Atefeh Mortazavi

Gender-sensitive Public Space Planning
Women participatory approach in urban planning
Case study of Sätra - Stockholm

CFP Report 2020:1

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The Centre for the Future of Places

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Introduction

Urbanization in our contemporary world is growing rapidly, and it has many challenges such as socio-economic inequalities, exclusion, and segregation. Women and young girls have a unique experience in urban areas that is different from the other group of men, and this affects the way of using public spaces differently. Since women and men experience cities in different ways, different individuals encounter different types of needs in their daily life. However, the gender-specific needs of women and young girls remain unanswered in urban development. While cities are growing up and this growth is coupled with the development of industry, technology, and economy, urban planning and design have faced many inequalities and exclusions. Historically, public spaces have been designed by men and without hearing the voice of women and understanding of their daily needs. As a result, urban spaces are largely dominated by men. By ignoring women's perspective in urban planning and design, public spaces are shaped without a true understanding of women's interests.

The lack of gender-sensitive urban planning results a limited access of women to public spaces, and less mobility in it. Such public spaces not only are filled with different barriers for the presence of women but also increase gender discrimination in cities over time. By excluding women and young girls from political and socio-economic participation, they can not participate in community buildings and urban
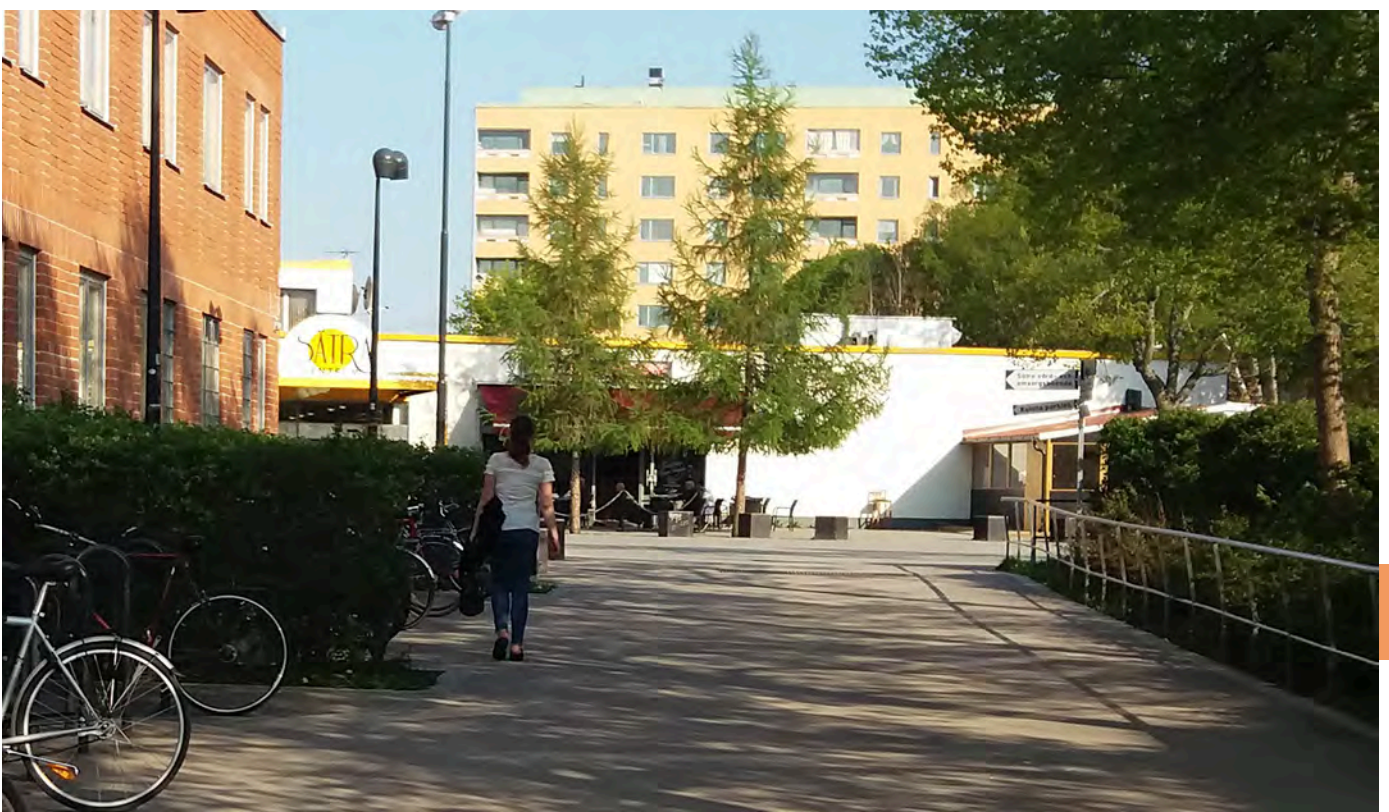
interactions, and this lead to greater inequality and segregation in the larger context of urban development. This kind of urban planning and design does not move toward an equal and sustainable city for all people. Urban planning with gender studies provides the assurances of equalities and inclusion in urban space. This joint work toward gender quality considers women as an important part of policies and decision making in urban planning projects. Gender-sensitive urban planning with further attention to women, young girls and marginalized group of people tries to respond to the diversity of needs to reach gender-equality in cities.

Gender equality is a human right and a fundamental requirement for an inclusive community and justice. By achieving gender equality, we can get sustainable economic growth, justice, and inclusion in our shared society. Gender equality (the new urban agenda, SDG 5) is also one of the Urban Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development SDGs, and it considers the centrality of gender in urban policies. The practice focuses more on women's participation in decision making to cope with gender inequality in cities and communities.

Equality between men and women forms an important part of a sustainable city with real democratic local decision-making. National and local authorities must be aware of the importance of gender-sensitive urban planning. This approach ensures that planning is equitable, and women, men, girls, and boys can equally contribute to and benefit from urban development.

