Factors Affecting the Urban Quality of Life of Residents in Trincomalee Urban Council, Special Reference to Sivapuri GND

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Abstract

Studies on Urban Quality of Life have been attracting lots of attention from various countries due to the deterioration of the urban environment and the decrease of the Urban Quality of Life. The main objective of this study is to examine the urban quality of life of residents in Trincomalee Urban Council, with special reference to Sivapuri GND. The sample for this study was chosen using purposive sampling approach. The sample size of the study is 150 participants, and the data was collected via a structured questionnaire survey. Findings revealed that overall satisfaction related to the urban quality of life is at a good level, however, attention should be paid to the improvement of specific life quality aspects, especially environmental sanitation and environmental quality. City planners and policymakers should take these variables into account when developing appropriate measurements and policies for the planning and development of high-quality urban life in Trincomalee Urban Council, with Special Reference to Sivapuri GND.

Introduction

Sustainable development is able to satisfy the requirements of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to achieve their own essentials (Mobaraki & Nikoofam, 2020). In this context, the quality of life in urban environments is a contentious topic that has been studied in multiple studies. It is based on both tangible and intangible aspects of human life and has become one of the most pressing issues in every society (Mobaraki & Nikoofam, 2020). Urban quality of life (UQOL) is an important topic, and a variety of assessment tools have been developed to evaluate and record it (Aldosary et al., 2021).Quality of Life (QOL) is an individual's view of their place in life in relation to their objectives, aspirations, standards, and worries. Standard measures of life quality include wealth, employment, the environment, physical and mental health, education, leisure activities, social connections, religious beliefs, safety, security, and freedom (Alwehab & Hussain, 2021). UQOL is the general well-being of urban dwellers and their societies, as well as the standard of living conditions (Aldosary et al., 2021). According to UNESCO, it encompasses material satisfaction of basic needs, moral satisfaction that accomplishes psychological compatibility, and objective conditions and subjective components.

The rapid growth of urbanization has resulted in a decline in life quality in many developing countries (Faraji et al., 2011). Sri Lanka is an Asian nation that is both emerging and developing (IMF, 2022). the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are closely related to QOL. An exploration of the UQOL of residents is necessary to ensure the sustainable development. Current

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knowledge about the UQOL is a question mark in Sri Lanka. Some studies have focused on the UQOLof Residents' idea in their countries' characteristics, but in Sri Lanka, few studies have focused on QOL from the perspective of the health sector and rural areas (Kamalarupan et al., 2021; Rait et al., 2019).

The study area, Sivapuri GND, is classified as an urban development area under UDA regulations because it is part of the Trincomalee Urban Council and has a population of 4259 people overall. (UDA, 2017; Weeraratne, 2016). Accordingly, this study will be discussed factors affecting the urban quality of life of residents in the Trincomalee Urban Council Area, with special reference to Sivapuri GND.

The Objective of the Study
The main objective is achieved through the following specific objectives.

- To identify the factors that determine the urban quality of life of residents through a comprehensive literature review.
- To analyze the existing status of the urban quality of life of residents.
- To make suggestions for improving the urban quality of life of residents.
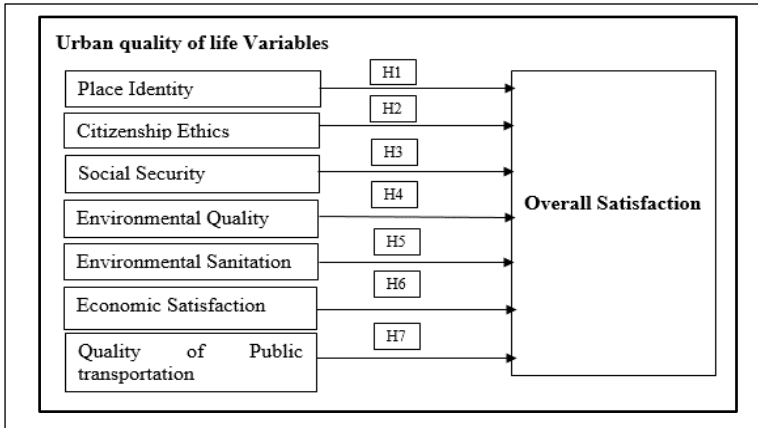
Literature Review
The literature review for this study focused on defining UQOL and identifying the main dimensions in research and country perspectives. QOL is "the extent to which an individual enjoys the important life possibilities, including improved standard of living and general welfare, as well as the feeling of being safe and satisfied with life (Abubakar & Muhammed, 2019, p.1). Further, QOL is defined as "the fulfillment in your life that comes from having good health, consolation, respectable relationship etc., instead of from money" (Elariane et al., 2013, p.87).

