

Evaluation of Public Space Facilities Supporting the Needs of Female Users in Denpasar City

Putu Surya Wedra Lesmana^{1*}, I Gusti Ayu Andani Pertiwi²

Institut Bisnis dan Teknologi Indonesia (INSTIKI)¹, Yayasan Bali Sruti Denpasar²

suryawedra@gmail.com^{1}; andanipertiwiayu@gmail.com²*

Abstract

Public spaces play a crucial role in fostering social interaction, health, and urban well-being. However, the extent to which these spaces accommodate women's specific needs is often overlooked in urban planning. This study aims to evaluate the extent to which the facilities at Lapangan Renon, one of Denpasar City's main public spaces, meet the needs of female users and ensure their safety. Using the framework of gender-responsive urban design, this study employs a descriptive field observation approach to assess the adequacy of existing facilities in addressing women's needs. The findings show that although Lapangan Renon is physically accessible to women, its design and facilities do not fully respond to women's specific needs. Inadequate facility maintenance, lack of lighting, absence of breastfeeding space, and lack of security measures, such as CCTV or on-site security personnel, reduce women's sense of safety and comfort when using the space. The spatial separation of children's play areas restricts women's use, especially for caregivers. These issues indicate a gender-neutral, yet implicitly masculine, design orientation. Beyond contributing to the broader discourse on gender-responsive public policy, this study also offers practical recommendations for urban planners and local governments to create public spaces that are equitable, safe, comfortable, and empowering for women, both in Denpasar and in other urban areas with similar characteristics.

Keywords: *Lapangan Renon, public space, women's safety, urban design.*

1. Introduction

Public spaces are crucial components of urban forms, functioning as settings for social engagement, leisure, commerce, and urban character. Well-designed public spaces can enhance the physical and mental health of residents (Francis, 2010). However, the design of public spaces often overlooks how gender differences affect the way men and women experience and access these spaces, frequently relying on male-centered standards that do not fully address the needs and safety concerns of all users (Moonen 2024). This pattern persists because urban planners and policymakers are largely male, and their lack of awareness of gendered urban barriers perpetuates these obstacles (Kern, 2019). In terms of gendered experiences, women have different patterns of space use, levels of vulnerability, and facility needs than men.

From a gender-sensitive urban planning perspective, public spaces should be designed to be safe, inclusive, and accommodate the needs of all users, including women. Women face specific challenges in public spaces and experience safety concerns, such as the risk of violence, limited access to sanitation facilities, and a lack of comfort in everyday mobility (Hernandez, Pablo Navarrete; Vetro, Arielle; Concha, 2021). This underscores that the quality of public space facilities cannot be assessed solely based on physical aspects but must also consider users' perceptions of safety and accessibility. Therefore, evaluations of public space facilities must consider user experiences shaped by gender differences, including women as primary users of urban spaces.

Denpasar City, the center of government and economic activity in Bali Province, has undergone rapid urban development over the past two decades. Population growth, tourism, and economic activities have increased the intensity of public spaces, such as city parks, open fields, and pedestrian pathways (Denpasar, 2023). One of the main public spaces in Denpasar that is the focus of this study is Lapangan Niti Mandala Renon (Lapangan Renon). Lapangan Renon serves multiple functions, not only as a green open space but also as a venue for recreation, sports, social interaction, and ceremonial events. In recent

years, Lapangan Renon has undergone various physical changes, including the reorganization of pedestrian paths, addition of seating areas, park revitalization, and improvements to supporting facilities for public activities, which have contributed to an increase in daily visitors.

In the context of its use, women constitute a significant group of Lapangan Renon users, including participants in sports and social activities, workers, housewives, and informal sector actors. However, the increasing intensity of use has not always been accompanied by the provision of facilities that are fully responsive to women's specific needs, such as safety, comfort, sanitation, and accessibility issues. Therefore, although Lapangan Renon plays a strategic role as a major public space in the city, it is crucial to conduct a study that specifically evaluates the extent to which its facilities support the needs of its female users.