Man-dominated public space in Sätra, Stockholm. Certain spaces have been associated with certain forms of speech by different groups of men or young boys.
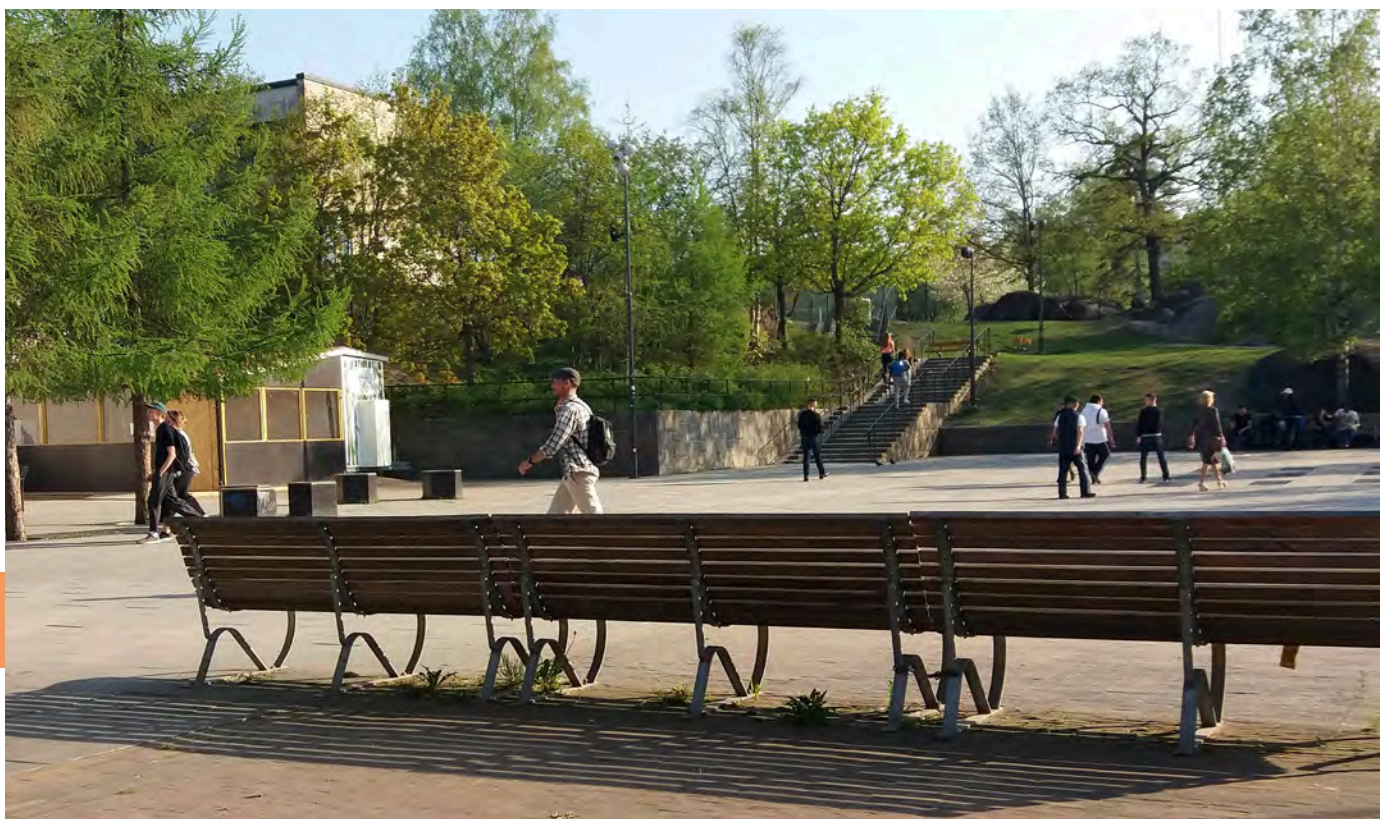
Urban planning as a part urban management system influenced by policies from local governments. This shows the central role of local authorities in creating equal urban environments for women and men irrespective of their cultural backgrounds, ages and ethnic differences.

Local governments need to recognize gender-related challenges and various kinds of needs and experiences based on gender issues in cities. In other word, it feels necessary to have an accurate knowledge of the existing problem with greater gender-sensitive urban policies to address existing problems. Only in this way, the diverse needs of all people including women and young girls can be seen and integrated into urban planning. This enables us to turn our cities into a more inclusive, vibrant and sustainable living place with various social and economic benefits.

This paper examines gender-related challenges in urban public spaces in Sweden with a special focus on the case study of Sätra. With the approach of women's participatory urban planning, women with different ethnic backgrounds considered as an effective group of people in the process of decision-making. The research looks for practical ways to develop gender awareness among women, and empower women in cities to contribute to participatory urban planning. By following the topics on feminist urban planning theories, women participatory methods in urban planning, and the study on successful and relevant case studies, this work gives practical recommendations to increase awareness of gender studies in urban planning and to achieve gender equality in cities.

The design of the public space requires more attention to the needs of women and young girls.

Understanding Gender

Why gender matters?

Until the 1960s, 'gender' was used solely to refer to masculine and feminine words (Nicholson, 1994) and Simone de Beauvoir formulated it as the socially produced roles for women and men. To make a theoretical sense, psychologist Robert Stoller separated the terms sex and gender. In his point of view, 'sex' identifies the biological differences between females and males, and 'gender' is the feature of femininity and masculinity of a person (Stoller, 1968). Gale Rubbin as a feminist uses the 'sex/gender system' in order to distinguish sex and gender, and long with psychologists, he explains gender as the "socially imposed division of the sexes" (Rubbin, 1975). Sociologists west and Zimmerman explain gender as the result of social arrangements and "the product of social doings" not a setoff role in a society (West & Zimmerman, 1991).

Since women and men differ in their activities in every society, the term gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, positions, and responsibilities. This clarifies how women and men depend on, and contribute to daily activities (Beall, 1996). Women and men are different in their gender relations, and this represents the complexity of gender analysis. For instance, in a non-homogeneous group of women, there are different categories of women including mothers, elderly women, young girls and teenagers, and each group is associated with

Different uses of the public space with different groups of people.

Gender analysis

various kinds of activities. Some women engage in household works, some workout and some others are responsible for the upbringing, and care of children (Mortazavi, 2018).

