

Review of: "Fear Factors in Open Spaces – Children's Perception of Public Open Spaces"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper covers an important subject and one that is not dealt with enough in the Global South. However, there are lots of improvements necessary to bring the paper up to a necessary standard. One main aspect is to refer to Pune, India, as the case study in the title and of course in the abstract. Here are more detailed comments:

1. Introduction. This is very short and does not do justice to setting the scene, placing the problem in context or in certain definitions. Start as you have with the global picture of population in general and then children in urban areas. Then you need to be clearer on the kind of environments experienced by children which also include streets and other spaces you have not mentioned. When you refer to children this is a broad term - from 0 to 18, legally speaking - so there are big differences between preschoolers, elementary school age, secondary age and older and what degrees of freedom they have to use public space. As you later use elementary school age as the target it would be good to focus on them as a group. You also need to consider the differences between girls and boys who often have very different degrees of freedom or constraint. You also need to bring the context of the problem to India - this is not mentioned until you mention it in the methods section. Are there specific aspects in India? How is the UN Rights of the child interpreted there? Then you can focus the research and justify it more clearly. You may also consider adding some focused research questions.

2. The methodology is a case study focused on Pune. Probably no one knows anything about it or where it is, so a location map would help plus some characteristics such as population proportion of green and public spaces and also some photographs to show the character of these typical spaces would be really helpful. Otherwise the reader is operating in a vacuum, to some extent.

3. Also relating to methodology, you need to tell more about the way you recruited participants, why the focus on this age group, how you ran the sessions, a lot more on the ethical aspects, did you also get any comments from parents (were they present during sessions) and when you ran the informal interviews after the drawings, did you record these and can you use them in addition to the drawings to provide some quotes to enrich the results?

4. Results: considering the number of children you interviewed, the results section (do not call it analysis) are rather thin. It would be really helpful to incorporate the discussion (which is currently part of the conclusions) in this section and call it "results and discussion" because you can then compare your results with those of other studies. Please also sub-title each section and include many more drawings as these are your main forms of data. If you can add some quotes from children it would also be really valuable. Also please draw out differences between girls and boys - I am sure there would

have been a lot of these.

5. Conclusions - if you merge the discussion parts with the results you can present a more focused set of conclusions. You also need to include a short section on the limitations of the research.

The language is generally fine.