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Ethnography of Abu Dhabi Corniche

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ABSTRACT

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Keywords: Waterfront Activities; Social Value; Abu Dhabi Corniche; Urban Ethnography

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Abstract

The present research documents the social impact of Abu Dhabi Corniche development, seeking to identify the social value of the Corniche for local users and residents of the city. The social aspects of urban life continue to be central to urban planning and development. Waterfront areas, in particular, are significant contributors to urban sociality. That is particularly the case for Corniche developments, as these are explicitly oriented to social and recreational activities supporting the needs of urban residents and, increasingly, tourists. Significant issues include competition for limited space along the waterfront, questions involving the definition and demarcation of water edge boundaries, the celebration of the aesthetic values of the thresholds between city and sea, and the concerns over tensions between environmental and conservation imperatives, on the one hand, and typically intensive recreational uses of natural bodies of water and the land areas adjacent to them, on the other. This research considers issues related to public access, resource provision, activity support, urban public identity and other social implications of Corniche planning and development. The research takes a broadly ethnographic approach which includes site documentation, photo recording, field notes, direct in-person observation and in-depth interviews. Triangulation across these data collection techniques are used to test and reinforce the study's conclusions. The analysis concludes with a discussion of the value of Abu Dhabi Corniche for various categories of users and considers the general role and effects of Corniche type development on the social life of areas adjacent to urban waterfronts.

Keywords: Waterfront Activities, Social Value, Abu Dhabi Corniche, Urban Ethnography

1. Introduction

The city of Abu Dhabi is facing significant/ major challenge in Corniche area. The waterfront of the city, which is located in the city center of Abu Dhabi, is gradually growing and developed with responding to the surrounding urban environment. Some concerns were raised regarding the usage of waterfront areas among Abu Dhabi's multi-nations population, the future needs, required spaces of the city, and the future value of Corniche.

The social aspects of Corniche's studies refer to the different ways of using and experiencing the city edge of the waterfront to have a clear understanding of their use, quality, value, and importance to the community. This type of research is demonstrated by defining the underlying social behavior and analyzing some design features and their value in the current

Corniche planning model (Sairinen & Kumpulainen, 2006).

Further development and urban planning alternative options could be utilized for the increasing number of population and required for enlarged waterfront activities area. These options could include proposing an expansion of Corniche in its current location; however, it will generate an environmental issue of pollution for the natural elements ecosystem of the sea. Having alternative Corniche space in a different area of the city edge that contains the public's activities would be another option for any further requirements of increasing Corniches' spaces.

Many attention has been given to the understanding and the analyzing of Corniche and waterfront designs in the world due to several reasons, such as being the main sense of a city's image, the impact on the economy, and its effect on

the social activities and human behaviors. Additional to that, the physical activities are affected by the Corniche design (Sairinen & Kumpulainen, 2006). Many social issues could be avoided by having a well-planned pattern of the Corniche design. Furthermore, major safety and security issues could be solved with public areas planning. Additionally, the layout and the design of Corniche is one factor towards having a healthy living social community within its environment.

In this research, the social behavior in the Corniche is the main focus of the research topic. The study will be limited to UAE due to the lack of information and studies pertaining Corniche design. The research is focusing on understanding the Corniche design and identifying its value. The term ethnography to be studied not only the meaning that represents the behavioral factors, but also includes the social interaction, cultural, behavior, meaning, and identity values as well.

Selecting an appropriate research approach is essential to provide an organized direction to fulfill the objective and aim of this study. The method that been used in this research is ethnography approach. The proposed research plan divided into several phases starting with defining the research, collecting information, investigating, interviewing and finally concluding the research with highlights concerning the importance of design impact on the use of Corniche and Corniche design guidelines. The data collection for this study is based off several ways, including site based fieldwork, in-depth Interviews, personal observations, and photo recording.

Such study on the waterfront and Corniche design has not been investigated before for a population consists of group of multi-nationalities in one area, with frequently changing of demography over the years, and with having different visitors and tourists attraction in the city.