Gender analysis as a comparative analysis of the roles and responsibilities between women and men intends to indicate the gender division by highlighting inequalities in a given context (Gochhait, 2014). The importance of gender analysis in the process of cooperation is mentioned by the International Training Centre of the International Labor Organization in 2009, UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in 2012, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in 2015 (ITC/ILO, 2009), (UN-Habitat, 2012), (SIDA, 2015). By considering gender analysis as a starting point of cooperation, it is possible to come up with differences between and among women, men, boys and girls through gender analysis. It provides information about the relationship between people, opportunities and resources, and try to find the ways to address the problem of gender inequalities in the process of decision making in participatory urban planning and development (SIDA, 2015). ITC/ILO by considering gender analysis as a systematic attempt tried to tackle gender inequalities in urban contexts. Gender analysis is defined as 'the study of differences between women and men in their assigned gender roles, their needs, participation rates, conditions, control of assets, decision-making powers, access to resources and development, etc' (ITC/ILO, 2009). To extend more, gender analysis is a method of

Working on gender analysis during a workshop with women and young girls in Sätra.

assessing the differences in the lives of women and men, and investigating the impact of policies, programs and services on it.

Gender analysis by providing a valuable framework can offer tools for integrating women as well as men into urban planning. Having a framework toward gender equality can promote diversity in cities. Also, gender analysis by advocating equality between women and men in urban planning and design leads to a greater institutional change (UN-Habitat, 2012). It helps developers by meeting the current needs of various groups of people and finding the causes of inequalities in a given context, propose effective solutions for a more equal urban environment.

According to the definitions provided,gender analysis gender equality means:

- Advocating the right of women in cities by paying more attention to their everyday needs, hearing their voices, and empowering them to be more active in their public life.
- Finding the cause of inequalities in the use of urban public spaces and providing measurements to cope with certain problems.
- Considering the way of design and plan of public space to see how it affects the presence of women and men.
- Look at the differences between the needs of women and men in different scales in urban environments.
- Providing a rich backbone for further recommendations and policies to reduce gender inequality and discrimination in cities.

Analysis of different alternative ways to change the design of the centrum, and promote it to a pleasant place for women.

Gender and Urban Planning

Historically, spaces have been designed by following and perpetuating gender roles in society, and public space has been linked more to men. Public activities within urban public spaces like paid work, leisure, or political life have been more related to men than women. At the same time, private spaces like inside the home have been identified with women to do complete domestic chores and take care of other people. The division of spaces shows a different way to value people and activities carried out by each person. It is attributing a higher value to masculine and public activities, and devaluing the tasks related to the care of other people and the home that most women continue to be responsible (Beall and Todes, 2004).

The topic of gender and urban planning has been growing up from the 19th century and most works of literature in this area have been focused on women's needs, interests and experiences in the urban environment (Beall and Todes, 2004). Although kinds of literature on gender and urban planning are growing up, there is still a lack of knowledge about gender analysis and its relation to urban planning that means less awareness of how different groups of women and men use public spaces (Malaza, Todes, & Williamso, 2009). For instance, in 2002, only the technical issues were the most important matter for many urban planners in the process of planning (Reeves, 2002).

One important thing that negatively affects the result of plans and strategies, and lowers the possibility of achieving inclusive welfare for individuals is not paying attention to gender studies in the process of city planning. Urban planning with a gender perspective leads programs and any relevant practices to sensitive decisions and measures (Ziber, Damyanovic, & Sturm, 2019).

Gender sensitive urban planning

According to the importance of gender studies in the urban planning process, Beall considers a gender-sensitive approach as an essential part of each sustainable urban governance, and as an effective way of creating an equal city. Since women and men benefit from society in different ways, implementing gender-sensitive urban planning creates a city with special consideration for different types of needs of people. A city that is more equal, safe and free of barriers for women that allows them to participate equally in the process of urban development.Since women's needs have met rarely in urban policies, Beall considers women as a main user of cities who are largely excluded from the process of decision making in urban governance. In the field of urban governance, she represents two fundamental objectives, "firstly, to increase women's participation in human settlements development and, secondly, to foster gender-awareness and competence among both women and men in the political arena and planning practice" (Beall, 1996).

Gender sensitive urban planning pays more attention to excluded groups in urban spaces and promote their interests. This means to open up opportunities for changing urban areas to inclusive places and

Public square uses as the path to reach public transportation by most women, and it is not as a social resource for women and young girls to socialize with others.

integrating women to urban planning and design. Gender-Sensitive urban planning and design emphasize reshaping the relationship between authorities, local governments, urban planners and the users of urban spaces to respond to the needs of all people. To achieve equality in cities, this approach focuses on gender equality strongly in any planning and design projects and it needs different results from fundamental gender analysis. Such an approach considers women as an effective group of people in urban planning and design by following the fact that they are more than half of the populations in urban areas who have an important role in community buildings, the social life of cities, and economic growth of the society. (UN-Habitat, 2019).

By growing the awareness on the issue of gender equality in 2006, the approach of gender-sensitive planning supported by Boverket, the Swedish national board of housing, building, and planning. This is followed by the work of Council of European Municipalities and Regions in 2006 with the work is on "the Europe Charter for Equality" of women and men in local life. The work provides strategies as guidelines with gender aspects for local and regional governments to achieve gender equality in different practices in the EU (CEMR, 2006).

Sätra centrum as an indoor shopping center does not work as a women-friendly public space, and it often uses for reaching the metro since the only access way to the metro station is through the centrum.

Gender-sensitive essentials in public space planning and design

This work looks primarily at public spaces in which we encounter in our everyday life. Public spaces as an important part of the social and economic life of individuals and communities provide opportunities for social interaction, social mixing, and social inclusion, and facilitate the development of community ties (Cattell & Herring, 2002).

Public spaces belong to all people without any exception of social class, gender, color, sexual orientation. However, not all public spaces are built equally for men and women, and many people particularly vulnerable users such as women are usually excluded from them (Mortazavi, 2018).

