

Assessing the Age Friendliness of Waterfront Open Spaces: The Case of Kwun Tong Promenade

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Introduction

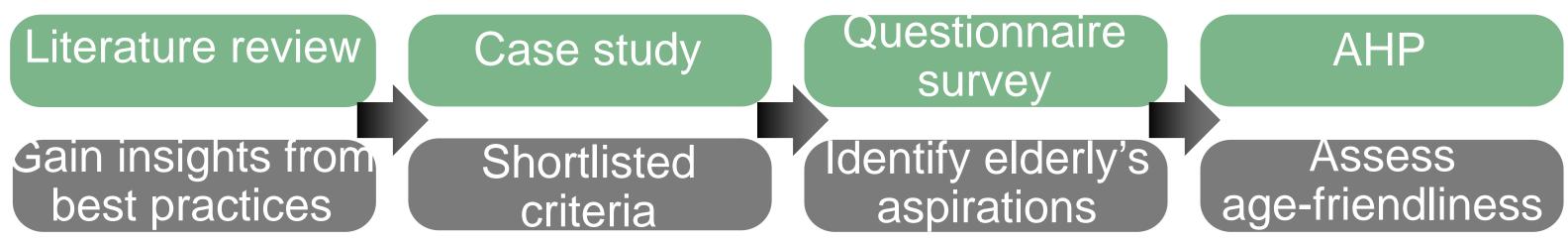
- The ageing population of Hong Kong is projected to reach 36% by 2046. It highlights the importance of creating an age-friendly environment.
- While Hong Kong 2030+ proposes incorporating the WHO's age-friendly guidelines, it fails to address essential elements e.g. social networks.
- Existing initiatives mainly target residential developments, neglecting social needs and the impact of urbanization on open spaces.
- Despite research on green spaces, age friendliness of waterfront open space (WOS) remains overlooked.
- It endéavours to assess if age friendliness of WOS meets the social needs of the elderly in active ageing.

Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

- 1.To review the criteria for planning and designing agefriendly WOS in Hong Kong;
- 2.To analyse the planning and design criteria through identifying the key attributes to construct a hierarchy; and
- 3.To apply the analytic hierarchy process (AHP) for examining the age friendliness of elderly experiencing the Kwun Tong Promenade.

Research Methodology



Findings and Discussions Pair-wise comparison in AHP Shortlisted attributes from literature On-site questionnaire survey **Demographic characteristics** Level Goa Relative importance of attributes Age-friendly Environment of Waterfront Open Space 19/3/2024 7/3/2024 Total 12.8% Branch Physical setting Gender 14.6% Planning and Design Criteria 3 (38%) 10 (50%) 7 (58%) Community features Male 10.3% 5 (62%) 10 (50%) 5 (42%) Female 10.2% **P4** Transport, directions Level 2 Category Age (Years) ntes PG PG 9.9% Transport, directions and mobility Physical Community 1 (12%) 4 (20%) 3 (25%) 16.9% 65-69 (Y-O) and mobility setting features 7 (88%) 13 (65%) 6 (50%) 25.3% 70-79 (M-O) Attrib C1 C2 0 (0%) 3 (15%) 3 (25%) 15.8% ≥ 80 (O-O) Walkways & Community life Clean & pleasant 26.7% **Education level** cycle paths (T1) facilities, services and environment (P1) 16.6% 2 (17%) 5 (62%) 7 (35%) public toilets (C1) Primary 3 (38%) 12 (60%) 41.0% 9 (75%) C4 Secondary Pavements & roads; 6.7% Access to 1 (8%) 0 (0%) 1 (5%) safe pedestrian Post-secondary Privacy (C2) nature and 12.0% crossings (T2) T2 **Total participants** landscape (P2) 11.3% % of visit frequency Age distribution 19.7% Proximity of the T4 Outdoor Accessibility (T3) home block and its 15.6% 10% T5 Level 3 Attributes 15% seating/urban Weighted neighborhood 20% T6 furniture/ spatial amenities (C3) average setting (P3) 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 Access to public in % transportation & Safety outside Age friendliness of Secure infrastructure (T4) home (C4) environment (P4) **Kwun Tong Promenade** 90% 65% Unconstrained Physical setting Relationship to ___ Y-O legibility (T5) 100% culture and M-O 70-79 ≥ 80 > 5 h / week 1-5 h / week 80% history (P5) 0-0 60% Mobility (T6) Major social needs Perception to age 40% Sufficient for active ageing 20% friendliness maintenance & management (P6) Community 5% 5% Overall 10% 15% 10% features Adequate lighting (P7) 5% **Remarks:** 25% 10% Under each category, individual attribute is denoted by Pn, Cn and Tn. 25% Transport, directions and mobility Where -1.P = Physical setting, C = Community features, and T = Transport, directions and mobility; 40% Justifications for the outcomes 20% 10% 10%5% 2.n = the vertical order of the attributes numbering from top For all age cohorts to bottom. poorly maintained waterfront boardwalk healthy lifestyles social interaction inadequate provisions of elderly fitness a sense of belonging and reduce social isolation pet-friendly spaces promote companionship and reduce stress facilities and shaded planting areas health & wellness programs relaxation and serenity For M-O and O-O nature appreciation mental and emotional well-being inadequate provisions of social recreation and leisure inter-generational connections interaction opportunities space and facilities for inadequate and monotonous recreation facilities **Overall** exercise and fitness physical and mental well-being • Is Kwun Tong Promenade age-friendly? unobstructed and scenic seaview

Recommendations

Short-to-medium term

- physical settings
 - o sufficiently provide shaded planting areas
- community activities
 - allocate resources for community outreach activities
- transport, directions and mobility
 - well-planned boardwalk to reduce maintenance

Long term

- senior engagement in co-design
- encourage social participation

打卡點 與計劃 Chack Point

Fig.1 "The Evergreen" Award Scheme

Conclusions

Implications

- develop an AHP method to assess the age friendliness of Kwun Tong Promenade
- fill gap between planned criteria & actual needs
- flexibly applied to other promenades

Limitations of research study

- limited sample size
- elderly unable to access are excluded
- non-built environment attributes are excluded

Member of **₹TC** Group