Urban spaces are actively shaped by the spatial practices of diverse social groups. However, developing an understanding of diverse space users is rarely a central concern in planning processes, let alone in policy interventions. Studies have shown that gender-insensitive public spaces create inequalities in access and comfort for women (By, 2017). The lack of lighting, seating, public toilets, and safe pedestrian pathways limits women's participation in urban spaces (Moonen, 2024; Rusmana, Ajrina Rizkiananda; Abigail, 2024). These conditions contribute to the low level of women's visits to public spaces and further restrict their social spaces. Therefore, it is essential to understand the relationship between the quality of public space facilities and women's experiences as users of these spaces. Fundamentally, infrastructure investment should provide equitable benefits for all (OECD 2021). Thus, evaluating public space facilities from women's perspectives is expected to provide empirical insights into the extent to which spatial design aligns with user needs.

Based on this background, this study aims to evaluate public space facilities in Denpasar City—specifically Lapangan Renon—in terms of their support for women's needs. This research focuses on aspects of comfort, safety, accessibility, and availability of facilities that support women's activities. Using an evaluative approach, this study seeks to identify the gaps between existing public space conditions and the ideal needs of women as users.

2. Literature Review

Various studies have indicated that women's experiences in public spaces are shaped by the physical design of the space and its supporting facilities, which, in turn, influence their perceptions of safety, comfort, and accessibility (Moonen, 2024). Moonen developed eight design principles for more gender-inclusive public spaces: safety cues, informal surveillance, spatial legibility, space appropriation, representation, diversity, slow mobility, and user convenience. By applying these principles, public spaces become more vibrant and enjoyable for a wider spectrum of users to enjoy.

In line with Moonen, Abigail et al. found several key preferences for women in public spaces, namely, comfort, safety, aesthetics, and facilities. In terms of comfort, these include soft seating areas, good air circulation, gentle lighting, and accessibility. From a safety perspective, the presence of security personnel, closed-circuit television (CCTV), evacuation signage, and adequate sanitation facilities is essential. In terms of aesthetics, women prioritize living plants and simple neutral lighting. It is also important to provide specific support facilities such as smoking areas, mother-and-child rooms, fire extinguishers, and first-aid kits (Rusmana et al., 2024).

In addition, a study by Kinanti and Wungo (2023), which analyzed public space safety for women using the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) approach, found that spaces not designed to be responsive to gendered needs tend to generate feelings of insecurity among women, ultimately limiting their time and activities outside the home. A similar picture emerges in the case study of Taman Kali Ngrowo, where women's inclusivity in public spaces remains constrained by concerns about harassment and the lack of adequate facilities to meet women's needs (Prahaditya and Sutikno, 2024). Harefa's study similarly found that in Taman Ahmad Yani, Medan, inclusivity has not yet been

optimally realized. Accessibility, control, participation, and even the provision of territorial space remain unmet needs for women that have not been adequately accommodated (Harefa, 2024).

Although many studies have examined the relationship between public space design and women's experiences, research gaps remain, particularly regarding specific public space case studies in Indonesia, such as Lapangan Renon in Denpasar. However, few studies have evaluated in detail how facilities—including lighting, seating, toilets, pedestrian pathways, and other supporting infrastructure—meet the needs of women, who are the primary users of public spaces in tropical urban areas with distinctive cultural and spatial-use patterns. This study addresses this gap by focusing on Lapangan Renon.

3. Methodology

This study employs a descriptive, qualitative approach using structured field observations to evaluate the extent to which the design and public facilities at Lapangan Renon meet the needs of female users. The descriptive qualitative approach aims to provide a detailed, systematic, and factual account of the phenomenon under study (Furidha, 2023). The analytical framework used in this study is gender-responsive urban design, which emphasizes the importance of providing public spaces that are safe, comfortable, accessible, and inclusive for women in urban areas. This non-experimental observational study focused on the physical conditions and spatial arrangement of available public facilities.

Data collection was conducted through direct observation of physical elements at Lapangan Renon, including pedestrian pathways, seating areas, lighting, sanitation facilities, waste bins, vegetation, and safety elements such as visual openness and the presence of management and security personnel. To minimize time-of-use bias, observations were conducted multiple times (morning, afternoon, and evening) on weekdays and weekends.

Visual documentation was used to record the actual conditions of the facilities and spatial layout at Lapangan Renon. Basic spatial data on location and facility zoning were obtained through direct observation and base maps to visualize the distribution of the key facilities. All observational data were classified and analyzed descriptively to identify the degree of alignment between existing conditions and indicators of gender-responsive public space design.