This research represents the value of Abu Dhabi Corniche from the perspective of different categories of population, and the role and effects of the waterfront on the social life in the urban environment. This work helps in defining the use of the Corniche in Abu Dhabi and it shows the activities held within this long waterfront. Additional to that, the study represent the different use of the Corniche for different reasons and the value of the Corniche in such environment including its aesthetic and quality value. It gives an understanding of how the Corniche been utilized by the different group of people of various ages. Also, this study helps in highlighting the main design feature that been used within the Corniche area and shows the role of Corniche in the quality of social aspects in Abu Dhabi city on how the Corniche design affect the social interaction.

The gathered information also helps in increasing the awareness of the planners, developers, decision makers and the community about the impact of the waterfront development in the economic, politic, and social aspects. In general, the main question is investigating the relationship between the natural environment, the social life, and the human activity. It is essential to integrate the impact of different aspects of life such as the social, ecological, and economical on the planning and developing process of an area.

This research is not a typical research that having specific questions to be asked, as in this research several issues are being addressed to identify and understand the people behavior in the Corniche and are as follows:

- The value of Corniche among the users
- The social aspect of Corniche design
- The benefits of Corniche for the population of Abu Dhabi city

- The utilization of Abu Dhabi Corniche design

Abu Dhabi Corniche Background

The Corniche is located in Abu Dhabi city on the western side of the main island. The Corniche was extended between 2002 and 2003, as the land regained from the sea. It is spreading across eight kilometers of public waterfront that consists of public plazas; children play areas, multiple lanes for pedestrians and cyclists, restaurants and cafes, and access to the beach. Corniche forms a wide curve path designed with fountains, park areas, and public facilities (UPC,2009).

Abu Dhabi Corniche is considered a public recreational and leisure space for the community of Abu Dhabi. It is providing a special experience for young and families with all of the supportive activities of walking, cycling, and sports facilities such as skateboarding, beach football, and volleyball. Additional to that, it enhances cultural activities and environmental events.

The development of Abu Dhabi Corniche has converted the Corniche into a family and community safe environment, with high interactivity along with facilities, such as restaurants, cafes and beach shops. The availability of such services helps to attract and serve both local and international visitors, with outdoor and indoor choices of seating, to enjoy the unique amenities of the Corniche. The Corniche is designed to have convenient access from various areas along Corniche road, with having full support for the pedestrian mobility like providing tunnels and walkways. (UPC,2009)

2. Literature Review

Waterfront as Urban resource

Waterfront is not an additional urban element to the city, as it is considered one of its valuable resources due to its unique character, and its value. The value of the

Corniche is derived from its unique location of being the borderline between the land and water, which capture exceptional location advantages of containing and viewing both movements on the water and the land.

Traditionally, the waterfront was considered as an unimportant urban element and had several issues, such as pollutions, accessibility, and urban disorder. However, like most of the urban spaces, the waterfront development has started to be considered as a mandatory option to develop the city with its economy and image.

The development of the waterfront includes highlighting the essential natural spaces, architectural designs, and infrastructure. A development that helps in introducing and contain new functions for different users, a development for local, visitors, and tourists as well, a place to be appreciated with all its users and viewers. The understanding of the specific value of the waterfront development has extended from being a border element between water and earth to have a significant impact on the social behavior of the people and the economic sector of the city.

The waterfront between city and port

Many of cities that are adjacent to water areas are often using the port as the primary resource for their economy. The waterfront acts as the central connection area between the city and the port that is getting more attentions from developers and urban planners for the value that the waterfront location has. (Bruttomesso, 2006)

With the modern planning and the consideration on the human behavior and peoples need as the mean consideration for the urban development, relocating the port activities away from the heart of the city is one of the main strategies to enhance the livability of the waterfront area, and

develop the waterfront design to be a place that serve the city and the people's needs. The waterfronts development is seeking to have a balance between the needs of the people and the movement requirements in the port area, which leads to building a mix used waterfront area which serve as port and as a social space for the peoples activities, allowing citizen and tourist to move freely and enjoy the connection between the land and water, and to be one of the attractive destination in the city for tourists. (Bruttomesso, 2006)

Waterfront (Corniche)

The idea of waterfront started as a focal point for port activities, and its connection between water and public functions.

