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CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION

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The prime aim of the study was to investigate on what environmental features the local city residents evaluate their cities. Due to the time constraint and other practical impossibilities, it was planned only to examine this aspect only of one selected city. Kandy was selected for the study by its variedness of environmental features compared to other local cities. It was assumed that the public evaluative image of a particular city reflects the likable and dislikeable environmental features that are considered by its inhabitants. The nature of the public evaluative image of Kandy was examined by investigating the likable places and dislikeable places of its inhabitants. This was done by questioning fifty selected residents who have spent more than ten years in the city and very familiar with the city environment. When selecting samples it was only considered the familiarity with the city. Their social, cultural and factors such as educational level, age, sex, ethnicity, religion of residents were not considered as deciding factors for the selection.

It was assumed that when evaluating the city, people refer to the image of the entire city as well as the images of certain places, buildings and elements of the city. Since it was mentioned by various scholars that the images are result of certain attributes of a city, as an initial step of the study, attributes of the city of Kandy, that help to make images in residents' minds of Kandy were briefly examined in terms of distinctiveness of physical form, visibility, use and significance of both city and its elements. It was revealed that similar to other cities, Kandy has a distinctive Physical form. Physical forms of most of the buildings have certain similarities as a result of the building regulations that are maintained by the Urban Development Authority. But innumerable differences were identified as a result of various intensity levels in movement, contour, size, shape, surface, quality and signs. Further various segments and elements of the city have various intensity levels in visibility, use and significance.

The next step was to conduct a research in order to identify the environmental features of Kandy city that are considered by the residents commonly in evaluating the image of the city. The first question was asked to obtain two types of data which were essential for the research study. It was firstly to identify the positive ness or the

negativeness of the overall evaluative image and then to identify the most prominent environmental feature, which they consider in evaluating the image of Kandy.

In order to further investigate the likeable and dislikeable environmental features, which the city residents are used in evaluating the city, it was planned to ask two more questions. Two questions were to name five or more places they like most and two name five or more or less dislike places. Reasons for likeness and dislike of each place were then examined. In order to obtain the public evaluative image of Kandy according to the residents questioned, the likable places and dislikeable places were marked on two separate maps. After that the two maps were combined with the intention of obtaining the public evaluative image of Kandy. Observing this map revealed that some of the places were mentioned as likable places by the majority while some of other places were just mentioned by one or two residents. Similarly some places were rejected and vehemently criticized by the majority and several places were just mentioned by few residents as dislikeable places. Contrast to this few of the places mentioned as dislikeable places were mentioned as likeable places by some other residents and vice versa.



More residents were proud of their living city for its world famousness. They talked much about the historically memorable places and several monuments that represent various periods of history. Most of the likeable places in such cases were based on the historical values. It was revealed that the 'historical significance of the city', which was cited by Nassar (1997), as one of the likeable features that considered by residents of a city in evaluating the city image, is similar in this context. For several people Kandy was a city with full of natural elements including green forests, Water bodies, sceneries, etc. Though it was evident that considerable amount of evaluations were based on a certain likeable feature of the environment, which is mentioned by Nassar (1997) as naturalness. Some of the residents preferred the politeness of the city and named the places which encourage them in day to day and recreational activities. They talked much about public and gathering places of the city, that supports the social interaction of the community. For considerable number of residents Kandy was as an assembly of facilities, which, could be easily benefited through comparatively less effort. It could be argued that they have evaluated the city image in terms of a seeming regularity and this is similar to another environmental feature cited by Nassar

(1997) which is referred to as 'Order'. Some of the answers were based on comparisons with other local cities. They were impressed about the less density of High rise buildings, availability of open public spaces which are enriched by trees and other natural environments, compared to other local cities. Though, it is obvious that some of the residents have evaluated the city with reference to 'openness', which is another likeable feature cited by Nassar (1997).

