ABSTRACT

The focus of this dissertation is in the area of exploring the relationship between the pedestrian usage of footpath in terms of its functional as well as its experiential aspect. Experiential qualities of footpaths can bring about a rich, cultural presence to our roads, reflect the living style of our people and enhance the communal experience. This paper encompasses different theories and aspects of the needs of footpath, explores the problems of footpath and pedestrians and how footpath activities can be organized efficiently.

The dissertation question has been initially explored by analysing the footpath of the high-income residential area D.H.A (Defence Housing Authority) in comparison to the low-income residential area Shah Faisal Colony and its adjacent neighbourhood. The experiential aspect of footpath as a space, how people use it and the problems it is facing in terms of encroachment by the hawkers has been explored in light of the writings of an Architect Ian Borden, a book ‘Skate Boarding, Space and city: body and Architecture and ‘Pattern Language’ by Architect Christopher Alexander, and the book ‘Hawkers of saddar Bazaar’ by renowned Pakistani architect Arif Hassan.

Under the light of the literature studies the following aspects have been defined and discussed: architecture as a space of production and re-production, micro spaces, phenomenological connection, space sensitivity, city as relationship of urban and architectural element, promenade, rhythm analysis, line and transit population. These notions help us to arrive at the problems and relationship of pedestrian footpath needs – functional as well as experiential. Further exploration is based on surveys so as to benefit from other notables’ knowledge in this field.
The paper suggests that by looking into these aspects, one can imagine that possibilities and potential of designing a community, which directly affects our society, are great. They create a wholistic environment which could be deeply rooted in our socio-cultural environment.