, and spontaneous interaction. These results suggest that ecological optimization not only enhances environmental comfort but also indirectly supports social engagement through improved spatial perception. By providing quantitative empirical evidence from a rural Chinese context, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of environment-behaviour mechanisms in aging communities. It highlights the necessity of integrating ecological enhancement with perceptual design strategies in rural public space renewal, offering practical guidance for planners, landscape designers, and policymakers seeking to promote sustainable and age-friendly rural development. By providing quantitative empirical evidence from a rural Chinese context, this study contributes to the understanding of environment-behaviour relationships in aging communities and offers practical guidance for ecologically based, age-friendly design strategies in rural public spaces.

Keywords: Age-friendly rural public space; Ecological experience; Spatial perception; PLS-SEM

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A 19
RuE 002

Thermal–Spatial Strategies for Rural Dwellings: Environment–behaviour nexus in Northern China

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Abstract

Rural revitalisation and sustainable development in rapidly urbanising regions have heightened concerns regarding thermal adaptability and occupants' behavioural responses within residential environments. In northern China's hot-summer and cold-winter transitional climate zone, vernacular courtyard dwellings exhibit climate-responsive spatial configurations that provide valuable insights for sustainable housing design. However, limited empirical research integrates microclimatic monitoring, occupant perception, and behavioural modelling within a unified analytical framework. Consequently, there remains insufficient understanding of how spatial configuration, building envelope performance, and user behaviour collectively influence indoor thermal comfort and housing satisfaction. This study contributes to advancing Environment–Behaviour Studies and the Sustainable and Rural Environment research domains by investigating the interactive mechanisms

between spatial configuration and thermal comfort. Specifically, its objectives are: (1) to identify thermal performance differences between vernacular and modern rural dwellings; (2) to determine the influence of courtyard morphology and envelope materials on indoor operative temperature; and (3) to establish a structural relationship model linking spatial configuration, perceived thermal comfort, behavioural adaptation, and housing satisfaction. A questionnaire survey ($n = 383$ valid responses) was conducted to assess occupants' thermal sensation and satisfaction levels. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) was employed to validate the hypothesised relationships. The study focuses on summer conditions within a single climatic region, and the sample is confined to one village context, which may limit generalisability. The results indicate that Dwelling Type strongly influences Thermal Comfort ($\beta = 0.959$), Courtyard Configuration ($\beta = 0.891$), and Spatial Configuration ($\beta = 0.890$). Building Material ($\beta = 0.355$) and Courtyard Configuration ($\beta = 0.322$) also affect Spatial Configuration, which, in turn, positively contributes to Housing Satisfaction ($\beta = 0.167$). Overall, Dwelling Type plays a dominant role in shaping environmental performance, while Spatial Configuration mediates its impact on occupant satisfaction. The findings provide evidence-based design guidelines for climate-responsive rural housing, supporting SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Integrating behavioural adaptation strategies with passive design principles can enhance low-carbon rural development and inform policy frameworks across similar Asian climatic contexts.

Keywords: Thermal Comfort; Spatial Configuration; Rural Environment; Environment-Behaviour Studies.

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Urban Environment

A 20
UE 002

A Comparative Analysis on Pedestrian Experience in Metro Manila Mixed-Use Developments

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Abstract

While walkability has been extensively examined in international contexts, research focused on Philippine city centers remains scarce, underscoring the relevance of this study. To address this gap, this research evaluated streetscape walkability in three major mixed-use developments, which are Bonifacio Global City (BGC), Makati Central Business District (Makati CBD), and Ortigas Center, by using a comparative approach grounded in the Global Walkability Index and the Perceived Walkability Framework. Context-specific parameters for assessing walkability in mixed-use developments were established, generating insights to inform urban planning and policy. The study aimed to evaluate pedestrian experiences, identify preferred intersection types, and determine the most influential factors shaping mobility choices. Intersections were selected based on their prominence as primary street systems and the diversity of pedestrian crossings present in each city. The methodology integrated systematic field observations with participant surveys to identify pedestrian priorities and perceptions. Results indicated that convenience and time were the most significant factors influencing pedestrian preferences, with intersection design exerting a substantial impact on mobility behavior. Participants consistently preferred intersections that improved safety, accessibility, and comfort,

highlighting the importance of pedestrian-oriented design. These findings illustrate the practical benefits of shifting from car-oriented to pedestrian-centric streetscapes, demonstrating that well-designed intersections can substantially enhance walkability and commuter experience. The study concludes that prioritizing pedestrian needs supports the development of vibrant, inclusive, and functional urban environments, offering actionable insights for planners, policymakers, and researchers. By situating walkability within the Philippine context, this research advances urban design knowledge and provides a framework for developing practical solutions to improve pedestrian experiences in rapidly evolving city centers. The results emphasize the need to integrate pedestrian-focused policies and urban design strategies to create safer, more sustainable, and more livable urban areas. Ultimately, this study contributes to shaping resilient, equitable, and future-ready cities that prioritize human-scale mobility and collective well-being.

