

EVALUATING PUBLICNESS OF PUBLIC SPACE AND ITS TRANSFORMING PATTERN: A CASE OF THE INNER COURTYARD AT KHULNA NEW MARKET

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Abstract: Public space is one of the fundamental elements of urban morphology, and it is essential to understand its different dynamics. Different concepts define diversified perspectives of public spaces. There are various definitions, but the most critical characteristic of public space is its publicness. This paper aims to understand different dimensions and indicators of publicness from both theoretical and practical aspects and how the patterns are transforming through the perspective of a city. Publicness is the essential quality that gives public space its 'public' character, and over the period, it keeps changing and enriching itself; at the same time, it reconstructs the patterns of urban areas, engaging local community and individuals as well as urban environment. Public spaces gain publicness through spontaneous and purposeful actions and transform their framework and scheme. Generally, the publicness of a space is the complex and dynamic relationship among community, urban morphology, and public property. This paper explores Khulna New Market's publicness after the inner court's redevelopment to understand the fundamental framework based on the functions, values, community engagement, and changes according to the publicness concept.

Keywords: *Publicness, Public Spaces, Socio-Cultural-Economic Development, Khulna City.*

1. Introduction

In the urban fabric scenario, public spaces are a crucial part. These places provide an environment in which the city people can enjoy recreation and social encounters. These spaces offer opportunities for social interactions, socialization, and exchange. According to Dines et al. (2006), "the value of public space in the perspective of social interpretation is wide-ranging and depends on the contribution of the public; it creates people's attachment to their locality and simultaneously creates opportunities." (Dines et al., 2006). The opportunities created by the public spaces can be measured through different perspectives like creating human-cultural, socio-economic, physical-spatial, and environmental aspects for contributing to better opportunities for society. The concept of an excellent public space varies from person to person and is very subjective. The experiences of different persons in public spaces differ through their personal experiences, choices, imaginations, and understandings. Public space's meaning may vary from person to person, considering the diverse backgrounds and expectations (Lynch, 1960). Again, different cultures and social groups form a public space according to their preferences; various dimensions, concepts, objectives, and societal expectations mold the space with the built environment. The aim of this study is Reviewer CommentS 2 to evaluate the nature of publicness of the inner courtyard at Khulna New Market, focusing on its impact on community engagement and social interactions.

According to the theoretical approaches, public spaces can be categorized into multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches. Multi-sectoral approaches are the social perspectives of public spaces that create engagement and interaction among the public through functionality. Again, from an economic perspective, public spaces can create better accessibility and connectivity, providing an environment where local or small businesses can grow and receive economic profits and benefits. The multi-sectoral approach also has human-cultural and environmental perspectives, which promotes a comfortable environment for positive social interactions and cooperation. A public space is a well-designed element of urban fabric that provides an experience of interaction with greenery, pedestrian-friendly areas, healthy and soothing activities, and social interaction (Mehta, 2013; Spaceshaper, 2007; Van Melik et al., 2007; Varna and Cerrone, 2013).

One of the suggestions of a multi-disciplinary approach is that public spaces do not always fall under urban design and planning but also have connectivity with human psychology, emotions, and experiences, which refers to the disciplines of social sciences. Human interactions and demography are under the perspectives of social sciences, and design decisions and interventions are under the planning and design (Spaceshaper, 2007; Varna and Cerrone, 2013). Something is always missing Among the concepts of public spaces, and the main discussion is publicness. Generally, an excellent public space is

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measured by publicness; at the same time, understanding publicness is arduous. A society's norms, beliefs, ideas, and views are reflected through a public space, which is, in general, the culture of the society. In a particular society at a specific time, publicness is the ideal concept for a public space; cultural construct is public space, and cultural reality is cooperation. Publicness is a dynamic subject in different places and times according to the cultural variations of various societies. Publicness assessment in different societies will differ from place to place, zone to zone, and area to area.