4. Result and Discussion

Lapangan Renon, also known as Niti Mandala Renon, is one of the public open spaces in the center of Denpasar City, Bali. It is situated in the strategic Renon area, close to government offices, educational institutions and residential neighborhoods. Lapangan Renon functions as a major urban space and a popular destination for a wide range of daily activities. The field features extensive grassy areas, a jogging track of approximately 1.5 km, and sports facilities, including volleyball and basketball courts, attracting visitors for exercise, leisure, and family gatherings purposes. The presence of a museum within the field complex, which began construction in 1987 and was inaugurated in 2003, means that this space serves not only as a city park but also as a venue for historical education for the community (Priyatna 2023).

Below is an overview of Lapangan Renon



Figure 1. Overview of Lapangan Renon

Source: thrillophilia.com (<https://www.thrillophilia.com/attractions/renon-square>)

Lapangan Renon is physically bounded by Jalan Basuki Rahmat to the north, Jalan Ir. Haji Juanda to the east, Jalan Raya Puputan to the south, and Jalan Prof. Dr. Kusumaatmadja to the west. In addition, Lapangan Renon is located near several important government buildings in Bali, including the Office of the Governor of Bali Province and Bali Provincial Parliament (DPRD). The proximity of these buildings further reinforces the role of the Renon area as an administrative center. Its location adjacent to major arterial roads in Denpasar also makes Lapangan Renon easily accessible to pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation users, positioning it as a hub of social activity in the Renon area.

Lapangan Renon also provides various supporting facilities for community activities, such as public toilets, children's playgrounds, and pedestrian pathways that facilitate movement within the park. Some facilities, including outdoor gyms and playgrounds, have experienced damage or inadequate maintenance, indicating the need for repair and redesign to ensure optimal functionality. Several spatial arrangements and revitalization efforts have been planned and implemented at Lapangan Renon. For example, the jogging track has been redesigned with increased width and improved lighting along the route, which is expected to enhance the comfort and safety of users. Other development plans include the establishment of eight sports zones to support a wider range of physical activities.

Lapangan Renon is used by diverse groups, including women, for various activities, reflecting its social function in urban life in Denpasar. It serves as a favored place for exercising, family gatherings, photography, and hosting cultural and social events during celebrations and special occasions. As a popular open space for the people of Denpasar, it provides opportunities for relaxation and facilitates interaction across age groups and social communities. Overall, Lapangan Renon can be understood as a multifunctional zone that integrates historical and cultural functions, sports and recreation, public administration, and social activities. With its clearly defined boundaries, range of facilities, and multiple functions, it provides an important context for evaluating public space facilities from a gender perspective, particularly regarding accessibility and comfort for women.

4.2 Physical Accessibility of Space

Planning and designing public spaces that are safe for women and girls means creating environments with features that enhance women's safety and sense of security while reducing features that generate fear or discomfort (UN, 2010). Accessibility is a key principle of gender-equitable public space design.

Easily accessible public spaces enable women of different age groups and physical conditions to use them optimally and safely. In an urban context, accessibility is not only about the availability of entry points but also about the ease of movement within public spaces. Women often have more complex mobility patterns because of their multiple roles as workers, caregivers, and household managers. Therefore, public space design must specifically account for these mobility needs.

Lapangan Renon, as a major public space in Denpasar City, holds social, recreational, and symbolic functions for the community. Its existence makes it a meeting place for diverse groups, including women engaged in sports, family recreation, and social events. The accessibility of Lapangan Renon is an important factor in determining the extent to which women can use this space equitably. Entry routes, internal circulation, and connectivity with the surrounding environment directly affect the comfort of users. Thus, evaluating the accessibility of Lapangan Renon is relevant for assessing gender sensitivity in public space design in Denpasar. This analysis focuses on the physical conditions that can be directly observed in the field.

Based on direct observations at Lapangan Renon, access to the field area is available from multiple sides, making it easier for women to reach the site from the nearby residential areas and office districts. Pedestrian pathways around and within the field are relatively wide and comfortable. The surfaces are generally flat and exhibit few physical obstacles that could hinder movement. These conditions allow women who walk alone, accompany children, or use simple mobility aids to move freely. Visual access to the central area of the field is also open, facilitating spatial orientation. Overall, the main elements of physical access appeared to be adequately provided.