According to perceptions and reality about the key issue of safety results show the fear of being a victim is generally 10-15 percentage points higher in women than men and 50% of women reported feeling unsafe in 'vulnerable areas'. Gendered violence does not just affect women: the reality is that men are more often victims of violence and robbery in public space, but women are 540% more often victims of sexual abuse. One explanation for these differences is how women's internalized fears affect their perceptions of and behavior within public spaces (URBACT, 2019). The analysis represents that many inequalities stem from the fact that public spaces are often dominated and

The social dialogue with residents in the process of gender studies considers as a key factor for gender awareness.

1. Gender Analysis in Public Spaces

designed by men. Hence, it feels necessary to pay extraordinary attention to the needs of the entire population in policy making of an inclusive public space, and this is achievable by doing an in-depth gender analysis and allowing more people to participate in the process of planning.

Gender analysis considers as a prerequisite step for a movement toward making policies and proposed scenarios for future interventions in public spaces. It gives preliminary information about the number of men and women who are using public space. It also shows patterns of behavior, different social activities and community involvement of target groups in a given space. Identifying gender inequalities in a specific public space is another important part of each gender analysis (CLFG, 2012). To do accurate analysis, there are two main parts: "Data Collection", and "Understanding the causes of gender inequality".

1-1 Gender- sensitive data collection

The analysis of the pattern of movement in Sätra shows certain spaces have been associated with different groups of man and young boys. The information shows that the number of men using the squares are more than other groups of people.

Gender-sensitive data collection as the starting point of gender analysis gives useful information about the condition of public space. It includes a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data as numbers, statistic information, opinions or perceptions resulted from a literature review, study relevant case studies, public space observation, interviews, and surveys. The data in this level with a close look at many changes, factors, actions over a specified period lead to a better understanding of a place. Above all, they provide an initial decision-making basis and applicable measures with priorities for actual interventions in urban planning and design projects. The followings are different kinds of achievable data in the preliminary level of studying a public space (Mortazavi, 2018).

Flow of People
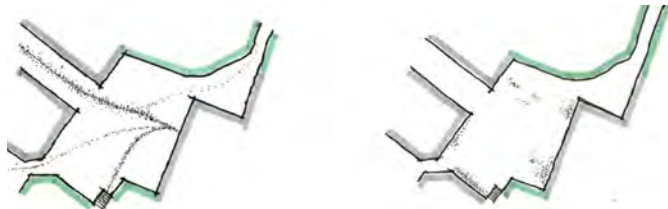
Counting People

Sätra Centrum

18
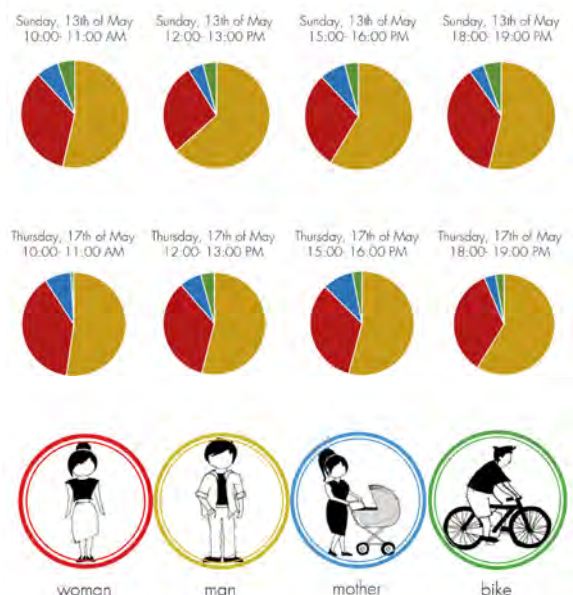
Achievable data through gender analysis

- An overview of the culture of the users of a public space

- Statistic data about the population of an area in terms of the distribution by ages, ethnicity, migration status, the level of resident's education, average income, etc

- The number of active hours in a public space during a day, week and month

- Illustration of a map of pedestrian movement in a public space.

- Statistic review of the number of women, men, boys, and girls using particular areas or spots of public space

- Results of interviews and surveys with residents, local workers and people who use the public space occasionally or those who are typically crossing the space to reach out to their destination

- The sorts of activities that people are engaged in a given space

- Information about different kinds of functions exist in an urban area

Example
Many important data came out through interviews and urban dialogue with women and young girls in Sätra which added a social value to the urban planning project. During the survey, people come together, have fun, and talk about what can be improved in their area (Mortazavi, 2018).

1-2 Understanding of the causes of gender inequality

Women's dialogue regarding their everyday needs in urban public space and brainstorming about future urban development is Sätra.

To have a better understanding of the different needs of women and men in their everyday life, and take better measures to tackle gender inequality, it is important to have a deep insight into the differences between genders in a specific context and find out the reason affected it. Without this step, making the right measurement is not so easy and sometimes decisions can lead to unexpected results and further inequalities (EIGE, 2018). Studying the issues raised below provides the possibility of understanding the causes of gender inequality.

- Define the differences between women and men in terms of the use of public space, the pattern of behavior, and the flow of people

- Recognize the barriers that limit women's participation

- Identify the role of women in urban management at a local level

- Define the gender division in the labor market, presence of men and women in a public space and different layers of policymaking

- Identify the major property owners who control over assets and those who benefit from a program or project

- Explain in what ways urban policies respond to the needs of different groups of people

- Describe how urban policies will affect the everyday life of different groups of people

2- Informing Policies and Programs in a Participatory Process

Public participation in the process of decision making is a key factor in gender-sensitive public space planning and design.

One of the main features of a gender-sensitive public space planning is increasing women's participation in social life, and giving voice to women whose voices tend to remain unheard of. Healey advocates a participatory planning process that allows people to contribute more to planning practices. He believes that this approach promotes social justice in society and forms and develops better places in urban environments. According to Healey, citizens as "costumers" of a gender-sensitive approach have a central role in the process of urban planning (Healey, 2006). By following this approach and considering gender aspects in the urban planning field, Friberg and Larsson consider gender awareness an important part of a participatory approach (Friberg and Larsson, 1999). Although the participation of all members of a society is an important part of sensitive urban planning, studies have shown that not all voices have heard yet in the planning processes. Women as a special marginalized group of people in many societies participate to a much lower extent in the process of urban planning than men. They usually feel uncomfortable to be part of the participation processes because of the kind of professional talks in neighborhood meetings regarding urban planning and policymaking. According to this, there must be special attention to women and find ways to engage them more in various steps of an urban planning process. Therefore, planners will be able to take steps forward to find practical ways for more interactions between themselves and all women and through this, both planners and women benefit from this interaction (Listerborn, 2008).

