ORIGINAL ARTICLE

An Assessment of Public Awareness among Different Settlements of Bhopal towards Greenbelt Development

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ABSTRACT

To study awareness of greenbelt development in different social areas of Bhopal, a survey was carried in three different settlements of Bhopal, namely (i) Baghsavania an underdeveloped settlement residential area, (ii) BHEL ,a developed settlement Industrial area, (iii) Jahangirabad developed settlement Commercial area. During analysis it was found that underdeveloped settlements of Bhopal were less awared than developed settlements regarding greenbelt development. Among developed settlements it was Jahangirabad commercial area were found more towards greenbelt development than BHEL, an industrial area. The study for collecting data initiated from observation, interview, and discussion through our questionnaire. To accomplish the process, an intensive survey was carried in which direct interviews and discussions were made and were found very effective as for as awareness and desired goal towards greenbelt development was concerned. This method has been commenced only through personal interviews as it touches all sections of people in the field of study. During survey face to face interviews and discussions, a set of number of questions were filled on the spot after the proper interviewing of respondents, in the form of Yes/No options. Some respondents have even avoided these questions due to their shyness, hesitation and lack of interest and show a Neutral response
Key Words: - Biodiversity, Developed and Underdeveloped, Ecology, Greenbelt development, Respondents, Settlement.

INTRODUCTION

Greenbelt is defined as large greenways, usually located at urban suburb, filled with various vegetation. Concept of greenbelt was firstly proposed by Howard in 1890 in his famous book, "Garden of Tomarrow". Main functions of greenbelt is to improve ecological conditions, such as purifying atmospheric environment, regulating local microclimate, protecting water resource, restoring degenerate ecosystem and increasing biodiversity [1]. Greenbelt zone has been broadly three main categories of uses viz. agriculture and farming, forest and land regeneration and recreation. Their development is designed to promote biodiversity enhancement, environmental management, land regeneration and water management. Purification of air can be brought about by plantation of trees in cites. City life can be made more bearable by widespread planting of trees, which trap dust and effectively reduce atmospheric pollution; another advantage of trees is their ability to reduce intensity of noise. A multistage dense young forest reduces noise per meter 0.16dB [2].Worldwide cities tend to improve their environment. Improvement of environment includes reduction of pollution (both atmospheric and noise), reduction of stress and beautification of the cityscape. Atmospheric pollution is one of the problems in the urban life. Combating atmospheric pollution requires two-pronged approach. On one side we need to reduce the emission of pollutants and another side we ought to keep trying to purify the air.

Greenery in city helps overcome stress of urban life. Trees bring back a certain harmony to urban environment and therefore play a vital role in psychological health of urban dwellers [3]. Greenery is main source of enjoyment, which reflects towards importance of plants in improvement of environment, people also highlighted role of parks in improvement in quality of life [4]. Quality of urban environment depends largely on amount and quality of green space [5] sated that roads with trees looks more stable and prosperous and beast up neighborhood property.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bhopal city is capital of Madhya Pradesh (India).Besides excellent location of Bhopal; city is blessed with beautiful landscapes, busy commercial centers, peaceful residential areas and historical monuments. Geographical location of Bhopal City lies within North latitude 23° 16' and east longitude 77° 36'.Bhopal has a humid- subtropical climate, with mild, dry winters, a hot summer and a humid monsoon.

Present study was conducted in Bhopal city in three different social areas.i.e

1. Baghsavania:-It is an underdeveloped residential settlement of Bhopal and is our first area of study. It is a densely populated and seems to be a slum area. There is no any sort of green cover in the area, in spite of availability of plenty of wasteland.

2. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL):- This is an industrial developed settlement of Bhopal and is our second area of study. BHEL is largest engineering and manufacturing enterprise in India in terms of energy. In BHEL, plenty of space has been found under parks, or aesthetic and woody plants.

3. Jahangirabad:-This is a commercial developed settlement of Bhopal and remained third area of our study. Few public parks and ornamental vegetation could be found where people love to go in morning and evening sessions to achieve relief from heat waves of day and in search of to get refreshment from calm fresh air waves.