In the past, ports have served as a transportation method for the city, and as economic drivers. Similarly, to how cities have been changed and developed over the years, its waterfronts and ports have followed as well.

Waterfront in the new developments represents and serves several functions. Examples of such includes the economic strength of localities, public spaces, promote positive city image, connect water to land, recreation area, leisure space, place marketing, tourist attraction, creating open green spaces, creating a focal point, urban residential, and increase access to cultural and natural facilities.

Defining the boundary of the waterfront is usually unclear due to several aspects, including its linkage and mixed with abandoned areas, commercial points, and residential sectors.

Waterfront design refers to the activities that help in creating a space that will balance living, working, recreational functions of individuals.

Waterfront categories

There are several categories of waterfront functionality, and each category has its character and preference design, the following are the main categories for the waterfront: (Gospodini, 2001)

- Commercial oriented waterfront- where many businesses activities take place and aim to expand the waterfront to be as a financial and working districts
- Leisure and entertainment waterfront- where the design is aiming to direct the waterfront to be more recreational areas with having all the leisure activities, sea activities, and sports. Commercial center- with having shopping centers, business districts with all of the required conference facilities.
-
- Residential district waterfront- where all of the luxury housing are expanding along the waterfront.
- Environmental waterfront- which includes providing walkways, land and marine parks and aquariums.
- Cultural waterfront- locating theaters, historical buildings, restaurants and hotel along the waterfront, which aim to transfer the waterfront into tourist and historical area.

Waterfront challenges

All around the world, port areas are facing several challenges in developing the urban waterfront planning in order to create economic, tourist, recreational and residential attraction environment.

Transforming the port area and seaside edges of the city from industrialization environment and way of transportation and good exchanging to a tourist attraction and urban public spaces has widely occurred around the world. (Doorne, 1998; Hutton, 2009).

The transformation occurred in the seaside cities have several effects on many aspects. These effects include, but not limited to, the changing on the political matters, effecting the economic frameworks of the city, altering the urban revitalization, design and planning, the character of heritage and history in the generations, the transformation of land-use in waterfront districts. Additionally, it affects the environmental and ecological matters regarding the waterfronts. (Gordon, 1999; McCarthy, 2004).

In general, there are two main types on waterfront development projects from the perspective of tourism planning design. The first type is converting the waterfront edge into a tourist attraction, which means planning for the tourist required activities, behavior and preferable design elements and leisure functions. In this model tourist are becoming the main and prime users of the waterfront renewal. The aim of such tourist oriented waterfront environment is generate a high standard esthetic marketable area, improve the historical awareness of the area, and promote the cultural attractions by hosting multi urban activities and festivals. (Craig-Smith, 1995).

While the other waterfront development type of is concerning on conserving the local needs and the original uses of the waterfront area with integrating tourism and leisure aspects. Diverse models of waterfront renovation emerge as a result, as few of them produce gentrification, while the others concentrate more on the heritage and community culture. (Hoyle, Pinder, & Husain, 1988).

The social aspect of waterfront

The assessment of the social impact of the urban waterfront planning studies the several options of utilizing and living the edges of the seaside's, and have a clear understanding of their planning qualities

on the social behavior and community. (Sairinen and Kumpulainen, 2006)

The objective of such analysis helps in raise the awareness of different people such as the planners, governor, and decision makers on the effects of the waterfront planning design proposals on the social behavior. furthermore, it increases the community awareness about the cultural and social aspects of the waterfront areas including the recreational aspects, physical, cultural, and social interaction between the waterfront and community.