2-1 Digital lab

Digital lab as a participatory web platform links to social networking and the official website. The platform allows citizens to share innovative ideas, knowledge, and experience to enhance the quality of public space while providing the possibility of announcing different events, workshops, lectures, and courses through it. Participatory web platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn or any other official websites increases the connection between people in a digital network, provides the opportunity of getting aware about participatory events, and encourages people to get involved in social activities in urban environments (Mortazavi, 2018).

2-2 Physical lab

Physical Lab as a central platform of social activities offers a place where workshops, lectures, and exhibitions take place. Individuals from different sectors can meet each other in this place and exchange their perspectives and knowledge. Through a physical lab, experts and policymakers can meet closely residents and communicate with them about different issues. This benefits both residents and authorities in different ways. Local people can be part of the process of a planning program, have a new experience of collaboration with policymakers, and convey their needs to them. Hearing all voices of residents and recognition of different perspectives of people bring many benefits to planning practices. This provides a decent opportunity for co-creation in the process of work and lets urban planners make better urban policies for a local community in the long term and short term (Mortazavi, 2018).

Animation creating workshop for newly arrived children and adolescents in Sätra.

Example: Sätra kidz, First physical lab; Oct.2018

The physical lab in the local organization of Sätra Kidz has created to collect a large database of citizen ideas, improve the sense of community, and empower women in their daily life. The first lab was held in October 2018 with the aim of community building. It called "Animation creating workshop" for newly arrived children and adolescents. The main goal of the first workshop was for the newly commers to Sätra to get familiar with each other while underestanding of the research project and the concept of gender sensitive urban planning.

Example: Second lab; Nov. 2018 :

African dance with mothers and young girls. The main aim of the second lab was for the participant of women and young girls and increase their physical activities in public spaces. Additionally, participants disscussed what challenges and opportunities exist in public space.

Example: Third lab; Dec. 2018

Communication toward the better future for Sätra. Third lab focused on discussion about possible changes that could be applied in Sätra.

Example: Fourth lab; Mar. 2019

A creative placemaking started in Sätra on International Women's day (8 March) to improve the local community. It mainly focuses on women's participation and local involvement with the aim of creating a safe and inclusive environment to embrace physical, cultural and sociological identity.

Workshop of making origami flyer created with the focus on a better future for young girls in Sätra.

Key factors for women participatory public spaces planning and design

The Importance of the Local Women

Women's participatory planning depends on what women need in urban environments and what can be improved in existing public spaces. This includes several factors, which directly and indirectly influence the presence of women in open spaces. Factors like social infrastructure, the built environments, local culture and tradition, patterns of work, the level of women's income as well as their level of education all influence the female presence in cities and shapes urban environments. Followings are key factors that affect women's participating in the built environment:

To create an inclusive public space and increase the use of the place for women, a comprehensive study of local women in different fields must be made. This gives a real image of existing space and further helps to make a better decision for any changes in the environment. Some of these studies in urban planning field are, the research on the lifestyles of local women, the way of women's contribution to the local economy, rhythms and patterns of behavior in public spaces in varied times, the type of uses of space, women's community engagement in social activities and the kind of everyday activities. Collected data resulted from local investigations, enable urban planners and local authorities to respond better to all needs of women and promote civic engagements in a certain public space (Worpole, 2007).

Interview and urban discussion with local women in Sätra.

Public Space as a Public Living Room for Women

An Urban living room is a decent idea for social issues by creating opportunities for socializing, outdoor activities, gathering and meeting places. It considers as a part of urban public spaces where public life happens and represents the image of society. Also, it makes a homely place by optimizing the space by preparing communicating places in outdoor areas. Besides, this strategy transforms a dead space into a lively place and raises both land values and social values in an area. In such an outdoor living room that supports women in a neighborhood, women take part in social life and use public space more actively. What is important in this concept is that it is not just related to the matter of beauty, it is the story of social livability and the way of activating an outdoor public space with temporary solutions, inexpensive constructions and planning for easy reconfiguration (Mortazavi, 2018).

'Mother Centers' as an example of a 'public living room' in a neighborhood , provides local meeting spaces for women and children. It is working towards creating a better world for families, communities and future generations.

Example

The idea of "urban living room" in Sätra represents the combination of social and cultural programs that take place in a variety of small scale meeting places in open spaces. Mothers as the majority of users of public spaces consider as an effective group of women in Sätra. So, strengthening their role in urban settings has a powerful multiplier effect on urban development. Study on daily basis activities that mothers are involved in Sätra shows various tasks including a diverse range of indoor and outdoor activities such as nursing and childcare, going to work, daily shopping, etc. According to the mother's multi-tasks in public life, it is important to meet all their daily needs to facilitate their presence in urban environments.

Women and Everyday Life of Public Space

Three important factors in the everyday life of public spaces include multifunctional land uses, the time duration of functions and mobility. These critical factors not only have an impact on the livability of urban spaces but also have a significant impact on the presence of women in urban spaces. A public space by answering the daily needs of women provides opportunities for women to use a space, encourages them to stay for a long time in it, and participate actively in public life (Worpole, 2007).

Due to the varied needs of women in urban life, and a great deal of movement that is needed to meet multiple needs, it seems that women tend to use a multifunctional space rather than single functional space. This is surely energy, cost and time-consuming, and not efficient and sustainable. Therefore, this can result in an increased number of excluding women from taking part in their public life and not being able to do daily routines in certain urban spaces. On the contrary, an increased number of land-uses as well as a long time duration of land-uses, and the proximity of public transport systems to a public space helps the users to see a better performance of social infrastructures. This makes public spaces welcoming to all women, and accordingly many women intend to engage in the social life of such a public space (Escalante & Valdivia, 2015), (Jaeckel & Geldermalsen, 2005).