A good public space in a developing country with its ideologies of publicness will be different from a good public space in a developed country because the cultures, practices, expectations, and understandings vary from place to place and person to person. Public spaces in developed countries have been widely discussed. Still, despite the public's awareness of cultural, social, and community disparity, they are rarely considered critically. This study aims to understand the publicness of Khulna New Market through its inner court with a perspective of a developing country and, at the same time, its community engagement, interaction, cultural and social aspects with its influence towards Khulna city and people living there.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. STUDY AREA

Khulna Region, the southwestern region of Bangladesh (Figure 1), is part of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basin. Within this region, Khulna, the third largest city in Bangladesh, is the center of the whole area, having very close proximity to some significant countries. Khulna City is located on the banks of the Rupsha and Bhairab rivers.

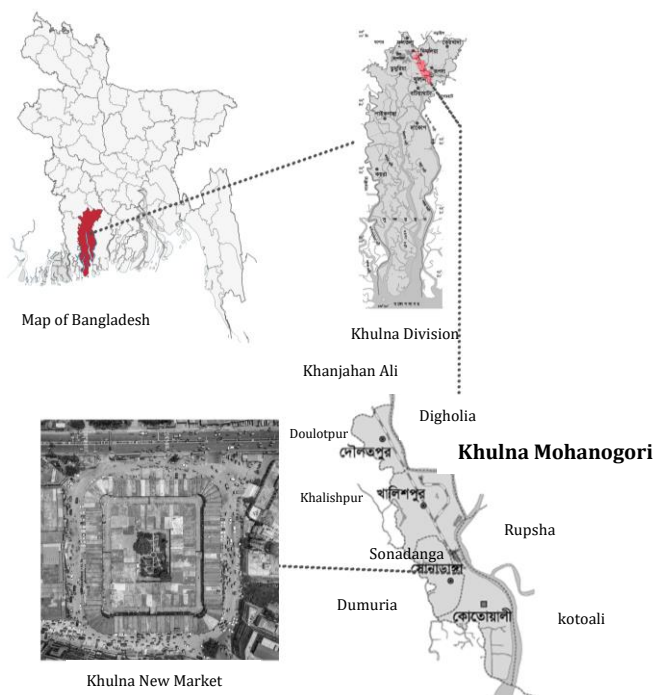


Figure 1, Khulna is in southern part of Bangladesh and KNM is situated in the center of Khulna city

New Markets located in different cities (including Khulna New Market) of Bangladesh have a vibrant history deeply ingrained in the socio-cultural fabric of the nation. Khulna New Market is a connecting node of economic activity, social interaction, and cultural exchange. People from diverse backgrounds visit here to buy, sell, and interact. The concept of publicness in Khulna New Market is among the shared spaces where individuals from all walks of life and transcending boundaries of different religions and classes gather together.

New Markets not only fulfill the basic needs of daily life but also provide a vibrant space for socialization, cultural expression, and community collaboration. Khulna New Market has a prominent location and connectivity in Khulna City (Figure 1). Khulna New Market was designed during the Pakistan Period in the 1960s, and a British Consultancy Firm developed the market plan (Khan & Podder, 2023). In the Market, the functions were arranged in a looped circulation with a central courtyard, and the outer facades of the courtyard cut off the inner market area from the outer surroundings (Figure 2). Over the years, because of the socio-spatial changes and practices, the outer areas of Khulna New Market were occupied, and eventually, at present, these areas are occupied by different small food carts, hawkers, and other staff. The growth of informality in the city's central commercial area created a new layer of spatial practices and made the New Market area one of the city's most vibrant and busiest places.

Over time, Khulna New Market has undergone significant transformation and changes influenced by socio-economic, political, and human-cultural factors. Influences of urbanization and changes in consumer preferences have led to modern retail outlets, other shopping malls, and online platforms. At the same time, the traditional New Market has faced competition with other markets and super shops, infrastructure deficiencies, and regulatory constraints. Again, different private shopkeepers and commercial establishments had been using the inner courtyard for their benefit, blurring the boundaries between public and private realms. This phenomenon raised critical questions about the concept of urban shared spaces for community interaction inside Khulna New Market and also challenged the fundamental principles of publicness.

