

Public Perception about the Social Impacts of Recreation: A Case Study of Quetta City

By

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Abstract:

This study has been carried out to analysis mainly the perceptions of residents about social impacts of recreation in Quetta city. In this study both primary and as well secondary data were utilized. However, questionnaire was taken as a key tool for data collecting. Since recreational acts are just carried out for amusement, but these activities also have strong impacts on our society, so the focus of this specific study is to examine the opinions of the citizens about social impacts of recreation on Quetta city. In this manner there are several social benefits recognized that can be achieved through well manage recreational activities. Since in mountainous station of Quetta city, where diverse people are living together with some similar and some dissimilar faiths, as a result it became vital to identify the opinion of the people. Thus, this study is centered on scientific approach and an attempt to differentiate the perception of the people about recreation. So, in this study primary data were collected through planning an adequate questionnaire. After that this data were analyzed through using SPSS statistic version 20 and Microsoft excel sheet.

Keywords: Recreation, Perception, Social impacts, Quetta

Introduction:

Recreation is carried out in spare time to achieve pleasure at any location, period and situation. Usually recreation has been defined as a type of human activity that perform voluntarily in one's free time, but now scholars have defined recreation is a psychologically transforming act made to achieve one's personal needs and motivations (Javed *et al*, 2015) Hence recreation has connection with mental, physical, social and economic welfares of humans (Wolch *et al*, 2014). A person needs to

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perform amusing activities after doing hard work for a long period of time, because recreational acts not only offer relaxation and fun to the participants, but at the same time these acts also promote many social morals such as peace, brotherhood and justice (Khan *et al*, 2016). Thus it has a major place for the high quality of life in modern urbanized societies in all over the world (Chiesura, 2004). open public spaces and recreational places in cities hold vital position in the growth of the human societies, settlements and social interactions, hence in this type of places we general public mostly do get together and exchange our thoughts about politics, business, literature etc. which is call social interaction (Batool et al ,2016). In addition, recreation as well promotes cultural exchange, cultural unity, cultural understanding and cultural diversity among different societies and civilizations (Baloch et al, 2015). Criminal deeds and terrorism can also be controlled through a worthy planning of recreational facilities in any place of this world, since recreational acts develop positivity in society.

History displays that recreational activities started flourishing in the 19th century, when certain recreation related actions were taken place (Lynn *et al*, 2003). However initially outdoor recreation has started progressing with the construction of first park in north America (Arni *et al* 2013) After that in late 19th century several American cities had developed attractive landscapes and parks for reducing stress and also inspire moral values among the citizens (Loukaitou-Sideris, 1995). The growing popularity of Boys Scouts, Girl Guides and Boy clubs in 19th century delivered maximum chances for young generation of that time for recreation related events. Also in the same era numbers of holidays were too increased, which produced more time for leisure. After that the development of automobiles increased which introduced mechanical recreation. Lastly physical education and athletics were as well encouraged in the public schools in this same period (Al-Rafae et al, 2001). Therefor today it can be seen that recreation is considered one of the chief socioeconomic necessities of any society.

Pakistan is also working for the progress of its tourism and recreational sectors as other developing countries through the natural bases by rising national parks and reserves, but in South Asia, Pakistan is one of the deprived countries in bio-diversity point of view, thus it needs further plans of government (Khan, 2006).But, government budget distribution for management of national parks and recreational facilities in Pakistan is limited as compare with other developing programs such as defense, education and health (Khan et al 2014). However, there is a race among the people of any society for having their desire goals so this makes the life too tough for surviving. Consequently, for overcoming from the pressures of life recreation consider as a solution. Since Recreational acts contribute in creating a nation with fresh and develop minded people. But besides these profits recreation also needs some quality design in an area (ÇAY, 2015) otherwise a city may face some core problems such as pollution, traffic, security issues and infrastructural problem. Therefore, the perceptions of residents are required to be known for future planning in a region.