Public spaces have many important social, cultural and recreational values in women's everyday life.
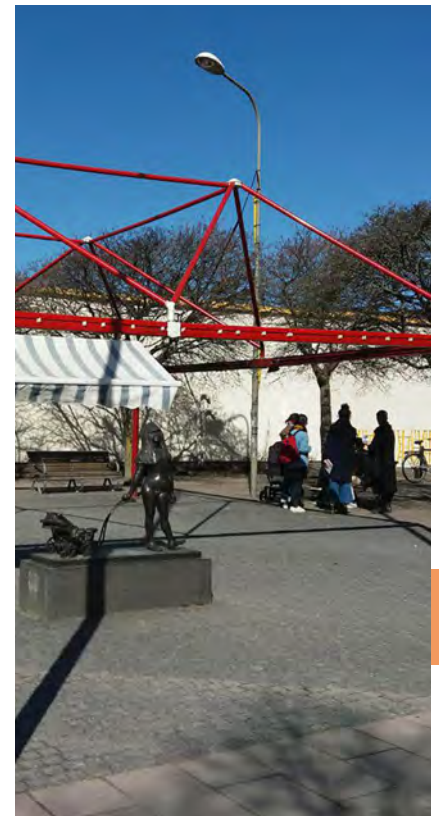
The Presence Beyond Mono-culture

Public spaces bring together citizens of diverse classes and culturs to meet and interact with each other.

Social Life of an Inclusive Public Space

Social activities in the public square have the potential to increase diverse populations and create an inclusive public space for all people.

A sustainable public space encouraging diverse groups of women with different cultural backgrounds and let them get engaged in various activities (Worpole, 2007). People with various ethnic backgrounds tend to use public spaces in different ways and thereby give special meanings to it that is the manifest of cultural diversity in public spaces. The experience of diversity in an urban public space shows the view of multiculturalism to users of it (Peters & Haan, 2011). This provides the opportunity for all people including women to meet people from other cultures, mingle with them and share their experiences, increase their awareness of different cultures and develop their social networks (Worpole, 2007). Concerning a multicultural perspective in public space, and to promote social interactions and exchange of different cultures in urban environments, the cultural inequalities in certain urban spaces could prevail (Sarraf, 2015).

A Well-designed public space is critical to provide all people the opportunity to see each other and to be seen by others. Meeting other people as an attractive point of being in a public space is mentioned by William Whyte in his book 'The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces' in which he proves that a crowded space attracts more and more people and gets even more crowded. Furthermore, this gives a sense of inclusivity to visitors of public space, and generates social mixing in local communities (Bibeva, 2012). Badshah considers inclusive public space as "a melting point" where all people can be in it irrespective of their social level, gender, age, and identity (Badshah ,1996).

An inclusive public space by promoting diverse uses of space responds to the needs of people including women. It also provides a more natural place as a daily meeting environment for users, and it is welcoming to diverse populations with different cultural backgrounds (UCLG, 2019), (UNESCO, 2017). Such an urban public space enables citizens to contribute their abilities and take part in local governance effectively (Jaeckel & Geldermalsen, 2005).

Amplifying the Social Infrastructure for Women

Meeting places for women and young girls provides a great opportunity for socializing in public spaces.

Social infrastructures preserve urban public spaces and have a vital role to create an inclusive urban environment for women and integrate them in public life with their multi social tasking. They also have a positive effect on the feeling of safety and the female presence in urban environments (Escalante & Valdivia, 2015) Social infrastructures such as cultural centers, community buildings, playgrounds and parks, youth clubs, libraries, and recreational facilities by providing opportunities for social communication, encourage women to participate in their community. According to the significant impact of social infrastructures on gender equality, it is necessary to meet all the needs of men and women in the process of programming infrastructures. They have to be responsive and usable for all women and maintain over time. In this way, local government has essential position for providing equal facilities for both women and men in communities to reduce gender inequality. They have a major responsibility for enabling a community to embrace all women irrespective of their background or social class level as well as all men (CLFG, 2012).

Promoting Women in Leadership

Education and training as essential ways to promote women's knowledge of leadership responsibilities and help them to contribute to more urban governance.

Full participation of women in urban planning, policymaking, and implementation of urban policies in living environments will reduce gender inequality for women, and create an inclusive society for everyone. The presence of women in the political fields and government represents the matter of gender equality and brings many benefits to the public life of cities. Women's involvement in the process of decision-making helps them to convey their voices in every urbanization policies. To extend more, by hearing women's voices and considering their needs in the process of urban planning, and community building, more diverse and responsive legislations can be provided (CLFG, 2012)

Local authorities have a significant position to create inclusive and equal communities for both women and men in public urban environments. Through the promotion of women's participation in the process of decision-making, local governments encourage more women to present actively in the social life of communities. This is outlined specifically in section 18 of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and shows the importance of all person's participation in public life. The female presence in policy-making and leadership responsibilities within municipalities and administrations enables them to reflect better their desire and voice in different aspects of the public environment.
(CLFG, 2012).

Equitable Local Economy

The economic function of a public space for local women. This plays an important role in both the livelihoods of the space and the better local income of the women residents.

Localizing economic development can contribute to the upgrading of public spaces and give local identity to a certain public space. This identity is different from standards and other urban spaces. It differs from anything good designers and urban planners will come up with on their own. Being different is increasingly influential in the image of urban spaces, something that plays an increasing role in establishing public space value. This improves people's general perception of the area and attracts their attention to use it (UCLG, 2019).

By following UN-Habitat's goal on urban economy, urban planning will be able to promote municipal finances through supporting the local economy with special attention to young girls and women. Inclusive economic policies in local economic development can provide more jobs for local women and young girls and empower them. This also enhances the local authority's economy and urban finances (UN-Habitat, 2019).

Besides this, quality public space can advance the local economy in different ways. It brings opportunities for the labor markets and works as a driver for an equitable local economy. A well-designed public space by supporting the local economy can provide the possibility of using the existing potential and resources in a community. It can validate the different levels of productivities in various forms. This also creates new opportunities for women to contribute equally to the local economy, particularly through public markets with different scales (Jaeckel & Geldermalsen, 2005), (UCLG, 2019).