The UQOL is not a simple term that has a clear or an agreed definition but is a complex concept which might be defined by various disciplines. The term UQOL is not used to describe some physical features but to describe all the relationships, the dynamics, and the reticular relationship that exist between those physical features. Thus, the definition of UQOL is network and complex rather than linear and very elementary (Nour, 2018). QOL-evaluating studies also use axiomatic factors such as crime, poverty, social exclusion, loss of identity, environmental degradation and congestion, as well as less obvious issues such as the quality and accessibility of public space. These factors are considered to be essential for assessing UQOL (Alex et al., 2011).

Studies have used different factors to evaluate the UQOL. Accordingly, one of the study compare the QOL of Kocaeli is Turkey's most significant industrial cities to similar European cities. Subjective indicators of the UQOL are used to compare the opportunities they offer to their residents are job opportunities, housing costs, security, cleanliness of cities, public transportation, air pollution, and immigrant integration (Aktas et al., 2008). However, its UQOL does not correspond to this. (Aktas et al., 2008). Further, another study evaluated 38 QOL characteristics in Arak, Markazi province, Central Iran, and seven domains (place identification, citizenship ethics, social security, environmental quality, environmental cleanliness, and economic happiness) to understand the QOL in Arak was evaluated from a subjective perspective, and improvements were related to environmental sanitation and public transportation (Cividino et al., 2020). Schalock developed eight indexes to measure the QOL in a developing country, including psychological satisfaction, inter-personal relations, material security, personal growth, education, eligibility and function, physical happiness, and freedom to determine one's own destiny (Faraji et al., 2011). Further, a study analyzed UQOL by focusing on socio-economic, physical-environmental and mental indexes, revealing a significant socio-economic gap between different neighborhoods (Faraji et al., 2011). The objective QOL falls under nine categories of

indicators consisting of social, environmental, economic, physical, cultural, political characteristics, urban mobility, infrastructural indicators and demography. In addition , the visual characteristics and place identity or perception of urban space, also, social characteristics can define as subjective indicators in the case study Famagusta, N.Cyprus (Mobaraki & Nikoofam, 2020). Several analyses of the literature have identified domains that contribute to the UQOL. From a review of almost 5-10 papers, identified seven domains for the present study.

Figure 01: Conceptual Framework

Source: Author, (2022)

Based on the above-mentioned discussion following hypotheses are formulated,

H1: There is a significant relationship between place identity and overall satisfaction.
H2: There is a significant relationship between citizenship ethics and overall satisfaction.
H3: There is a significant relationship between social security and overall satisfaction.
H4: There is a significant relationship between environmental quality and overall satisfaction.
H5: There is a significant relationship between environmental sanitation and overall satisfaction.
H6: There is a significant relationship between economic satisfaction and overall satisfaction.
H7: There is a significant relationship between the quality of public transportation and overall satisfaction.

Table 01: Operationalization of the study's Variable

Variables	Indicators	Source
Place Identity	Inclination to leave the city, leisure time spent there, and attachment to the city attachment, safety in the home, satisfaction with the construction's quality, and satisfaction with home ownership	Cividino et al., 2020 Faraji et al., 2011 Aktas et al., 2008
Citizenship Ethics	Neighborhood financial support, quantity of neighbor interaction, level of civic engagement, level of duty for maintaining a clean and beautiful urban environment, level of accountability for city residents, level of responsibility for children and seniors,	Cividino et al., 2020 Kahraman & Orhan ,2017
Social Security	The degree to which one encounters wandering individuals and troubled children, the degree to which ladies and teenagers feel safe where they are, and the degree to which one feels safe in general	Cividino et al., 2020 Faraji et al., 2011 Kahraman & Orhan ,2017 Alex et al., 2011
Environmental Quality	The degree to which a pedestrian is satisfied, the degree to which night lighting is satisfied, the degree to which one is irritated by noises in open spaces, the degree to which one is satisfied with educational facilities, the degree to which one is satisfied with daily commutes to work, the degree to which one is satisfied with access to daily shopping, the degree to which one is irritated by pollution, the degree to which one is satisfied with green spaces, the degree to which one is satisfied with facilities for teenagers and children	Cividino et al., 2020 Kahraman & Orhan ,2017
Environmental Sanitation	Rat annoyance, satisfaction with the cleanliness and beauty of the city, satisfaction with the sewage system, and satisfaction with the quality of the health and sanitation services	Cividino et al., 2020
Economic Satisfaction	degree of job satisfaction, degree of job opportunity, degree of satisfaction with income and living expenses	Cividino et al., 2020 Alex et al., 2011
Quality of Public transportation	satisfaction with daily traffic, the feeling of safety when crossing streets, and the quality of public transit	Cividino et al., 2020 Faraji et al., 2011 Kahraman & Orhan ,2017

Source: Author, (2022)

Methods

Population and Sample:

The population of the study is the families who are living in the Trincomalee Urban Council Area, Sample was derived from Sivapuri GND and its population is 1099 families (Trincomalee DSD, 2019). The Sample size is 150 families.