Based on different studies pertaining the waterfront, the social trait of the urban waterfront development is defined by several categories that include social status, identity and resources, activities and access, and the experience of waterfront. The aim of these categories is to analyze and identify the social effect of the urban waterfront areas. (Gordon,1996)

Numerous categories of the social effects on the waterfront planning design can be analyzed according to the different users,; the importance of water needs for the social life; and the influence due to the interests of people and their involvements in the waterfront development.

The first category is the people who utilized the waterfront areas as their residence spot, working place, or recreation areas integrated with waterfront sites for industrial use, housing, transportation, commercial, and a wide range of recreational activities and leisure facilities.

On the other hand, the second category of people who use waterfront environment as a viewing area and treats it as an urban public space. This class is concerned about the utilization of the waterfront and its quality regardless if they might not directly benefit or utilize this area, as they see the

waterfront area as an environmental and recreational attractive resource. (Sairinen and Kumpulainen, 2006)

3. Research Methods

There are several methods used to conduct a research, depending on its nature, the type of questions, the answers that the researcher is looking for, the culture of the studied area, the availability of materials, the accessibility of the materials and the quality of the gathered data.

Ethnography qualitative method is used in this research. The Ethnography methodology is implemented where the focus is on particular people and behaviors in considerable depth. The study is conducted via observing a group of people that shares a common culture and behavior, which is the use of Corniche. The studied group were observed in its natural setting for a long period of time, and the focus is on investigating the daily behavior of the people in this group, for example their interaction, language, activity, etc. (Sherman, 2001)

In this research, the selected method used is the interviews with the people, analyzing and observing the people. The followings tools were used in this research method:

- Analyzing the urban design of the selected Corniche,
- Face to face interviews performed with 10-15 participants using and visiting the Corniche
- Field observations within the selected investigated Corniche.

Research Design

Urban design and planning is a very broad area to study and analyze. Within this area, there are many focused issues to investigate. One of these areas is the Corniche design with social behavior where a further study and research to be conducted.

The study focuses on understanding in particular the Corniche design and identifying its value. The term ethnography to be studied not only the meaning that represents the behavioral factors, but additionally it includes the social interaction, cultural, behavior, meaning, and identity values as well.

Even though that such research have been conducted over wide and around the world, yet the result and research outcome are mostly beneficial for the regions that the research was done within it, and in many cases focuses on the economic factor of the Corniche. Therefore, this research focus is essential in our area in order to have clear data and information about the Corniche design. Ethnographic Corniche study is the understanding of the overall social behavior and design pattern, the character of a particular area, its effect on the human behavior, and its relationship to the social aspects, how it affects the cultural values, and its emphasis on the interaction between people.

Several research questions could be raised in order to understand the social behavior of an area; these items are usually interrelated to each other and complete the research purpose. Such questions include: How the Corniche has been designed? How has it been evaluated? What are the evolution stages of the Corniche design? In which direction? To which extend? How do people adopt with it? What are the principles of Corniche design? What are the factors that affect the Corniche design? What makes a social Corniche? How does cornice design affect human behavior? All of these items to be studied and identified under the ethnographic Corniche design.

Data Collection

The data collection methods help in identifying the answers for the research issues. With analyzing the Corniche design pattern we could have a clear understanding about the overall Corniche

planning and zoning, the different areas such as the public spaces and the activities zones, the connection between each one of zones, the access to them, and the circulation to reach one another. The observations of the human behavior have been used to evaluate frequently usage of the different public facilities and the nature of users' movements. The face-to-face interviews identified clearly the issues that the people face; highlight the needs of the people and what's their influence on the layout design of the Corniche, how to improve it and what to implement in the future Corniche design.

The data collected from such research method contains several items such as, the behavior of the people in such public area, the way of living, the interaction between people, the quality of life in this design pattern, the issues people find within the Corniche, the possible solutions and guideline to improve the Corniche design and enhance the life quality within it. In addition to that, it allows making the people part of the decision-making in their community, and introduces a guideline that suits the people needs.