The followings are a sample of questions used during the survey. During different visits to the neighborhood, many street discussions done as well. Besides, and to get new ideas about a better future for Sätra, I took the opportunity of thinking freely and sometimes let interviewees know about my viewpoints and thoughts.

General questions about the whole neighborhood
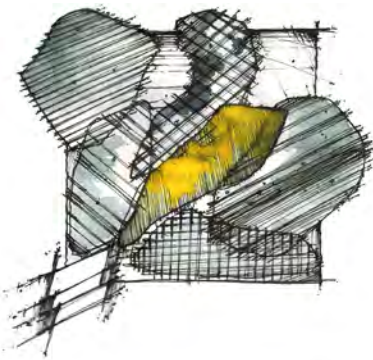
- Are people in Sätra feel proud of the neighborhood?
- Who uses public spaces the most?
- How is the social life of people in the area?
- Are all groups of people equally use public spaces?
- Is it needed to improve visibility in any public space?
- Where is the prettiest and ugliest place in the area?
- Has anything been vandalized recently?
- In what condition are green spaces found in Sätra?
- Is it easy to find your way in the area? Or any maps and signs needed?
- How is the quality of lighting at night?
- What condition are pavements and stairs? Are they good enough to use by different people including mothers with strollers and with some mobility problems or disabilities?
- Are there any kinds of barriers for women in the area?
- Is there a need for more recreational environments, meeting places or cultural centers for women?
- In what ways can women and young girls contribute to urban public spaces?
- Is there anything that needs to be changed?
- What can be done toward a better future for Sätra in a short, medium and long term?
- Do people feel safe inside the residential area?
- Do women and young girls have easy access to the centrum and other important places from residential areas?
- Do windows and entrances of the centrum improve security?
- It is possible for women and young girls to be active in the area?
- It there the interest of putting personal touch for women and young girls in Sätra? If so, is it possible?
- Do waste disposal centers in Sätra work well?
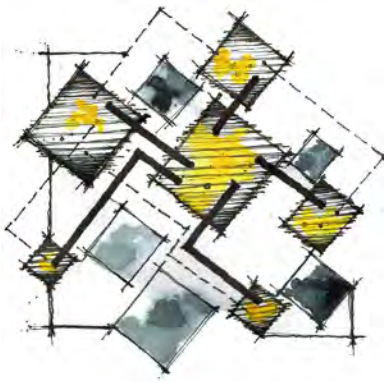
Public Places

- Are there eyes on the public squares to help people using the place to be seen?
- Are urban squares well designed and attractive?
- Are women use public squares as equal as men?
- Which kinds of activities are the most popular between women and young girls in squares?
- Is there the possibility of socializing in public squares?
- Are there sufficient seats and lights round the square?
- Is it safe for women and young girls to use squares after the dark?
- What kinds of functions have adjusted buildings around squares?
- What kinds of functions have adjusted buildings around squares?
- Is there any hidden place in or around squares?
- Are there any places that is used with a certain groups of people?
- How often women use public squares? And with what purposes?
- What types of women's need feels necessary to be considered in public squares?
- What time of the day is the most popular time of using squares?
- Are squares connected physically and visibly to nature and green spaces?
- How can improve the squares to active and alive area?
- How women can participate in social activities happening in public squares?
- Are squares alive during nights?
- Are there any unusual activities in squares?
- Who uses public squares the most?
- Is the square close to the residential area?
- Are there parking places close to public squares?
- How often residents use courtyards inside the residential areas compare to other open urban spaces?
- Do residents feel safe around public spaces in the residential area?
- Are there enough lights around courtyards?
- Are courtyards visible from residential buildings?
- Do courtyards work as a place for socializing in the neighborhood?
- Who uses the courtyards the most?
- In what ways can women and young girls participate to improve the design of courtyards?
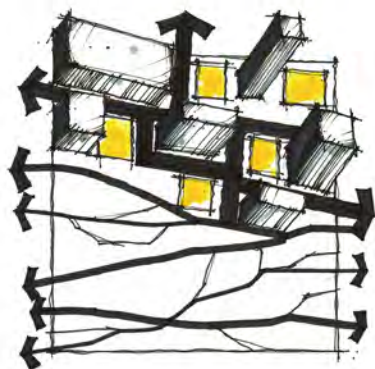
Streets and subways

- Are there suitable and safe cross lanes in the streets?
- Are there enough parking places close to the workplace or residential area?
- Is it visible to see coming cars through the streets?
- Are streetlights sufficient at night?
- Are parking plots visible and easy to access for people who are not familiar with the area?
- Do women young girls use a specific kind of transport for their trip?
- Are there sufficient bus stops in Sätra?
- Are there any eyes on the street to have a view of the bus stops and the subway?
- Is it safe and secure for women to stand and wait at the bus stop at night?
- In what condition is the accessibility to the subway in the daytime and after dark?
- Is it easy to see upcoming people inside the centrum?
- Are there any seats in bus stops and subways?
- Are bus stops equipped to protect users from the rain, snow and wind?
- How could the design of the subway be improved?
- Are bus stops located in a suitable spot in the area?
- Which kind of public transportation is the most important in Sätra?
- Do women choose different ways of getting the subway or bus stops?
- How do people feel along the way and inside the centrum to get the subway?
- Are there enough car-parks close to the residential area?
- Are there enough car-parks around the centrum and close to the shops and restaurants?
- Is it easy to find them and have access?
- How do women feel about the place?
- Are they well-designed and clean?
- Who uses the parking area close to the centrum?
- Is it possible to have a view from the centrum or residential area to the parking area?
- How big is the scale of car parks?
- When is the most popular time and to use the parking areas?
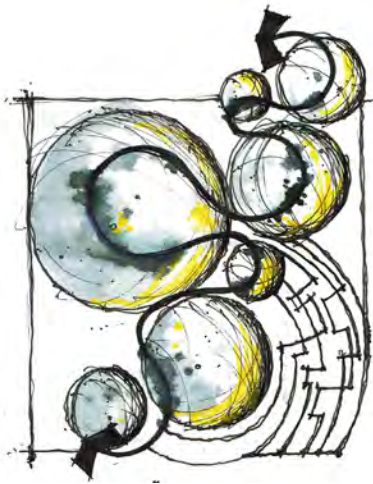
Pedestrian and cycle paths

- Do women use different routes for walking?
- Are there suitable and enough places that bicycles can be parked at the end of the trails?
- Which pedestrian ways are more popular?
- Are pedestrian ways equipped with qualified lightings and seats along?
- Are bike routes safe and secure?
- What needs to be improved regarding pedestrian and cycle paths in Sätra?
- Are the pedestrian and cycle paths visible from residential buildings or any other places nearby?
- In what condition is the pedestrian and cycle path during the winter?
- Is it easy to access and use the area by mothers with strollers or elderly people?
- Is it safe to use the pedestrian way to and from the centrum during the night?
- Are there any alternative safe ways to use during the night?