Keywords: Walkability, Streetscapes, Pedestrian, Mixed-Use Development

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A 21
UE 001

Spatial–Temporal Assessment of Urban Flood Vulnerability Using GIS and AHP in Klang River Basin

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Abstract

Urban flooding has become an increasingly critical issue in rapidly urbanising regions, particularly in low-lying areas within river basins. Taman Sri Muda, Shah Alam, Malaysia, located in the Klang River Basin, has experienced recurrent and severe flood events, exacerbated by intense rainfall, rising water levels, and extensive urban development. Although numerous studies have applied Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to flood risk mapping, most assessments remain spatially static and fail to capture how flood vulnerability evolves in response to both environmental and anthropogenic changes. This study aims to assess the spatial-temporal evolution of flood vulnerability in Taman Sri Muda across three

periods: 2016, 2020, and 2024 by integrating multiple factors that influence floods. A GIS-based multi-criteria decision analysis approach was employed, incorporating rainfall, water level, elevation, slope, and land use/land cover (LULC). The Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) was applied to determine the relative importance of each parameter, followed by a weighted overlay analysis to generate flood vulnerability maps for each period. The findings indicate a significant increase in flood risk between 2016 and 2020, primarily driven by extreme rainfall and urbanisation, with slight improvements observed by 2024 following flood mitigation measures. However, areas in the northern part of Taman Sri Muda remain consistently classified as high-risk due to low elevation and proximity to the Klang River. This study presents a comprehensive spatial-temporal framework for assessing urban flood vulnerability and offers practical insights to support evidence-based urban planning and flood risk management in flood-prone cities.

Keywords: Land Use/Land Cover (LULC); Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA); flood vulnerability; Urban Development

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Working Environment

A 22 WE 001

Islamic Work Ethic in Organizations: Principles, practices and contemporary challenges

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Abstract

The Islamic work ethic is a concept that encompasses moral, ethical, and spiritual values based on divine revelation (the Quran and the Sunnah). These values will shape individuals' attitudes and behaviors as they carry out their duties and responsibilities in the workplace. This study highlights the Islamic work ethic as an ethical framework that guides behavior and performance within an organization. It explained the principles and practical applications for addressing contemporary challenges and provided useful guidelines for creating ethical, sustainable, and competitive organizations. Therefore, this study aims to explore experts' perceptions of the principles, practices, and contemporary challenges of the Islamic work ethic in organizations. The qualitative case study design used semi-structured

interviews with seven experts from public universities (UA) and selected Islamic institutions in Malaysia, employing purposive sampling. All data were analyzed using the software-assisted thematic analysis method ATLAS ti9 with three main study themes: (i) Islamic work ethic, (ii) Practices and contemporary challenges, and (iii) Islamic work ethic in organizations. All these themes were determined by the research team in line with the study's objectives. The study focuses only on semi-structured interviews with Malaysian experts. The study findings indicate that the Islamic work ethic is based on tawhid, which emphasizes work as worship and a trust entrusted to humanity. It demanded clarity of vision, correct intentions, and alignment between intentions and actions in accordance with Sharia principles. It also emphasized commendable morals, integrity, trust, and the boundaries of halal and haram, as well as balancing worldly demands with spiritual values and supporting ethical governance practices. In addition, it demonstrates professionalism, integrity, trust, kindness, and excellence, which contribute to employees' well-being and to improvements in organizational quality and productivity. However, its implementation faces challenges, including varying levels of individual awareness, limited understanding, pressure to achieve KPIs, the dominance of a materialistic culture, the influence of technology and Western values, and the Islamic work ethic, which is not formally incorporated into policies and human resource management. Its application in organizations grounded in inclusive universal values makes it suitable for practice in Malaysia's multicultural society. Nevertheless, its implementation requires contextual interpretation through the formulation of value-based policies, leadership by example, and a comprehensive performance management and evaluation system. This study enhances governance ethics, human resource practices, and organizational culture by integrating Islamic values of work ethic, integrity, accountability, and social responsibility to address contemporary workplace challenges.

Keywords: Islamic Work Ethic; Principles; Practices; Challenges

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