Figure 2. Northern Entrance of Lapangan Niti Mandala Renon, Denpasar
Source: Lesmana (2026)

The connectivity of Lapangan Renon with its surrounding environment also supports ease of access for females. The field is directly linked to the main road network and can be reached by private vehicles or by foot. The presence of parking areas around the field facilitates access for women who come with family members or carry equipment to the field. In addition, internal circulation paths allow for circular movement without requiring users to pass through narrow or isolated areas. This supports activities such as walking, jogging, and accompanying children while playing. In terms of physical reachability, Lapangan Renon is a relatively open and easily accessible public space.



Figures 3. Jogging Track Area at Lapangan Renon
Source: Lesmana (2026)



Figures 4. Jogging Track Area at Lapangan Renon
Source: Lesmana (2026)

Observations also indicated that there were no physical barriers that explicitly restricted women's access to particular areas of Lapangan Renon. All major zones, including the central field area, jogging track, and surrounding open spaces, can be used without differential treatment based on gender. Patterns of spatial use show that women can move freely without following specific routes. This suggests that the physical design of Lapangan Renon is not exclusive to any particular group of users. Thus, from the perspective of physical accessibility, Lapangan Renon generally meets the basic criteria for public spaces accessible to women. These findings indicate that the main constraints are not located in entry access but in other aspects that require further analyses.

These findings are consistent with the principles of inclusive public spaces promoted by UN Women, which emphasizes that physical access is a fundamental prerequisite for women's participation in public spaces (UN, 2010). Equitable access enables women to use urban spaces without spatial marginalization. From a gender-responsive urban planning perspective, accessibility is understood not merely as the

presence of entry points but also as the ability to move without structural barriers to access. In the context of Lapangan Renon, the design of pathways and their connectivity with the surrounding environment reflect the alignment with this principle. This indicates that the space meets the minimum standards for gender inclusivity. However, providing physical access alone does not guarantee women's psychological safety and comfort.

Good accessibility must be integrated with safety, comfort, and sustainability. From this perspective, the physical accessibility of Lapangan Renon can be understood as a foundation for creating a women-friendly public space. However, without support from other elements such as lighting, supporting facilities, and gender-sensitive management, accessibility risks remain merely formal. Therefore, the findings on accessibility should be interpreted critically in relation to the other dimensions of spatial quality. This approach allows for a more comprehensive analysis of the extent to which public space design responds to women's needs.

4.3 Safety

The results indicate that Lapangan Renon continues to be used at night for activities such as running, leisurely walking, and socializing. However, the lighting is not evenly distributed across the entire area. Lamps are only installed in certain sections, while the central ring of the field, the northern side, parts of the western side, and parts of the eastern side remain dimly lit. This uneven lighting creates zones with low visibility and limited surveillance. Such conditions increase the potential risks for users, especially women, who are more vulnerable to threats of violence in public spaces at night. Therefore, the lighting at Lapangan Renon does not fully support the principles of safety and comfort for female users.



Figure 5. Dark Area within the Jogging Track at Lapangan Renon (Night Condition)
Source: Lesmana (2026)



Figure 6. Non-functioning Lighting in the Toilet Area at Lapangan Renon (Night Condition)
Source: Lesmana (2026)

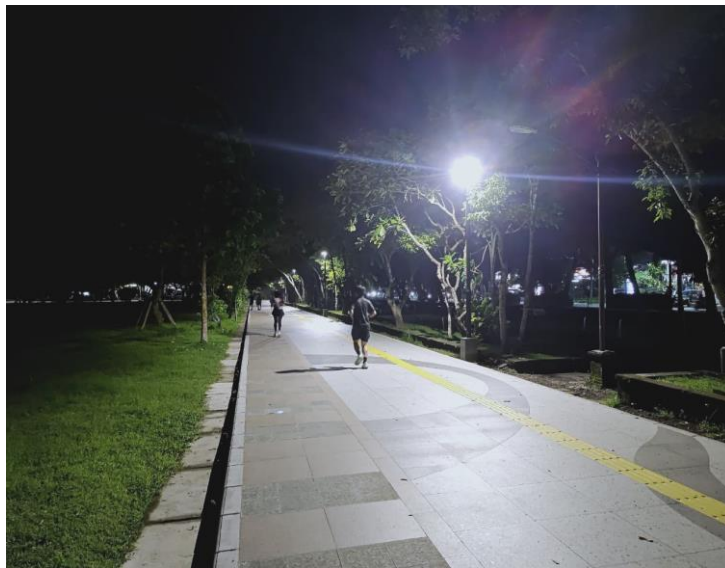


Figure 7. One of the Jogging Track Areas with Functioning Lighting (Night Condition)
Source: Lesmana (2026)