Triangulation

The following chart explains the relationship between the different data collection methods, how they are related, connected and supporting each other. Additional to that, the data collected from different methods are forming several codes, which lead to specific themes that help in defining the results of the collected data. (Groat, L. N., & Wang, D., 2013). The use of triangulation method helps in supporting the validity and reliability of the collected data and shows that the data collected is accurate.

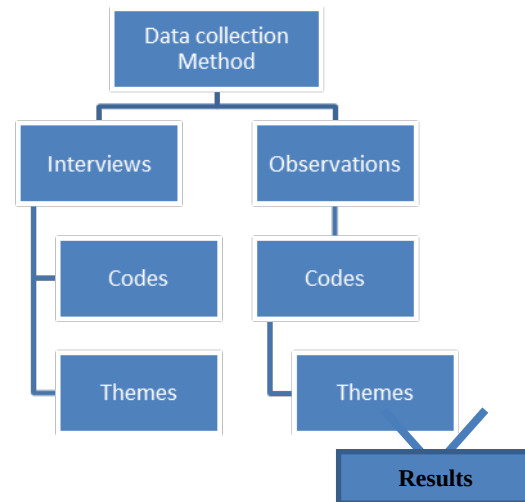


Figure 1 Triangulation

Ethnographic techniques

For this research, the selected methods used include interviews and field observations. The following explains in detail the interview and field observation design and strategies.

- Interview Design

One of the main important tools for data collection in ethnographic research is the interviews, many types of research have been relying on it heavily or solely, and in this research is relying on interviews as the primary mechanism for data collection. The ethnographic data collection that occurs by involving the interviewer within the culture, community, and context of participants. This type of conversation might not be a typical interview that occurs between the researcher and participant, rather it might go beyond this into a progress interview via daily conversation, observations, and continues interaction and meetings between the researcher and participant. (Sherman Heyl, n.d.) And this kind of interviews and conversations helps in improving the relationship between the researcher and participant which leads to more data and ideas received from the interviewer.

The interview method aims to understand the value of the Corniche for the users, how does the Corniche design supports its

function and understand the relationship between the people and the Corniche.

- Field Observation

The observation method helps in understanding the perspectives held by particular people. It is also used to have a full understanding of the social, physical, economical, and cultural context about the Corniche studied area. It helps in identifying the relationship between the people and the Corniche, activities and behaviors, and observes the people ongoing action in the natural settings.

Descriptive observation was conducted in the Corniche area. The observation was conducted in different areas of the Corniche to understand the various use of these places. The observation took place during the cold weather and throughout the week at different times. The purpose of selecting various days and timing for conducting the observations is to highlight the variety of activities and human behavior in this area.

The focus of the observation was on the human behavior, their activities, the relationship between the physical environment and the people, the use of different areas, the period spent in one area, the movement between section to the other, and the human interaction with all these activities.

Data collection and analysis

Narrative analysis is the method used in analyzing the collected data. This method is used when there is one or more participants are involved in explaining and sharing an event or a particular experience. The narrative analysis helps in understanding the social phenomena and human experience through the content of the analyzed stories. (Cortazzi, n.d.)

There are many reasons for using narrative analysis method, which include: (Cortazzi, n.d.)

- Emphasis on the people stories and the way to explain the world
- Does not use narrative as stories that tell facts about the world
- Use narratives as social outcomes that are generated by people in specific context.
- Views narratives as educational tools which people express themselves and their experience and share it with others.
- Additionally, narratives can help in constructing personal or community identity, rationalize, organize, educate, remind, entertain, cope, or make an argument of a particular situation or event.

4. Analysis & Results

After collecting the data and conducting the interviews with several participants, analyzing the data and generating review is very critical for the completion of this study. The interviews were conducted with several people in the form of “informal conversations” and the codes and themes were generated according to the people’ responds from different research aspects, with respecting all of the participants’ experiences and personal preferable.