School area
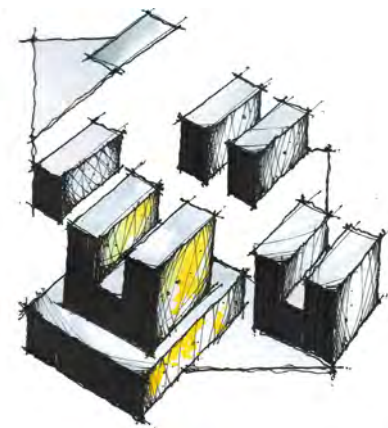
- Is the school located in a decent place?
- Does it work as an important place in the neighborhood?
- How the area around the school looks after school time?
- Is the area accessible by all people?
- Is it easy to find the way toward school?
- Is it possible to use the schoolyard by different groups of people in the evenings?
- Do young girls feel safe and secure while walking to and from school?
- How young girls can participate to improve the design of the area around the school?
- Are there enough lights and seats around the school area?
- In what ways young girls and young boys use the surrounding area of school? Are there any differences?
- Is the school area attractive?
- Is there any hidden place around the schoolyard?
- In what condition the schoolyard seems after the dark?
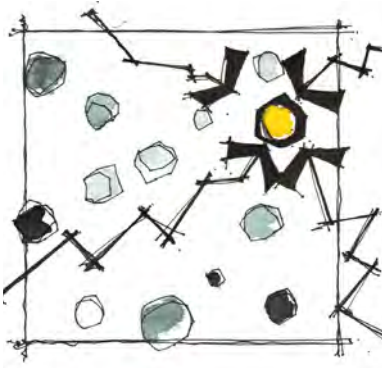
Playgrounds

- Do playgrounds feel accessible for everyone?
- Does playground work for mothers and fathers as a place for socializing?
- Are playgrounds attractive for adults too? In what way?
- Is it possible to see people who are coming toward playgrounds?
- Do young girls have access to playgrounds?
- Is the playground attractive and well designed for young girls?
- Do mothers use playgrounds with their children? Are there any sitting places around playgrounds?
- When is the popular time to use playgrounds by young girls?
- In what condition playgrounds could be changed?
- Is there a difference between young girls and young boys to use playgrounds?
- What groups of people use playgrounds the most?
- Is it safe to use playgrounds at night?
- Are playgrounds active during winter?
- Is there enough light?
- Are playgrounds visible from surrounding buildings?
- What are the main uses of the surrounding buildings?
- Are surrounding buildings with a proper visual appearance?
- Are playgrounds protected from wind, sun, rain, and snow?
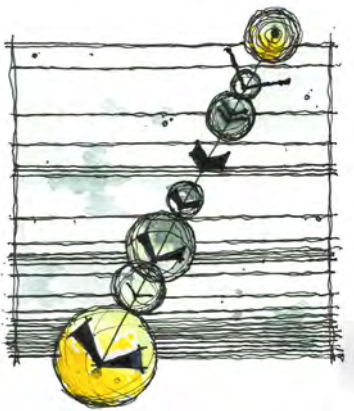
Green space

- Is the green space close to the centrum accessible for all people?
- Is the green space visible from the centrum or public squares?
- How often people use the green space?
- Do people feel proud of green space?
- Do young girls and women feel secure to walk around the green space after dark?
- Is the green space located in a decent place?
- Do men and women feel differently about green places?
- Are there any alternative paths through the green space?
- What can be done to make the green space more attractive and pleasant?
- Are there enough seats around the green space?

Centrum
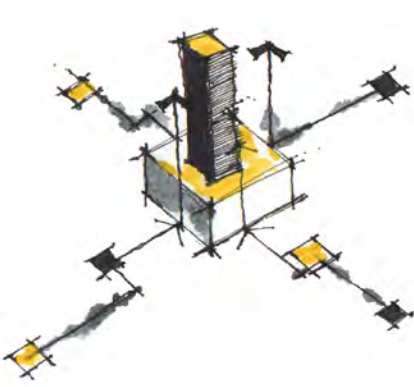
- Is centrum located in a decent place?
- What is the differences between the bottom level and the first level of the centrum?
- Do lightings inside the Centrum improve security?
- Do the centrum work for everyone including women and young girls?
- Do women and young girls interested to put their personal touch in the centrum?
- s there any hidden place inside the centrum?
- Do women and young girls feel secure to use the centrum at night?
- Is there any obstacle to block the view and see people walking around the centrum?
- What is the main feature of the centrum?
- Do people feel proud of the centrum?
- How often women and young girls use centrum?
- For what kind of use people come to the centrum?
- Is there places to sit around the centrum?
- Is the place attractive and well-designed?
- Is there any meeting places for socializing inside the centrum?
- Which of the entrances are the most usable?
- In what ways women and young girls can participate to improve the design of the centrum?
- Do people see the inside the centrum from outside? Are there enough windows and entrances?
- Do men and women feel differently about the centrum?
- Are entrances located in decent spots?
- Can the centrum be taken away? What can be designed?
- Are there enough seats for waiting and standing for the metro?
- Do women and young girls use the subway more than other modes of public transports?
- Are there any eyes on the squares to have a view to the centrum?
- Do women choose different ways of getting the centrum?
- How do people feel along the way and inside the centrum?
- How do shop owners feel about the centrum?
- What do shop owners need to improve the centrum to a better place?
- Do the centrum provides some opportunities for socializing?

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