

Peer Review

Review of: "The Moderating Effects of Urban Design on Willingness to Walk in a Tropical City"

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The Title

The research addresses an important and realistic issue: the impact of urban design on willingness to walk in cities with tropical climates. The researcher relied on a quasi-experimental study by organizing a realistic field trip (Orchard Road, Singapore) instead of relying solely on images or questionnaires, which increases the strength and credibility of the results.

Abstract

- The abstract clearly demonstrates that the research examines the impact of urban design on willingness to walk in a tropical city and highlights the main challenge: the tropical climate (heat, humidity, sun) and its impact on walking. Its methodology is clear and sequential, from the methodological problem to the results and conclusion. However, the abstract does not directly mention the number of participants or sample characteristics, although this is important for assessing the strength of the results.
- The absence of keywords within the text. We note that key terms such as "restoration theory" or "walkability" are not sufficiently highlighted in the abstract, despite them being the focus of the research.

Introduction:

The introduction and theoretical framework are good, but there is an excessive focus on health: While the research is primarily planning/urban, the introduction appears more health-related than urban.

Methodology:

The methodological design is clear: the study is quasi-experimental, using a specific walking route, which is a powerful method for examining the relationship between urban design and willingness to

walk. The number of participants is good: 101 participants, which is an appropriate sample size for a field study of this type. However, there are limitations in generalization: The study was limited to a single location (Orchard Road), an upscale commercial street, which may not reflect residential or industrial streets in a tropical environment.

The majority of participants are young (average 25 years old) and residents of Singapore, making the results unrepresentative of older age groups or those unfamiliar with the local climate.

The percentage of explained variance (R^2) for some indicators is relatively low, suggesting that other unmeasured factors influence willingness to walk.

I believe there is a mismatch in some values: the text states that "WTW is not related to temperature," while Table (2) shows a weak but statistically significant relationship; this requires careful interpretation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The conclusions are clear and straightforward: urban design influences walking behavior more than climate, and emphasizes the role of the designed environment (sidewalk width, facades, shade, human activity). The results link the potential for planning in tropical cities to increase daily walking. Limitations are accurately noted (single site, young sample, lack of physiological measurements). Differences between groups (age, gender) are not discussed in the conclusions, even though they appear in the results.

References

The research includes an extensive list (more than 30 sources), covering several disciplines and well-formatted according to the journal's requirements. However, it is preferable to replace outdated references with up-to-date ones.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.