Table 02: Data Collection and Analysis

Specific Objective(s)	Required Data and Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method
To identify the factors that determine the urban quality of life of residents through a comprehensive literature review.	Secondary Data – Literature review	Content Analysis
To analyze the existing status of the urban quality of life of residents.	Primary Data – Structured Questionnaire survey Secondary Data – Government publication & Public records	Descriptive Statistics and multiple regression analysis using SPSS
To make suggestions for improving the urban quality of life of residents.	Secondary Data – Journal article, Literature review	Content Analysis

Source: Author, (2022)

Results and Discussion

Table 03: Regression Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. The error in the Estimate
1	.904[a]	.817	.808	.45404

a. Predictors: (Constant), QPTQPT, CCC, PPP, ENSENS, SSS, ECSECS, EEQQ

Source: Author, (2022)

Table 03 shows that the R^2 value explains 80.8% of the variance in overall satisfaction. Seven variables stand out when evaluating information content variables that influence overall satisfaction. Even if the R-squared value is more significant than 0.5 (0.817 > 0.5), the high model fitness level provides a foundation for future research.

Table 04: Analysis of Variance

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	129.641	7	18.520	89.838	.000[b]
	Residual	29.067	141	.206		
	Total	158.708	148			

a. Dependent Variable: OSOS

b. Predictors: (Constant), QPTQPT, CCC, PPP, ENSENS, SSS, ECSECS, EEQQ

Source: Author, (2022)

The information in Table 04 provides insights into the effectiveness of the regression model in explaining the variation in the dependent variable. The statistically significant F-value suggests that the predictors included in the model have a significant impact on the dependent variable.

Table 05: Coefficients Analysis

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.434	.297		1.458	.147
	PPP	.007	.065	.005	.112	.011
	CCC	1.222	.357	.809	3.419	.001
	SSS	.903	.055	.879	16.474	.000
	EEQQ	-1.296	.350	-.837	-3.702	.000
	ENSENS	-.244	.193	-.189	-1.266	.008
	ECSECS	.213	.196	.168	1.087	.009
	QPTQPT	.098	.062	.079	1.593	.013
a. Dependent Variable: OSOS						

Source: Author, (2022)

Table 05, presents the results of a regression analysis with the dependent variable "OSOS" and six predictors: PPP, CCC, SSS, EEQQ, ENSENS, ECSECS and QPTQPT. The significance levels of all the independent variables were below the 0.05. Thus, all null hypotheses can be rejected (p-value of 0.05), while all alternative hypotheses can be accepted.

Overall satisfaction is positively correlated with place identity (PPP), citizenship ethics (CCC), social security (SSS), economic satisfaction (ECSECS), and public transportation (QPTQPT), while environmental sanitation (ENSENS) is negatively correlated.

Further findings, show that Social Security (SSS) 0.879 and Citizenship Ethics (CCC) 0.809 have high impact on overall satisfaction and the two variables have a positive correlation. City planners and policymakers should take these variables into account when developing appropriate measurements and policies for the planning and development of high-quality urban life in Trincomalee Urban Council.

According to a prior study from a different nation, place identification had a significant positive impact on overall satisfaction, whereas environmental sanitation and public transportation had a negative effect (Cividino et al., 2020). However, due to the distinct cultural and lifestyle differences between our nation and other nations, our study has demonstrated that social security has a significant impact on overall satisfaction.

The various elements that impact the quality of life in cities need to be better understood by citizens, urban planners, and policymakers. As a result, our research offers them perspectives for a deeper understanding. This allowed the study to critically evaluate the data from a larger perspective, identify the elements influencing UQOL and city growth in the Trincomalee Urban Council zone, and establish the primary areas of examination for the study. In particular, this study made it feasible to understand the implications and, as a result, consider their applicability.

Conclusion
The purpose of the study is to examine the urban quality of life of residents in Trincomalee Urban Council, with special reference to Sivapuri GND. The study findings provide evidence of the substantial influence of Social Security on overall satisfaction. While overall satisfaction is

deemed satisfactory, it is imperative to focus on enhancing specific aspects of life quality, particularly environmental sanitation and environmental quality. So, the urban council and other government institutions should provide the services that related with the environment effectively.

The practical application of this study suggests that the Mayor of the city should consider the seven criteria when formulating any measures to enhance UQOL. It also provides perspectives for a deeper understanding of the elements influencing urban quality of life and city growth in the Trincomalee Urban Council zone. Urban planners can use the framework provided by this study to manage reference impacts in their development plans and regulations. In the planning policies to be developed for the sustainable development of the Trincomalee, policies aiming to increase the UQOL should be handled in a comprehensive approach, together with the policies for economic and social development of the urban area. A study on UQOL based on subjective remarks can help decision-makers comprehend the wants and needs of the neighborhood.

Future research must carefully consider larger sample sizes and target populations that are typical of the population to measure the relationships described above. Researchers can also empirically confirm the aforementioned connections in more depth for broader generalizability. Future research can look at other facts of UQOL of the people.

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