Quetta is capital city of Balochistan and largest city of the Province. There are also several social impacts of recreation exist, that create recreation as one of the basic need of society in Quetta city. So it becomes vital to identify the views of citizens of Quetta regarding the Social influences and facilities of recreation in their life and also to know the value of recreation in the eyes of respondents as well. Thus, it is necessary to look over the perceptions of residents, since it will firstly make us to identify the basic recreational requirements of the people and after that it will provide help for better future plans in recreational related facilities of Quetta city. Therefore, this research is an effort to analysis perceptions of residents about social impacts of recreation in Quetta city.

Methodology:

Quetta is the capital city of Balochistan Province which is situated the north west of Pakistan. Geographically Quetta city is situated between 66°41'40" 67°17'25" East longitudes and 30° 01' 29" 30° 28' 25" North latitudes. It has a region of 2,653 square kilometers and administratively it is divided into 2 tehsils and 67 union councils (GoB, 2011). So this research paper is simply all about to understand the perceptions of citizen regarding the social impacts of recreation on Quetta city.

For this study both primary and secondary data were collected to gain the research objective. For primary data questionnaire survey was carried out. However, for collection of secondary data books, published research journals articles, census report of 2017, analysis of government reports and policy documents were utilized to acquire information.

This study is based on simple random sampling. During primary data collection each specific person of study are was chosen totally by chance for filling the questionnaire. Hence in this study every member of population has an equal chance of being involved. According to 2017 census the population of Quetta city is 1,001,205 so by using Slovin's method sample size was calculated.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

With 1,001,205 populations (Quetta) and 0.05 is significance level, by putting the values into the formula:

$$=1001205/1+100205(.05)^2$$

$$=1001205/1+2503.0125$$

$$=1001205/2504.0125$$

$$=399.840$$

$n=399.840$ after rounding the number it will become 400

So sample size for this study was 400 and 400 questionnaires were filled for collecting primary data. This study is based on simple random sampling. So, 400 questionnaires were filled randomly among the population in the study area. After the collection of data Microsoft excel sheet and SPSS IBM 20.0 was used for data analysis.

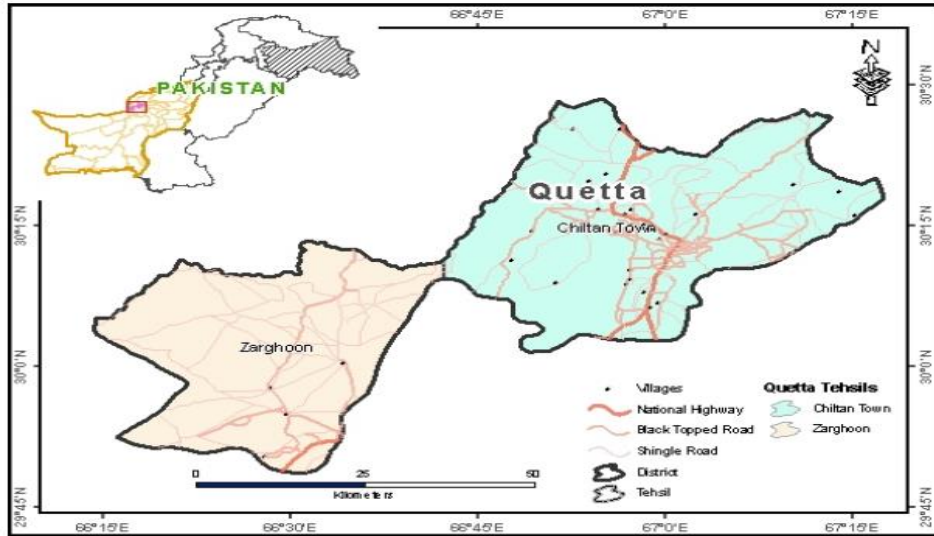


Figure 2.1: Location Map of study area

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Profile of the respondents

Most of the respondents of this study were male 78%, but at the same time some female respondents 22% were also took participation, which shows the social influences on different gender in our study area. Moreover, most of the respondents were young and unmarried since 66.5% were unmarried and 33.5% were married people, on the other hand they were highly educated. Maximum numbers of respondents were still academic students 48.3%, however 29.3% of respondents were employee, 22.5% were unemployed. Most of them have large number of members in their families which also represent the social status of study area and similarly it is disclosed that diverse tribes are living in Quetta with diverse social status and mind sates.

