

A FUNDAMENTAL STUDY FOR RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY PLANNING: LEISURE ACTIVITY OF HOUSEWIVES AND CORRESPONDING LEISURE SPATIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Hwakyong Shin, Sangmyung University
Yeunsook Lee, Yonsei University

Leisure is an important aspect of modern life, due to people's changing lifestyles. However, Koreans have not experienced leisure programs and facilities until recently. It is expected that leisure will be more important in daily activities, and not just on special occasions, in the near future (Kim, 1993). For housewives, especially, leisure activities will be more important, as they have more personal time than they did in the past, because of fewer household duties. A phenomenon, which is on the increase. Housewives not employed outside the home live mainly in a residential environment. It is necessary, therefore, to find out the current leisure behavior characteristics of housewives, their desire for future activities, and the corresponding space and facilities necessary for both the present and the future.

While some leisure activities are not dependent upon physical setting, many require a special physical space and facilities. To best utilize leisure resources and facilities, Lee, et al. (1994) have recommended the shared space design within communities and within facilities in neighborhood environments. Considering this trend in building and community planning, will improve the community's quality of life.

The purpose of this study was to find out housewives' leisure behavior and its corresponding spatial characteristics. The study was aimed at producing useful implications for leisure facilities in neighborhood environments, especially at illustrating the benefits of residential community planning on shared spaces for leisure activities.

The subjects of this study were housewives not employed outside the home, living in the capital region. Data were collected from Feb. 17, 1995 through March 14, 1995 by questionnaire survey. This study used 301 subjects. Analysis included frequency, percentage, χ^2 - test, and the MDS (Multi-Dimensional Scale) analysis using the SAS package.

The average daily amount of leisure time was 3.4 hours, and the distribution of leisure time was relatively scattered. Profiles of both present and desired future leisure life were found. In general, present leisure behavioral characteristics were restrictive and passive. However, respondents desired to increase their everyday leisure activities and to engage in diverse forms of both passive and active leisure in the future. They hoped especially to participate in physical and creative behaviors. Generally higher participation rates were found in the desired category than in the present situation. Most of the respondents, desired to spend more time on activities needing facilities, such as indoor sports, swimming, aerobics, etc., although they currently spent little time at activities requiring facilities.

To grasp the spatial characteristics corresponding to specific leisure behaviors, the location of leisure activities was investigated using range category. The spatial characteristics of both present and desired future leisure activities were identified. In general, present leisure activities took place either within the home or beyond 30 min. driving distance from the home. In the future, however, respondents preferred activities either at home, or within 30 min. walking distance. In particular, space and facilities for indoor sports, swimming, and aerobics within 30 min. walking distance were desired. Larger-scale facilities, and natural landscape settings, could be farther away.

This difference between current and desired spatial characteristics of corresponding leisure behaviors could be interpreted as being caused by the absence of available leisure facilities or the remoteness of present leisure facilities (Romsa & Hoffman, 1980; Hong, 1985). Therefore, it is necessary for leisure space and facilities to be easily accessible to residential environments to be utilized effectively within the limited available leisure time.

To identify characteristics of ideal spatial distribution of places of leisure activity, distance from one place to another were analyzed by MDS. The relative distance of each leisure facility was identified using a concentric circle with the house as the central figure. Ideally, respondents hoped to have an indoor sports complex and sports facilities, such as a swimming pool and tennis court near their houses. If possible, these facilities could be combined in one clustered area. As far as places for singing, for watching video, for computer gaming, and for drinking and gambling were concerned, the respondents wanted to keep a definite distance between their home environments and these places; the ideal distribution of these facilities was found to be scattered rather than clustered.

Leisure is becoming central to modern Korean life. Because of its under cultivation until now, leisure activities have not been well promoted. Since leisure activities and participation are increasingly expected in the near future, deliberate consideration should be given to leisure policy and program development to cope with this upcoming trend. To promote leisure behavior, it is necessary to develop leisure space and facilities. It is necessary that leisure space and facilities be easily accessible in residential environments, especially for housewives. Furthermore, since the desired spatial distributions of daily leisure activities are residential, a community space which accommodates various activities such as swimming, indoor sports, public bathing, and shopping, should be carefully planned from the beginning stage, especially in high-density urban areas.

The results of this study will be useful as fundamental data for the development of leisure facilities in a residential environment.

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