During the observation process, no permanent security posts or on-duty security personnel were found in the Lapangan Renon area. In addition, no visible technology-based surveillance systems, such as CCTV cameras, were installed in public spaces. The absence of these monitoring elements means that there is no formal social control over activities in the field, particularly at night. For women, this situation may reduce their sense of safety because no protection mechanism is available in the event of a disturbance or emergency. Women avoid public spaces with minimal surveillance, especially when activities are carried out alone or during off-peak hours. Thus, the safety aspect of Lapangan Renon still shows structural weaknesses in supporting the needs of female users.

Findings related to uneven lighting and the absence of surveillance systems indicate that Lapangan Renon has not yet fully supported women's safety in public spaces. Public spaces that are safe for women should feature "good lighting so that users can see and be seen" as a design element that

promotes safety and women's participation in urban life (UN, 2010). Adequate lighting plays an important role in increasing perceived safety and encouraging women to use public spaces at different times during the day. Other necessary characteristics include clear pathways, well-maintained surfaces, and high visibility, which help women and other vulnerable groups move more safely and avoid hidden risks.

The lack of lighting in the central area of the field, on the northern side, and on parts of the western and eastern sides of Lapangan Renon creates dark zones that reduce visibility and weaken the natural surveillance. This concept is also emphasized in gender- and urban-planning approaches highlighted by Gender and Urban Development, which states that urban planning can create safer public spaces by paying attention to spatial design, lighting, and accessibility for women (Srinivas, n.d.). This underscores that public space design is not merely about physical facilities but also about how elements such as lighting and surveillance influence women's sense of safety when using these spaces. Accordingly, deficiencies in lighting and the absence of security posts or CCTV at Lapangan Renon demonstrate that structural safety aspects have not yet been optimally fulfilled from the perspective of gender-responsive urban design.

4.4 Comfort

Comfort is an important dimension of public space quality because it is directly related to users' bodily experiences in a space. For women, comfort concerns not only the physical environment but also the ability of a space to accommodate biological needs and social roles, such as childcare and rest. UN Women (2010) emphasizes that women-friendly public spaces should provide facilities that support daily needs, including seating, protection from heat, and private spaces for mothers and children to breastfeed. Comfort also influences the duration and frequency of women's use of public space. Without adequate supporting facilities, women tend to limit their time spent outside the home. Therefore, evaluating comfort is crucial for assessing the extent to which public space design responds to women's needs.

Based on observations at Lapangan Renon, seating facilities are available at several points, but their number remains limited, given the area's size and intensity of use. This condition makes it difficult for women who come with children or elderly family members to find places to rest in. However, the presence of shade-providing trees is relatively sufficient and helps reduce exposure to heat during the daytime. The field area was relatively clean, with minimal scattered waste along the main paths. This level of cleanliness supports visual comfort and user health. In general, shade and cleanliness were adequately provided, but seating availability remained suboptimal.

Protection from heat and rain at Lapangan Renon mainly depends on natural tree cover, whereas built facilities, such as canopies or shelters, are still very limited. This restricts women's ability to remain active for longer periods in hot weather or light rain. In addition, no dedicated spaces for mothers and children, such as breastfeeding rooms or baby-changing facilities, were found. The absence of such facilities makes it difficult for women with infants to meet their private needs in public spaces. This finding also supports Srinivas's argument (n.d.) that many public spaces are designed without considering women's daily routines. Consequently, women with babies tend to leave the field when they require a more enclosed or private space. This indicates that public space design has not yet fully accounted for women's reproductive and caregiving needs.