The Perceptions of the Respondents Regarding the Social Impacts of Recreation:

Recreation generally has many social affects in a society. So the basic awareness of respondents is needed to be known about the social effects of recreation on their lives and city. Therefore, diverse questions were asked to the citizens of Quetta in order to gather more details views of respondents regarding the social effects of recreation on study area, which are discussed below.

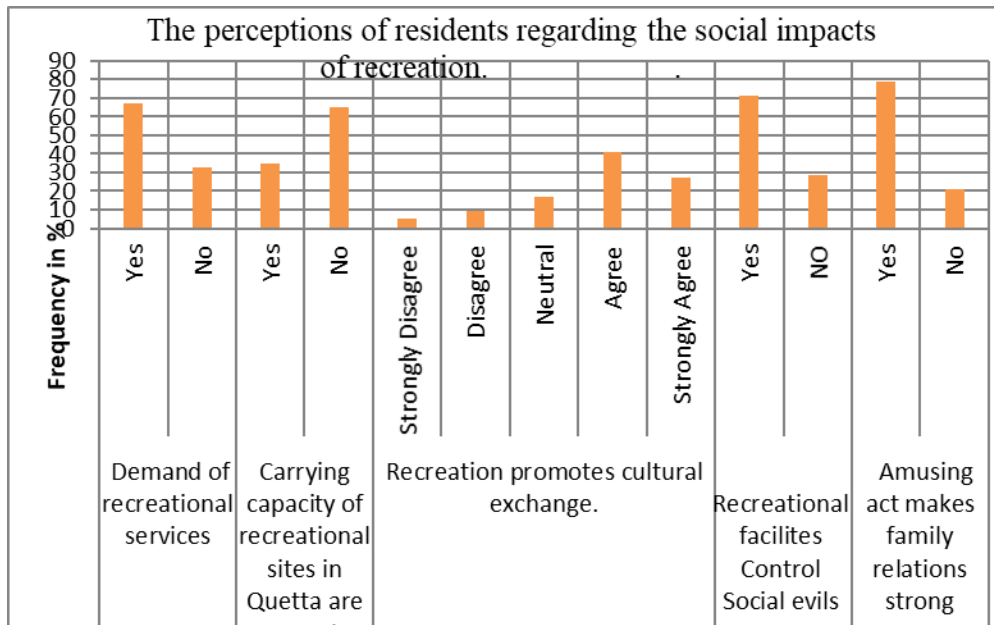


Figure 3.1: The perceptions of the respondents regarding the social impacts of recreation.

Recreation is one of the basic necessities for every human being in a society because it makes the people to do relax and be free from stress and other socioeconomic evil of today's world (Latfi et al, 2012). So respondents were asked that do they account recreation as a crucial requirement for society. According to results 67.2% respondents replied that yes it is one of the basic need. While 32.8% were in view that recreation is not fundamental need of any society. Since there are many socioeconomic concerns do exist in study area that made the public more concern about those issues e.g. security, jobs and etc. because respondents profile is exposing that 22.5% of respondents are unemployed. Yet recreation can be one of the causes that can less the social evil in a society therefore management of the city must pay attention towards recreational services.

Residents were also inquired about the carrying capacities of available recreational places in the study area. 65% of respondents replied no carrying capacities of available parks and recreational services for the population of Quetta city are not enough, but 35% were responding that the carrying capacities of these available places are enough for the population of the city. Thus it shows most of the people of Quetta are not satisfy with the carrying capacities of existing recreational services for the population of Quetta city. Because population of the city is growing but recreational places are not developing from long time. However, it is government's duty that it must manage old and also create new and worthy recreational as well as park services for the city (Ali, 2014). So that these 64% of residents should as well be satisfy for this basic service.

