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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STREETSCAPES AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES ON MAIN STREETS OF PUNE (CASE: F. C. ROAD AND TILAK ROAD)

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ABSTRACT

Streetscapes are part of our daily lives and their designs play an important role in our city experience. In fact, streetscape designs affect not only the appearance – but more importantly, the functionality of an urban environment. It creates an impact about the virtual image of the city. Through this paper we want to study the impact of streetscapes and surrounding environment on the mind of user. This study also encompasses the impact of streetscape visual elements and its surrounding on the physical and mental behavior of user.

We have done a sample study of two main streets of Pune city. For this study we have used the information, data collection and pedestrian interviews and visuals

KEY WORDS: *Landscape, Streetscape, Pedestrian*

PREFACE

In cities streets are acting as a connection between built and inbuilt spaces and while planning of the streets major importance is always given to vehicles and traffic. Many of the times cyclist and pedestrian are neglected. Streetscape is the term given to the collective appearance of all buildings, footpaths, gardens and landscaping along a street. The streetscape is the visual identity of a neighborhood. A streetscape that looks inviting is more likely to encourage people to live there, increasing market demand and property prices.

Most importantly, well-designed streetscapes encourage connection, understanding, and community spirit among residents. Attractive and functional streetscapes also increase residents' quality of life and there is a strong link between social connection, health, and wellbeing. Such streetscapes can provide a more conducive environment for children to safely enjoy a degree of independent mobility and allow older people to retain independence.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Development of the visual image of cities by highlighting the importance of sustainable streetscape to provide an attractive and safe urban environment for all categories of users.
- Identify the main principles that should be considered to define sustainable streetscape.
- To reach sustainable urban design through the achievement of environmental efficiency and economic operations of streetscape.

NEED OF STUDY

City is growing in all possible direction and to cater this growth roads are supposed to be developed. Citizens want to have their streets to be used not only for commuting but also for recreation, walking plaza, small sit outs, pathways, cycling tracks, gardens, landscape and many other activities. Due to which to check the impact of city streets on surrounding locality and users this study is carried out. Research includes case study of two different streets and public interviews for different time and period.

UNDERSTANDING GOOD STREETSCAPE DESIGN

Here are the most important things to consider when designing a streetscape:

- **Ease of accessibility –** A great design must allow for the ease of navigation and movement to provide access to the desired location.
- **The separation between vehicles and pedestrians –** Trees, low vegetation, planters, bollards or other elements provide effective dividers for all users.
- **Safety –** As mentioned above, having separation is crucial to offer shelter. Moreover, crosswalks and parking spaces with visible signs, proper accessible spaces and curbs are big contributors to safety as well.
- **Space for lounging –** There must be seats where people can relax and interact along the street.
- **Preserve the scenery –** People should be able to view buildings, businesses or points of interest from the streets. This is critical for business success, especially in retail areas.
- **Landscaping –** A good streetscape design for pedestrians uses low landscaping at a maximum of 18-24" tall with trees maintained at 6' or above while keeping the middle area clear. This maintains views and ensures safety.
- **Distinct design –** A unique space can be created with materials, brick paving, and signage, lighting, landscape, markings, and art pieces or even with trees to provide a sense of originality.

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IMPORTANCE OF STREETSCAPE:

- Streetscape is how the buildings, gardens, paths and road work together to create the 'look and feel' of a street.
- A streetscape that looks inviting can increase market demand and property prices.
- it provides safety and well accessibility for users
- Well-designed streetscapes also encourage connection, friendship, and community spirit among residents, which in turn can support higher levels of health and wellbeing.
- Aesthetic Design of urban roadways that provide visual appeal and safely accommodate diverse users and activities.
- Vibrant Centers of Activity for interaction and sense of community.
- Complete Streets Improvements and practices that safely accommodate travelers of all ages and abilities
- To encourage connection, avoid high fences and garage frontages and leave space in your front yard for casual interaction.
- Consider community projects to bring people together, such as verge gardening, street libraries, or the development of open spaces to support pocket neighborhoods.
- To provide shade and create visual and sound barrier
- To encourage physical and social activities
- To encourage a sense of civic pride comfort
- These are just some of the many factors to keep in mind when designing streetscapes.

SAMPLE STUDY

Pune is located in the state of Maharashtra. It is the second largest city in the state after Mumbai, and is an important city in terms of its economical and industrial growth. The city leads as the 'veritable heartland' of cultural Maharashtra. Pune also has made its mark as the educational epicenter winning itself the sobriquet, 'The Oxford of the East'. Not just that, it has a growing industrial hinterland, with information technology, engineering and automotive companies sprouting. The city is known for cultural activities like classical music, spirituality, theatre, sports, and literature. Pune is a pleasant travel getaway destination to spend a quiet holiday. We have done a sample study of two main streets of Pune city viz FC road and Tilak road for this study we have used the information, data collection and pedestrian interviews and visuals

A) Fergusson College Road (FC road)

One of the liveliest streets in Pune, Fergusson College Road is a youngster's delight. Located centrally in the ever-expanding city of Pune, FC Road is home to many of city's famous restaurants, street food joints, and street shopping areas. Proximity to the city's premier educational institutes (Fergusson College, BMCC, Apte College, and COEP) and city's residential areas means that this one-way road is always filled with youngsters eager to eat, shop, and hang out.