4.5 Other Specific Facilities

Based on observations at Lapangan Renon, toilet facilities are available, but they are not fully functional. The toilets were found to be dirty and poorly maintained, providing neither comfort nor a sense of safety for the female users. However, aspects of cleanliness and privacy are not adequately addressed, which may reduce women's willingness to use these facilities. Moreover, poorly maintained toilets pose a potential health risk. This indicates that the physical presence of facilities does not automatically mean that they are usable or appropriate. In terms of quality, the toilet facilities at Lapangan Renon do not optimally support women's needs.

The children's playground area around Lapangan Renon is not integrated into the main field space but is spatially separated on the eastern side. This condition makes it difficult for women who wish to engage in activities in the field, such as exercising or socializing, while their children play in the playground. Spatial separation means that mothers' and children's activities occur in different areas, making simultaneous supervision difficult. Consequently, women must choose between accompanying their children and engaging in personal activities. This situation reduces the flexibility of public space use for women with child. Therefore, the layout of facilities does not yet support the needs of women who perform dual roles as public space users and caregivers.

4.6 Inclusivity and Gender Representation in Design

Based on observations, the design of Lapangan Renon is formally neutral but implicitly masculine in its use by men and women. The dominance of activities such as jogging and group exercise indicates that the space prioritizes vigorous and competitive physical activities. No design elements specifically address women's needs, such as private spaces, mother-and-child resting areas, or care facilities. Thus, women are positioned as secondary users who adapt to existing patterns. Although not explicitly exclusive, the design does not fully represent women's experiences and instead reflects public space norms shaped by masculine usage.

The design also fails to accommodate women across age groups, especially mothers with children and older women. Limited seating and the lack of dedicated resting spaces make it difficult for those who need more frequent rest breaks to use public transport. Separating children's play areas from the main activity zones forces women to choose between supervising their children and engaging in personal activities. This shows that caregiving experiences are not the main consideration in the design. Consequently, the space is better suited to physically active, productive-age users than to women with complex mobility and care needs.

Although Lapangan Renon provides a large open space, the dominant activities are sports-oriented. Care-related activities, such as breastfeeding, are not adequately supported because of the lack of private spaces and facilities. Women must adapt their activities to spaces designed for general use, limiting the diversity of their spatial experiences. This indicates an unequal representation between women's activities and more visible, facilitated masculine activities.

From a gender-responsive design perspective, public spaces should be grounded in women's lived experiences, including the need for safety, comfort, and access to care facilities. While the concept of inclusive public space emphasizes use by diverse groups, the findings from Lapangan Renon show that inclusivity remains general and does not specifically address women's needs. The space integrates physical and social activities but does not include care-related functions. Therefore, Lapangan Renon can be considered physically inclusive but not fully gender-inclusive, highlighting the importance of integrating a gender perspective into public-space planning and management.

4.7 The Gap between Ideal Design and Actual Conditions

The findings reveal a gap between the physical availability of facilities and their functionality. The toilets at Lapangan Renon are poorly maintained, difficult to use, and do not provide safety or comfort for women. Night lighting is also available; however, it is uneven and leaves dark areas on the northern, western, and eastern sides of the field. This indicates that the ideal design principles requiring safe and adequate facilities have not been fully realized in practice. In other words, the mere presence of facilities does not automatically ensure the fulfillment of women's needs in prisons. This gap reflects a lack of integration between design planning and the management of public spaces.

In addition to suboptimal facilities, several essential facilities are entirely absent, such as breastfeeding rooms and rest areas for mothers and children. Their absence shows that women's biological needs and caregiving roles have not been incorporated into the design logic of space. Public spaces are still conceived mainly as sites for general activities without considering women's specific experiences as caregivers. Without private spaces for breastfeeding or changing diapers, women tend to limit their time spent in public spaces. This condition demonstrates that the design of Lapangan Renon is not yet fully

oriented toward women's bodily experience. This gap reinforces the finding that public spaces are designed under the assumption of a "neutral" user, which, in practice, overlooks gender-specific needs.

Several design elements may hinder women's use of space. The separation of the children's playground from the main field makes it difficult for women to engage in activities while they supervise their children. Moreover, poorly lit areas and the absence of formal surveillance create perceptions of insecurity, particularly at night. These conditions may restrict women's mobility and encourage them to avoid specific areas. Consequently, public spaces become unequal in practice, even though they are formally open to all. This demonstrates that spatial design should be evaluated not only in terms of physical provision but also in terms of its impact on women's usage patterns. Here, the gap between inclusive design ideals and actual use becomes apparent.

