Abstract

From the academic point of view, the writer considers the subject of Recreation as a matter of Supply and Demand. While most academic and practical works were done in the field of supply in Singapore, the writer attempts to emphasize this academic exercise in the field of demand with the study of Public Recreation in Taman Jurong.

The purpose is to understand the relationship between the supply and demand of recreation in the present condition of Taman Jurong, and to understand how the residents act under such circumstances. Besides, the writer is more interested in the recreational behaviour of the residents of different Socio–Economic backgrounds and the patterns of spatial behaviour of recreationists.

There are three main categories of recreation facilities in Jurong Town, serving (1) the whole island (2) the district (3) the Taman Jurong Neighbourhood. Most of them are parks, scenic viewpoints and open spaces and besides, there are public assemblies, public and commercial amusement places, but there are seldom of beach and historical sites. The residents here, are quite active in public recreation, more than 50% of them take part in public recreation at least once a week. But their purposes of recreation are much passive, 55% of them aim at killing leisure hours or relax, their recreational activities are concentrating in those which need less energy or skill, not very costly and can easily be taken part in, such as to visit places of interests and commercial amusement.

When participating the activities and choosing places of recreation, the recreationists are much concerned with their own preference and their financial ability, besides, distance and transportation are of great consideration too. Apparently, there are two recreational action spaces created, one in Jurong Town which is within one mile radii from the centre of Taman Jurong, and the other one around Town Centre Area is of great opportunities of recreation. These are the results of recreationists' habitual travels and generally speaking, they are affected by the supply condition.

The Residents' recreational habits involve different types of recreational activities, frequency of activities, choice of sites and action spaces. They are influenced by the recreation opportunities, location and distribution of recreation facilities. Therefore, there is close relationship between the supply and demand of recreation. At the present situation, the supply of recreation facilities are not wholly fulfill the demand of the residents. Therefore, the present external recreational trips are being remained and the compliants of the residents are existing. To change this situation, the present unbalanced supply and demand relationship should be changed.
The demand of recreation is totally the reflection of recreational behaviour. Recreational activities and places of great varieties in Taman Jurong, and the recreational behaviour of the residents show the characteristics of their complexity and flexibility. But normally, there are habitual behaviours and different patterns of behaviour of those with different Socio-Economic backgrounds. The male and the young are more active than female and the old. Besides, there is a break at marriage. The nature of the activities of public recreation also varies in different classes. The students and the upper middle class who see the importance of recreation and with less money problems, have more leisure time, are the most active people. The lower class and the middle class, because they cannot afford the money to spend and because they have less leisure time, are less active. Finally, the housewives and the unemployed, who though have much leisure time, yet recreation seems unimportant to them. Therefore, they respond passively.

In short, the different social parameters of recreationists associated with the external physical factors, the factors of social contact conditions, and the physiological, psychological factors shape the different patterns of recreational behaviour.

The study of spatial behaviour plays an important part in understanding recreational behaviour. Recreational activities are always carry out with partners, with difference in time period and spatial movement.

The process of recreation movement in this case was generally started by the formation of motivation. Recreationists are motivated by stimulus, their own leisure and need, followed by planning. But in the study, there are 30% of recreationists who did not planned before they take part in. Those who have planned beforehand and their searching process of preferences plays an important part in choosing alternatives of destinations and activities through mainly their former experiences and informations. After the decisions made, these are followed by different types of trips. There are specific and diffuse trips, single trips as well as multiple trips with the variation of distances and different patterns of spatial linkages. In their journeys, 13% of the planned recreationists found intervening opportunities and random trips were present. However, habitual trips are still the dominating trips.

At the end of their trips, there are recollections of experiences through their recreational movements and when the recreationists learned and absorbed their experiences, their perception were created.

With the results of survey, the writer come to the conclusion that the future recreation behaviour will be much affected by the past experiences.

However, this exercise is only an elementary study of a complicated subject deals with public recreation, recreational behaviour which differ with individuals, time and space and these are closely related to the balance of supply and demand of recreation. If aiming at predicting the future condition, further studies have to be continuously carried out.