Generating themes and codes is the process of organizing the interviews collected data into sections and categories before having the final analysis of the information (Peräkylä, A.,2008). The data collected to be analyzed has to undergo the following stages:

- Starting with reading the transcripts several times and reviewing it.
- Second is to identify the relevant information, opinions, activities, and concepts.
- The third step is to highlight the important items to be coded and categorized.
- The fourth step is to generate themes out of these codes and

categories and connect them to the research issues.

- Finally conclude the themes and analyze the results.

Interviews

Many interviews were conducted in this study to get a variety of responses and experience from different users, in different timing, and different location of the Corniche. Some of these interviews were long and detailed, while others were short and brief. The following is brief of the main discussed points during the interviews:

Several interviewees talked about their experience at the beach and its condition of being clean and managed, and also describing the facilities and services provided such as the showers and restaurants. Many participants mentioned that they go for the Corniche for a picnic with the family as they appreciate the green areas. The location of the Corniche and the accessibility to it was one of the main areas that the participants talked about, for example having connections between the Corniche and the surrounding hotels, and the availability of public transportation reaching there. Many people said that the Corniche is good for families and friends gathering especially with the high security available. They consider it as a place for relaxing.

Some of the participants said that walking on the Corniche with having the view to the sky is their main purpose of visiting the Corniche. They said that there is a special walking area where people walk, jog and run. Also, some of the participants stated that they like to take photos in the Corniche. Other participants said that they go to the Corniche for fishing, especially during the evening and early hours of the day.

Several interviewees talked about the various services provided in the Corniche,

such as the cycling lane, walking lane, seating areas, exercising area, and bike parking. Also, they talked about the renting facilities provided for bikes and small children cars and the availability of different restaurants along the Corniche.

Field Observations

While being on the site, several things are important to consider while observing which helps in answering the research goal, these things include:

- Physical setting.
- Objects and material culture.
- Use of language.
- Behavior cycles.
- The order in which events occurred.
- Physical characteristics.
- Expressive body movements.

Being in the field for few times and observe the people behavior is essential for this study, as I am looking into the people behavior and how they interact with each other and understanding the use of each design element in the cornich. The following list highlights the observations items during the time spent in the Corniche:

Table 1 Observations

OBSERVATION
Many people were visiting the cornich during the day, some of them just walk along the cornich, others were riding bicycle and running.
The cornich also was full with families, especially during the weekend, many children playing on the grass and running around their families, and renting bikes and riding it all along the cornich and returning to their families spot.
The nearest area to the sea water was place for small fishing activity especially during the night.
The green open areas were occupied with children and adults, where children used it as a playground area, and adults used it as a physical exercise

spot.

The exercising equipment's, the various lane of the Corniche were occupied. Seating in the various seating areas was very well occupied along the coniche

Many Events, flights show, science festival, mother day festival, yasalam festival were conducted along the Corniche with huge number of visitors.

Many people were standing in different locations of the Corniche to take photos from various angels; some of them consider the natural views while other consider the high rise buildings.

Many people were renting boat for a tour on the sea, renting bike, seating in the Restaurants, and shopping in the Beach shops.

Some people were doing different activities such as Group dancing and exercising, Water activities like jet sky, having friends gathering and Swimming.

Additional to the above, many Tourist busses stopped along the Corniche bus stops as an important feature of the city.

From the conducted interviews, it is clear that there is a connection between the users and the Corniche, as some refer to the Corniche visit as their daily routine and there is something wrong they feel it whenever they do not visit the Corniche. People considered that the Corniche visit as treatment way and stress reliever. The Corniche is a gateway to allow communicating and communing with nature and enjoying it. It was clear that the design of the walkways and landscape features were important for them to mention and criticize.

