Assessing Elements of Walkability in Women’s Mobility

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Abstract – Inclusivity and equality elements in the context of women’s mobility has recently gained attention. This is due to the increased demands of women travelling with either private vehicles or public transportation. Inclusivity and equality planning is more than just providing women’s coaches, special pregnant women seats, and women-only lines in public transportation. Walkability, as one of the most important keywords for mobility, must be enhanced by excellent walking conditions and facilities that are inclusive and equal. In this context, walking for women often relates to the issue of safety and security in addition to accessibility and connectivity. This paper explains different groups of women with differing perceptions of safety reasons and security. We found a significant relationship between distance and nature of activity among women LRT users by assessing whether LRT stations in Malaysia demonstrate the elements of inclusivity and equality for women’s mobility in terms of walkability.

Keywords: Walkability, inclusive, equality, women’s mobility

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The urban lifestyle has changes the way we travel and especially the way we think about walking. Technology has simplified our daily lives, including the way we walk. Now, we have Segway, a two-wheeled battery powered electric vehicle, Travelator, a moving walkway, and many other evolving technologies related to ambulation. Walking is not just a part of human nature, but also a means of mobility that provides many benefits to physical and mental health. Walking serves as a means to consolidate relationships in a community through communication, and allows get-togethers on the street, helping create a liveable city. This is all possible with walking. Despite that, walking is now more difficult as there are is an increased use of private vehicles to move around due to comfort, practicality, weather, and perhaps status. Hence, our lives have become even more complicated, not just affecting the way we move and the way we think about walking, but also the way we plan for walking. Providing excellent walking conditions with superior pedestrian facilities are key elements in providing a walkable city. Land uses should be connected by transit, while pedestrian spaces should be wide and connected. Although more attention is needed in terms of connectivity, over the years Malaysia has leaped forward and developed.