Above all the factors mentioned, majority of the residents justified their like ness of the city in terms of the inherent 'religious nesses. For almost every resident questioned the city was prominently a sacred place than all the other factors. Most of them talked much about the Temple of Tooth and its premises and other religious establishments of the city. Though, it could be argued that the religious atmosphere created partly by sacred places and their architecture and partly contributed by the unique ness of the physical form of the city have given a unique environmental feature to the city. When investigating the nature of the likeable places of the evaluative image, it was realized that people have preferably selected religious places than other places.



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Most of the dislikeable places were highly functional areas of the city. Good Shed Bus stand was a highly dislikeable place to almost every resident questioned. It could be noticed that the place possess a high movement appearance for its busyness and high congestion. Although it possesses a high visibility and high use intensity people criticized the place because of its polluted environment, busy ness and the less discipline. It is revealed that the dislike ness in this case has occurred through the less order, polite ness, and natural ness of the environment. Other disliked places had similar environmental features except in the case of Bogambara Prison. People criticized it not because of a certain environmental feature as such, but its location. The attitude of the majority was that high visibility of this element may not suitable for a sacred city like Kandy or it disturbs the 'religiousness' of the city environment.

However the analysis of collected data revealed that there are similarities between the environmental features that Kandyan people consider for the evaluation of their image of the city with that of established frameworks of European experiences. But the

inherent 'religiousness' of the environment seems to be the prime environmental feature that people consider when evaluating the City of Kandy.

The study established the broad base framework of likeable environmental features adopted specially by Nassar (1997). More importantly it proved that depending on the case there could be other likeable features that gets added to this broad base framework. For instance in Kandy the overriding likeable feature was its religiousness.

Importance of the research for Architects, planners and Decision makers

For architects, planners and decision makers, the study has given an important insight; while they could use the already established theories and principles as an initial guide, the said theories and principles should always be "testified" in the application of any given context. For that, it is necessary for architects to re align themselves to be more people centered, with the view to get the perception and thus the evaluative image of their cities. A solution based on such an approach would be much more "socially acceptable". This particularly relevant in the present architectural solutions as the rate of their rejection, by the city residents are on a significant increase.

Areas for Future Research

Through the research it was only investigated the environmental features that the residents of Kandy use when evaluating the city images. This was investigated through the observation of the public evaluative image of only fifty selected residents. The public evaluative image may vary with the number of samples. Though, possibility exists to obtain a more specific public evaluative image of Kandy by questioning more people of the city.

It is obvious that environmental evaluation has a cultural variability. Since the Kandyan society is multi cultural the degree of the consideration of several environmental features for evaluating the city image may significantly vary between different, ethnic, religious, cultural, and age groups. Though, possibility exists for a

future researcher to investigate the cultural variability of the 'Evaluative Image of Kandy city'.

Kandy is different to other local cities for its uniqueness of physical form, historical significance and other such factors. Though, the findings may not possible to generalize to other local cities. Therefore further studies may lead to investigate the nature of the public Evaluative image of other local cities. These findings may help to come to a conclusion of establishing the environmental features of which the local city resident evaluates their cities.

The study concentrated only one selected city of the local context. The aim was to identify the environmental features which the Kandyan resident consider when evaluating their living environment. It is obvious that findings of the research is not fair to generalize to all the local cities, as the City of Kandy is unique for its world heritageness, and form .One may argue that selecting Kandy for the study is in vain. But the idea was to select a local city which is an integration of all the environmental features such as historical significance, civility, order, openness, etc, which were cited by Nassar (1997). However similar studies could be carried out in order to investigate the nature of the public evaluative image of other cities of the local context.

It was found that, the residents of Kandy mainly evaluate their city in terms of religiousness of the environment. Since this finding is an outcome of the research it was impossible to investigate the attributes of the city and its elements, which give the sense of 'religiousness'. Thus possibility exists for a future researcher to conduct a research under the topic of 'The attributes of Kandy City and its elements that give the sense of Religiousness'.



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