Corniche for some people is mainly for exercising and having different activities. As its better than indoor exercising environment like gym. They highlighted the importance of exercising in the Corniche to their health. People considered

being in the Corniche as a way to meet people and have real life relationships. Emphasizing on the amount and variety of facilities and services provided along the Corniche was also one of the attractions in their point of view for the Corniche. The way the Corniche is connected to the surrounding urban areas were impressive for the people as well.

Safety, security, maintenance, connectivity, and facilities, were some of the main consideration for many people as they repeatedly mentioned how the Corniche is considered as safe place to be in during the morning or even at night. Additional to that, the facility provided and its functionality was very important for many users and they highlighted it clearly with how good the maintenance for the services and facilities is.

The conducted interviews represent many themes mentioned by several peoples that helps in framing the study, these themes include the value of the Corniche, the Corniche design criteria, and the purpose of visiting the Corniche.

From my observation, I saw people doing all different kind of activities in the Corniche area, and all of the sections of Abu Dhabi Corniche were utilized by users. Starting with the cycling lane, where it was occupied most of the time with bikers, adults and children were using all facilities related to bike, from hiring bike and parking it at the bike parking areas. The walking lane was also occupied and used mainly by people who are running, jogging and walking, this area had benches at the sides of the lane, where people were resting from time to time from their walk or run. During the weekend and holidays, the Corniche is considered the main area for people to visit and spend their time. Whenever there was an event in the Corniche, the Corniche become very crowded with people coming by all kind of transportations, some are walking; others

using public services, and others used cars and taxi. The beach area was surprisingly used and many people were walking and swimming during that time of the year.

The data collected from the conducted interviews and field observations help in generating codes and themes that in turn will help in highlighting the concerns of the Corniche. Some of the highlighted issues

- The value of Corniche on the people
- The purpose and visiting of the Corniche
- The design criteria of Abu Dhabi Corniche based on people point of view.

This ethnography study is designed to understand the value, the importance, the quality and the meaning of the Corniche to the users. The goal of this study is to highlight the social value of the Corniche with the effect of the physical Corniche design on the people social life. Section one highlights the result and finding from the observations done in the Corniche and the conducted interviews, with identifying the Value of the Corniche for the people. Section two represents the meaning of the Corniche and the purpose of visiting the Corniche from different point of view gathered through several interviewed people. The people behavior due to Abu Dhabi Corniche design is also identified in the third section. In addition to the above, the different activities, services, and facilities provided and mentioned by the interviewee and observed through the observations are highlighted in all three sections.

Value of the Corniche

It is clear from the data collected and analysis that the Abu Dhabi cornice is not just an additional extra urban public place that people rarely visit, while the Corniche is considered as an essential place to be visited on a daily basis for many people. For many people the Corniche is

considered as one of their daily task, which makes them feel unsatisfied if they miss visiting it once. Not only it has been observed how people are connected to the Corniche as a physical public area, but also emotionally and as part of health recovery and enhancement. People believes that the Corniche is one of the unique places in Abu Dhabi where they are having many memories and experience, it's a place for themselves, for family, friends, and for the community. It is a place where they are connected to the nature from the city side and connected to people in public safe place.

Purpose of visiting the Corniche

The Corniche more than being the borderline between the land and water, its use and function vary and differ from a person to the other. People are using the Corniche for different purposes, such as being its way to escape from the stressful life and relax; it's considered a place for releasing stress and breathing fresh air. It is considered as a leisure place to enjoy time, as many events and festivals are held in the Corniche, and enjoy being connected to nature. The view of the city from the Corniche is very attractive that made it one of the tourist attraction spots. Many people enjoyed having different activities on the Corniche such as walking, running, cycling, playing sports, exercising, and fishing. The Corniche is designed with having full respect to the need for different activities, as many renting facilities for bikes and parkings, and special running lane are considered in the design. The Corniche is also used as a social gathering space for friends, family, and community, due to all of the open spaces, public plazas, restaurants, coffee shops, festivals, and events.