Most public space studies still assess spatial quality primarily through physical and aesthetic aspects without positioning women as the main analytical subjects. The Lapangan Renon case shows that a space that appears to function well in general does not necessarily support women's needs. This study addresses this gap by examining the relationship between spatial design, facilities, and women's experiences as users of these facilities. By focusing on design and facility observations, this study reveals gaps that are often invisible in conventional public space evaluations. These findings highlight the importance of gender-based analyses in urban studies. Thus, Lapangan Renon serves as a concrete example of how the research gap concerning women's experiences in public spaces can be addressed through local empirical research.

4.8 Suggestion for Urban Planning in Denpasar

The findings of this study indicate that public space policies in Denpasar must move beyond a gender-neutral approach toward a gender-responsive one. Public spaces should not be designed merely as open areas but must be understood as part of women's everyday living environments. Planning policies that focus solely on recreational and aesthetic functions risk neglecting safety, comfort, and care issues. Therefore, the results of this study suggest the need to reassess public space facility standards from the perspective of female users. This is important to ensure that public spaces are symbolically and practically inclusive. Consequently, urban policies should integrate gender perspectives into spatial quality criteria.

Based on the field findings, several design recommendations can be proposed, including improving toilet quality and cleanliness, providing breastfeeding rooms and rest areas for mothers and children, and enhancing lighting throughout the field. Integrating children's play areas with adult activity spaces is also essential so that women can perform their dual roles without moving between separate zones. In addition, the provision of surveillance elements, such as security posts or CCTV, can increase women's sense of safety, particularly at night. Spatial design should also provide more seating and shaded areas for rest. These recommendations suggest that improvements do not necessarily require new construction but can be achieved through design adjustments that are more sensitive to women's experiences of using public toilets. Thus, public space design can evolve to become more inclusive and adaptive.

Females exhibit different spatial use patterns due to their social and biological roles, such as childcare, paid work, and household management. If public space planning does not originate from women's lived experiences, the resulting spaces tend to reproduce masculine standards of use as the norm. Making women the primary subjects of planning means recognizing that their experiences are an important source of knowledge in urban design. This approach benefits not only women but also other groups, such as children, older adults, and persons with disabilities. Thus, planning grounded in women's experiences has the potential to create public spaces that are humane and inclusive for all. Fundamentally, a gender-responsive approach to urban planning seeks to ensure that the needs and interests of both men and women are considered at every stage of planning, from conceptualization and implementation to budgeting and monitoring (UN, 2010). The findings from Lapangan Renon demonstrate that without such a perspective, public spaces risk becoming formally neutral, but socially unequal.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Conclusion

This study shows that the design and public facilities of Lapangan Renon generally provide an open space that is accessible to the public, including women, but do not fully support the specific needs of female users. The observations indicate that several facilities are available but do not function optimally, such as poorly maintained toilets and uneven lighting at night. In addition, facilities particularly important to women, such as breastfeeding rooms and rest areas for mothers and children, are not provided, while children's play areas are spatially separated from the main zones of adult activities. These conditions limit women's flexibility in using public spaces, especially for those who perform caregiving roles. From a gender-responsive urban design perspective, Lapangan Renon reflects a gender-neutral approach that tends to be masculine in practice. Thus, this study emphasizes that the quality of public spaces is determined not only by the availability of physical facilities but also by the extent to which their design represents women's experiences and needs as primary users.

5.2 Limitations

This study had several limitations that should be considered when interpreting the findings. First, the method relied solely on observations of the design and physical conditions of facilities, without incorporating interviews or direct surveys of women users. Consequently, the analysis of women's experiences is based on the researcher's interpretation of spatial conditions rather than users' subjective perceptions. Second, observations were conducted over a limited time period and therefore do not fully represent variations in spatial use across different times and seasons of the year. Third, this study did not compare Lapangan Renon with other public spaces in Denpasar; therefore, the generalizability of the findings remains limited to the context of Lapangan Renon. These limitations indicate that the results should be understood as preliminary findings that open avenues for further research. Accordingly, this study primarily functions as a critical exploration of public space design from a gender perspective.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Practical Recommendations

The Denpasar City Government is advised to improve the quality of existing facilities, particularly toilets and lighting systems, to ensure that they are usable and safe for women. The provision of breastfeeding rooms and rest areas for mothers and children should be considered integral to public space design. Integrating children's play areas with the main adult activity spaces is also important so that women can engage in activities without being spatially separated from their children. Furthermore, adding surveillance elements, such as security posts or CCTV, can enhance women's sense of safety, especially at night. Public space planning approaches should adopt the principles of gender-responsive urban design as design standards. In this way, public spaces will not only symbolize urban openness but will also serve as genuinely equitable spaces for all users.