Every research process needs a proper design, which should be appropriate and suitable for a particular work. Study is based on to know public interest and awareness towards greenbelt development and so to record response of public Yes/No options as per questionnaire. Another group of respondents did not show any response towards greenbelt development and their response was treated as Neutral. Way of collecting data initiates from observation, interview and discussions. Most and reasonable method of collecting data was to do survey.
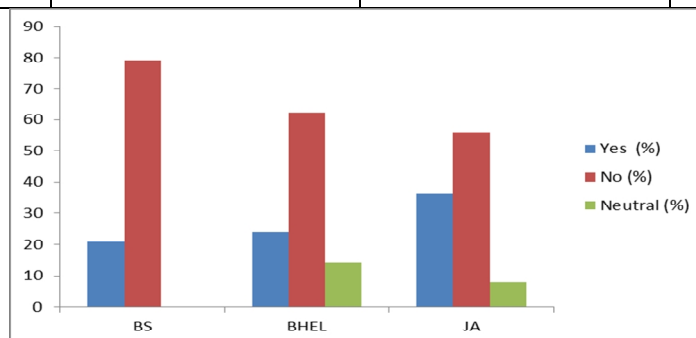
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Upon analysis it is clear now that awareness among respondents of developed settlements of Bhopal were comparatively found more towards development of greenbelt than underdeveloped settlement of Bhopal as shown in table (a) and Fig (a),which linearly decreases from Jahangirabad, BHEL and to Baghsavania. It is evident from table that 20.74%, 23.94% and 36.13% of total respondents from Baghsavania, BHEL and Jahangirabad respectively have enough awareness regarding greenbelt development and are in favour of greenbelts. While 79.25%, 62.06% and 55.97% of total respondents from Baghsavania, BHEL and Jahangirabad respectively are against the greenbelt development. Reason for behind this was found simply lack of awareness regarding importance of greenbelts. Another group of respondents14.04% and 7.88% from BHEL and Jahangirabad respectively showed lack of interest towards such movements and try to avoid interviews and discussions because of their shyness, hesitation and lack of interest

Majority of respondents during the survey also demanded, that there should be evergreen plants in the green spaces. They also suggested that there should be green spaces along the roads too. Since majority of respondents respond negatively to the said queries however they demanded such movement to be proliferated to aware the people regarding the importance of greenbelt development. They reiterated that lack of interest among people is the result of lack of awareness and lack of such beautiful movements.

Table a). Shows awareness of respondents in all the three study areas of Bhopal towards the importance of greenbelt development.

Response	BS	BHEL	JA
Yes (%)	20.74	23.94	36.13
No (%)	79.25	62.06	55.97
Neutral (%)	00.00	14.04	07.88

Fig a); Shows graphically the awareness among the respondents in all the three study areas of Bhopal towards the importance of greenbelt development.

Where; BS represents Baghsavania; BHEL represents Bharat Heavy electrical Limited; JB represents Jahangirabad

CONCLUSION
The research takes an overview of Assessment of public Awareness towards Greenbelt Development from Underdeveloped and Developed settlements of Bhopal in the three regions of Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) India, which includes Baghsavania (an underdeveloped residential settlement),BHEL (a developed industrial settlement) and Jahangirabad (another developed but commercial settlement).In which direct face-to-face discussions ,interviews were held   during the survey and so result was prepared after analysis.
It is an universal fact that every person wants to remain with beauty of nature that certainly comes from different greenbelt covers, as it makes a man peaceful, calm and provides assort of spirit to live life happily. But in spite of all these perceptions, man is continuously disrupting the nature's wealth without sensing that it might create havoc in near future. Our study was based on to sensitize the people towards the importance of greenbelt development and to records awareness of people of Bhopal towards tree plantation. During survey and after analysis, it was concluded that;
1. Majority of respondents from all the three study areas were found against the greenbelt development. The reason found was only lack of their awareness towards greenbelt development.
2. Awareness towards greenbelt development decreases linearly from developed to underdeveloped settlements of Bhopal. Awareness was found comparatively more in Jahangirabad than BHEL which are two developed settlements of Bhopal, while people of Baghsavania an underdeveloped settlement of Bhopal were found less aware

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