Design criteria

The Corniche contains many elements and design features to serve different functions and to attract visiting it. There are many attractive design features such as having

water feature along the Corniche. Many features were function-oriented such as bike parking, shading devices, exercising equipment's, and seating benches. People believe that a Corniche that is designed with separate lanes for cycling, walking and running, sitting and viewing is very beneficial to attract people with various activity interest to be in the Corniche. The accessibility to the Corniche is essential especially for such public areas, with having all different alternative options to reach the Corniche and that is by either using pedestrian tunnels, public transport or private cars. The equipment provided for exercising and bike-parking are located along the Corniche at multiple spots with full periodic services and maintenance during the year is enhancing the value of the Corniche and its usability. Open public yards and plaza is the attractive spot for public community gathering, celebrations, national events, and festivals.

In conclusion, we can say that the people daily experience in the Corniche and their interest in visiting the Corniche in daily basis is enhancing the value of Abu Dhabi Corniche for being a place for people and community. The facilities provided and services located along the Corniche such as equipment's, bike parking's, and restaurants are the supportive elements for the Corniche to achieve its target as an active public area. Children, adults, and elderly, are enjoying the Corniche due to the design consideration that suit each category from providing playing yards, open public spaces, different lanes, seating areas, relaxing spaces, restaurants, and refreshing corners.

5. Discussion & Conclusion

The Cornich (i.e. waterfront) design of Abu Dhabi represents a unique waterfront Design. The purpose of this research is not to identify or expand on the features of Abu Dhabi Corniche, nor to highlight its weaknesses, but to highlight the characteristics of Abu Dhabi Corniche that

make people consider it as one of its greatest strengths that enhance its value and attraction strength.

Waterfront and Corniche designs, and just like other urban areas, require many considerations and design implementations such as the accessibility, safety, walkability, view, etc. There is a potential for considering a special character of Abu Dhabi Corniche that serves its various ranges of visitors.

With the current character of Abu Dhabi Corniche, it is clear that the development of the Corniche area has been structured by a fundamentally several groups of significant values and represented several uses and functions of the Corniche.

Many considerations and design implementations have been presented in Abu Dhabi Corniche for enhancing social behavior, for example:

- Variety of designed places with different facilities provided
- Enhancing the connectivity to the Corniche and easy access to its areas for pedestrians
- Implementing several gathering areas in order to enhance the people connectivity
- Allocating special areas for different events and festivals to take place in the Corniche
- Respecting the nature and having clear view to the sea
- Concern with providing an enhanced image as part of the overall city plan to attract visitors and economic investment

Several design guidelines for the Corniche have been concluded and summarized as follows:

- One of the main important design elements of the waterfront is the continuity and public accessibility to the water edge. The idea of proposing pedestrian walkway along the coastline enhances the

value of the surrounding property and valued by the public users.

- Some of the design consideration for the waterfront and Corniche are the connectivity to the water edge, the visually corridors from the street down to the water, the possibilities for future expansion, flexibility of use, simple and clear infrastructure, producing quality public space.
- Additional to the physical setting for the Corniche area, the Corniche need to serve community purpose as well, including areas for festivals, marketplaces, and different public programs and facilities.
- Other than having the Corniche as a functional space, the design should have deep attention to the local sense of place and its related uses. As providing, a functional design with keeping the waterfront uses of fishing and marinas, and at the same time proposing a walkways and parks spaces for the public is one of the design technique for a successful waterfront design.

This research contributes to literature in highlighting the relationship between the public and the Corniche design and how the social life is affected by it. This research helps in the understanding of the importance and value of the Corniche for the users, and the different requirements for the Corniche design. It also presents how the people see the Corniche and what they believe it's important to have in its design. Additional to that, this study shows the connectivity between the users and the physical spaces from different directions, such as safety, walkability, views, activities, and facilities.

Suggestions for further research and study is to conduct the study during the whole year in order to get peoples feedback for the Corniche during the hot weather, to

have more observations timing and understand how is the people behavior during the summer season, and look for people's suggestions to improve the quality of Corniche during these times of the year.

6. References

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