5.3.2 Academic Recommendations

Future studies should combine physical observations with participatory methods, such as in-depth interviews or surveys with female users. This approach would generate a more comprehensive understanding of women's experiences, perceptions, and strategies for using public spaces. Comparative studies across different public spaces in Denpasar are also important for identifying design patterns that are more or less gender-sensitive. Further research should examine the relationship between public space design and women's participation in social and economic activities. By expanding both methods and research contexts, studies on public space and gender can make stronger contributions to theory and practice in urban planning in Indonesia, which is expected to strengthen women's position as key subjects in the design of urban spaces.

References

- Beebeejaun, Y. (2017). Gender, Urban Space, and the Right to Everyday Life. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 39, 323–334. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2016.1255526>
- Denpasar, B. K. (2023). *KOTA DENPASAR DALAM ANGKA, Denpasar Municipality in Figures 2023*. BPS Kota Denpasar.

- Francis, J. (2010). *Associations Between Public Space and Mental Health in New Residential Developments*. The University of Western Australia.
- Furidha, B. W. (2023). Comprehension of the Descriptive Qualitative Research Method: A Critical Assessment of the Literature. *ACITYA WISESA: Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 2(4). <https://doi.org/doi.org/10.56943/jmr.v2i4.443>
- Harefa, K. O. (2024). *ANALISIS TINGKAT RESPONSI GENDER PADA FASILITAS RUANG PUBLIK (STUDI KASUS TAMAN AHMAD YANI MEDAN)*.
- Hernandez, Pablo Navarrete; Vetro, Arielle; Concha, P. (2021). Building Safer Public Spaces: Exploring Gender Difference in the Perception of Safety in Public space through urban design interventions. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 2(14). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2021.104180>
- Kern, L. (2019). *Feminist City: A Field Guide*. Between the Lines.
- Kinanti, Woro Utami Dwi; Wungo, G. L. (2023). Tingkat Keamanan Ruang Publik Bagi Kaum Perempuan dengan Pendekatan CPTED di Koridor Jalan Cihampelas Bandung. *TATALOKA*, 25(4). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.14710/tataloka.25.4.270-280>
- Moonen, M. (2024). (Wo)Man-Made Public Space. The Design Changes Needed to Create Gender-Inclusive Cities. *The Journal of Public Space*, 9(1), 25–42. <https://doi.org/10.32891/jps.v9i1.1810>
- OECD. (2021). No Title Women in infrastructure: Selected stocktaking of good practices for inclusion of women in infrastructure. *OECD Publishing*, 7. <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9eab66a8-en>
- Prahaditya, Naufal Mahdani; Sutikno, F. R. S. (2024). Inklusivitas Perempuan di Ruang Terbuka Publik dengan Studi Kasus di Taman Kali Ngrowo Tulungagung. *Planning for Urban Region and Environment Journal (PURE)*, 13(3).
- Priyatna, S. A. (2023). *Lapangan Puputan Margarana Renon*. <https://www.djkn.kemenkeu.go.id/kanwil-balinusra/baca-artikel/16446/Lapangan-Puputan-Margarana-Renon.html>
- Rusmana, Ajrina Rizkiananda; Abigail, A. (2024). Women's preferences for female-friendly public space design in Indonesia. *Sungging: Jurnal Seni Rupa, Kriya, Desain Dan Pembelajarannya*, 3(2), 145–152.
- Srinivas, H. (n.d.). *Designing Safe Urban Spaces: Enhancing Women's Safety through Inclusive Urban Planning*. Global Development Research Center. <https://www.gdrc.org/gender/urban/1.html>
- UN, W. (2010). *Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls*. https://endvawnow.org/en/articles/251-safe-public-spaces-for-women-and-girls.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com