After that respondents were questioned about their extent of believe that recreation promote cultural exchange among different societies and regions. The result of field survey shows that 41.3% respondents agreed that recreation Promote cultural exchange between societies.27.5% respondents strongly agreed on this point, 16.3% respondents were neutral, while 9.6% disagree and 5% were strongly disagreed. Thus it displays that respondents take recreation as a cause of cultural exchange, because they have experienced it personally that recreation is a medium for different societies were they share their cultural norms with each other (Loukaitou-Sideris, 1995).

It was also asked to the respondents that do terrorism, crime, drug and other social evils can be controlled by Promoting worthy recreational facilities in city (Sadeghian *et al*, 2013) then outcome of this question shows that 71.5% respondents answered yes recreational services have ability to control bad acts in society, while 28.5% respondents replied no. Thus a large number of respondents did support this statement which proves that by the help of recreational acts it became easy to divert the attentions of respondents from negativity and it provides help for the government to regulator the low and order situation of the city. The respondents who rejected this statement are less (28.5%) just because they have more faiths on other sources e.g. low and order situation, management of government etc. for over coming from the social evils.

Recreation improves unity and harmony among different tribes and people in societies (Khan, et al, 2016), consequently 78.8% respondents supported it, while 21.2% did not favored this statement. Thus a large number of people are replied yes so it demonstrates that recreation has the ability to resolve conflicts among the people, since our society is belt up on tribal setups therefore conflict between tribes is usual but by piloting healthy recreational festivals in city can end any conflict peacefully (Quilitch et al, 1973). Since lots of respondents are supporting this statement so it means people of study area do believe on it.

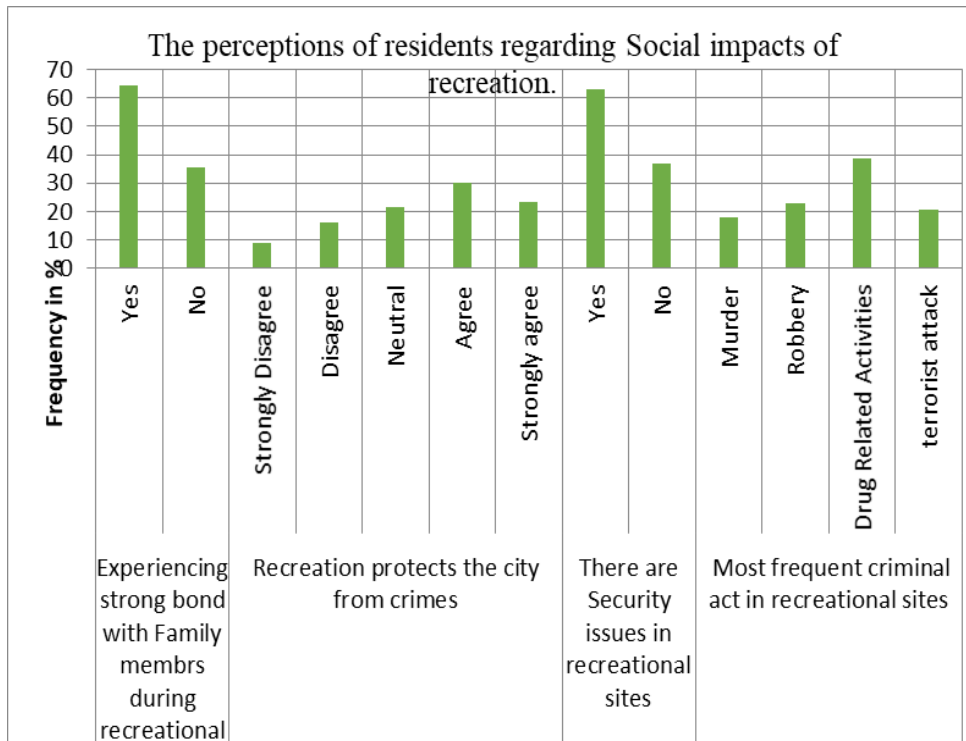


Figure 3.2: The perceptions of the respondents regarding the social impacts of recreation.