Neighbourhood up gradation plan: - F.C ROAD





Wide pathways along with proper landscaping





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Wide parking space, shop fronts with space for hawsers




Space for activities





A theme wall painting, pergolas and sit outs for groups






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OBSERVATIONS

- In the surrounding there are mixed residential commercial and public buildings
- There is proper parking facility inside buildings and on the road sides due to which traffic is organised
- The planning of streetscape is proper and disciplined. equal consideration is given to vehicles and pedestrians
- In morning time and evening time many youngsters and senior citizens came for walking, jogging and for exercise
- During day time and evening students, youngsters and seniors sits in groups for chatting, study, discussions and for enjoyment.
- Designed with wide and continuous footpaths, safe pedestrian crossings, separate cycle tracks where applicable
- Conveniently placed bus stops, clearly designated on-street parking
- Organized street vending and properly-scaled carriageways.
- Vendors have dedicated spaces
- Children play areas with rubberized soft flooring have been designed at regular intervals between the green buffers.
- Frontage of the shops spillover to the wide footpath, adding life to the street
- Better signage, street lighting and seating are other features.
- In the central and adjoining part of Café Good luck square many social activities and gatherings takes place, it also acts as platform for many artists to perform activities like drawing sketching singing playing music and for live performances.
- There is proper light arrangement in the evening and at night which adds beauty in the streetscapes and gives lovely ambience to the surrounding
- Footpaths are wide and are sufficient to accommodate pedestrians and other hawkers on road sides
- Road dividers are well painted with trimmed bushes and are properly maintained
- Footpaths are beautifully enhanced by landscaping considering vegetation, furniture, lighting, sculptures and sit outs.
- Regular maintenance and cleaning is done by Pune Municipal Corporation.
- Garbage bins are provided at regular intervals on path.
- Road side facility of toilet is available.

B) Tilak Road

Tilak road is an arterial road in the heart of Pune city. It's an iconic road by itself lined by old buildings on either side. Length of 1.5 kilometre and wide, handling a lot of traffic. Tilak road is home to many famous restaurants, street food joints, and street shopping areas and institutions. It also has famous Maharashtra mandal, Tilak Smarak Mandir and S P College due to which it is filled with students, families and kids.

Unplanned Footpath





Unplanned Footpath






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Unplanned bus stops and parking lots



No place in front of shops and road side



OBSERVATIONS

- The surrounding is crowded with mixed residential commercial and public buildings
- There is no proper parking facility inside buildings and on the road sides due to which traffic is unorganised
- Narrow and unpaved footpaths are difficult to access, unsafe pedestrian crossings.
- No proper bus stops and designated on-street parking
- Unorganized street vending and encroachment of shops on footpaths.
- Vendors don't have dedicated spaces
- No signage and street lighting and seating are other features
- Less parking place due to which many times footpaths are occupied by vehicles
- During day time and evening due to heavy traffic it's difficult to use footpaths and roads to access
- Because of less trees it is very hot and no shade is available
- Footpaths are average and basic
- There is no spill over space between footpaths and buildings due to which usability is hard.

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COMPARATIVE TABLE

Sr.	Comparison Element	FC road	Tilak road
1	Parking facility	Disciplined, Perfect and sufficient	Insufficient and non disciplined
2	Pedestrian footpaths	3.0 meters on both sides with proper plan and pavement	Very narrow and damaged
3	Road dividers	Proper with perfect demarcation	Not in place
4	landscaping	Proper with planned spaces	Not in place
5	signage	Suitable signage to indicate	Not in place
6	Sit out places and add on features	Many on spot as and where applicable	Not at all
7	Light	Sufficient even during night	Not adequate
8	Garbage bins	Available at regular intervals	Not available
9	maintenance	On daily basis up to the mark	Not up to the mark
10	cleanliness	Well maintained surrounding	Less maintained
11	Bus stops	Dedicates	Non dedicates
12	safety	safe	Not safe

CONCLUSION

- Through interviews it is noticed that beautiful surrounding of streetscapes evoke residents to come out in morning and evening which improves physical and mental health and makes them fit.
- Green cover and trees improves pollution level on roads and gives cool and soothing atmosphere.
- Big trees give shade which allows vendors and pedestrians to sit and relax.
- Garbage bins helps pedestrians to keep the area clean.
- Local residents are emphasizing on keeping surrounding clean and planned which will improve social life and safe life.
- The overall footfall of shops and commercial spaces is increased due to planned footpaths and parking.
- Families, kids and students are happy with hang out spaces.

FINDINGS

Streetscapes are the most important factor of city planning which plays an important role in creating a positive impact on impression of a city or a place. Street design must meet the needs of people walking, driving, cycling, and taking transit, all in a constrained space. The best street design also adds to the value of residences, businesses, offices, and institutes located along the roadway.

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