Recreation likewise strengthens family bonds (Arni et al, 2013) So it is also becoming significant to know that whether the respondents themselves ever felt strong and positive bonding in relationships during recreational acts. Thus result reveals 64.5% respondents agreed that yes they have felt strong bonding in their relationships during any recreational acts, but 35.5% of respondents replied no since they have not experienced strong and positive bonding in their relationships thru recreational activities. However most of the people 64.5% experienced it thus recreational activity can also be applied as a technique for making weak relationships more strong enough, because in today's busy world weak and broken relationships are big concerns in our society.

The outcome is illustrating,30% respondents agreed the statement that availability of recreational services and facilities in a region make that region more secure in Lowe and order point of view. 23.5% respondents were strongly agreed this fact. 21.5% were neutral about it. 16.3%disagreed and 8.8% strongly disagreed. Since recreation promotes optimistic thinking and diverts the mind of citizen from negative acts (Hull et al, 1995) so for that reason recreation can make a place more protected likewise most of the respondents support this statement. Consequently, in Quetta city further recreation facilities need to be produced also for managing low and order of the city.

A large number of respondents 63.5% observed security concern in recreational places of Quetta and lesser amount of respondents 37.5% replayed that they did not note any security issues in these places. Hence

now days due to the bad condition of law and order of the city no one feel him/herself safe since less security promotes crime in any place. Therefore in recreational places crime rate is also flourishing because result is showing that large number of people has personally experienced security issues in recreational site. However, it is the responsibility of the city's authorities to provide security to the visitors of the recreational places.

After knowing that respondents have personally experienced criminal acts in recreational places of Quetta, it also becomes vital to know that which criminal activity most respondents have observed in recreational places of the city. According to the result 38.5% respondents observed drug related activities in recreational places of Quetta. Because drug addicted people are generally rejected from their families, so they spend their most of the time in parks and other recreational places. However, 22.8% respondents noted robbery, 20.8% respondents considered terrorist attack as one of the most accrued criminal act since terrorism is considered as a global issue and Quetta has also affected from it and 18% respondents think murders also carried out in these places. At the end it is clear that these recreational places need some sort of security management since recreational places must not provide safe haven for the criminals.

Conclusion:

Any sort of act that is carried out by the people in free time for amusement at any place, period and state is known as recreation. Besides this recreation also have social impacts on human life and surroundings. Quetta is the capital city of Balochistan, so different questions were asked to the people in Quetta city with the help of questionnaire about their perception regarding the social impacts of recreation in their city. Thus recreation is considered as a source of pleasure but according to the respondents the carrying capacity of existing recreational places are not enough in Quetta. However, people believe that recreation promotes cultural exchange among diverse societies plus terrorism, crime, and other social evils can also be controlled by promoting recreational services in the city. Similarly, they do believe that by conducting healthy recreational festivals in city can end any conflict among tribes and people. Moreover, as a family taking part in recreational activities make relations more strong among the family members since people do experienced strong and positive bonding in their relations during taking part in recreational act with their loved one. Leisure play role in diverting minds of youth from negativity and people of Quetta also believe that availability of recreational services in a region make a place safer in law and order point of view. But several people also have experienced security issues in recreational sites of Quetta, since according to the respondents they have observed murder, robbery, drug related activities and terrorist attack at recreational places of Quetta. Therefore, recreational places need some sort of security management. It is recommended that government should upgrade existing facilities and also provide new opportunities and polices in this sector so to improve recreation for the social benefits of the city.

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