For many years, the inner center court of Khulna New Market served as a nursery (selling plants, trees, and other gardening stuff) rented by a private party who used to give rental payments to the authority (Figure 3). With the high growth of informality and informal spatial practices around the outer side of the market area, people were more attracted to the informal portions than the primary inside of the Market; as a result, the main motive of the New Market began to get dimmed, and the owner of the shops was also complaining that the market premises is losing its attraction among the city people. Khulna Development Authority (KDA) generally monitors and develops the infrastructural condition of the New Market and its adjacent connectivity. After the COVID period, KDA started to perform a design to create a viable public space in the center court of Khulna New Market, and at present, the inner center court is working as a public space for the city people inside the facades of Khulna New Market (Figure 4).

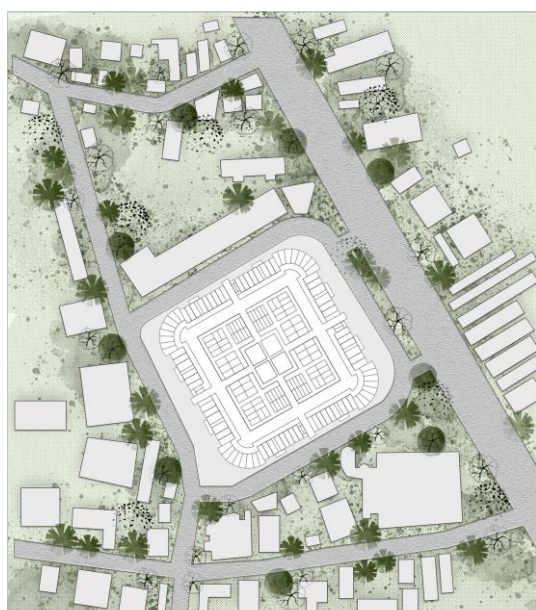


Figure 2, Layout of KNM and its Surroundings

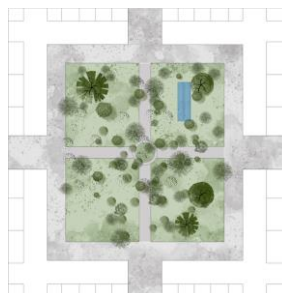


Figure 3, Before (the center court was Nursery run by private party)



Figure 4, After (public space in the court for social interaction)

In this context, understanding the dynamics of socio-cultural and socio-economic aspects as well as the rapid growth of urbanization and the need for public space for community collaboration inside Khulna New Market, Khulna Development Authority has taken necessary initiatives for creating a public space in the center court of the New Market (Figure 4) to create a positive collaboration among the city people inside the Market as well as to create beneficial steps towards socio-cultural-economic prosperities.

2.2. DATA SOURCES AND AIMS

To obtain critical insight into the space and public, a structured time mapping on the different days of different months and weeks was conducted for proper observation. Field notes were carefully taken to adequately narrate various events, especially during weekends, festivals, or other occasions.

The total survey and questionnaires are structured into two sections. The first section collects the basic demographic information of the public, including age, gender, occupation, and income range. The second section evaluates the four dimensions, "Human-Cultural," "Socio-economic," "Physical-Spatial," and "Environmental" aspects. All these dimensions were utilized through a scale where 1 signifies "very dissatisfied," 2 "less dissatisfied," 3 "neutral," 4 "more satisfied," and 5 "very satisfied". All these dimensions have different indicators and encompass communal bonding, social interaction quality, festival and seasonal transitions, satisfaction level, economic viability among various groups, comfort, safety, and public participation. The four dimensions, field surveys, questionnaires, interviews, and all data, reflect both professional standards and public needs as well as satisfactions or dissatisfactions. All these eventually formulate the publicness evaluation system,

creating the structure of five distinct indicators under the dimensions: Accessibility, Visibility, Functionality, Iconicity, and Inclusiveness.

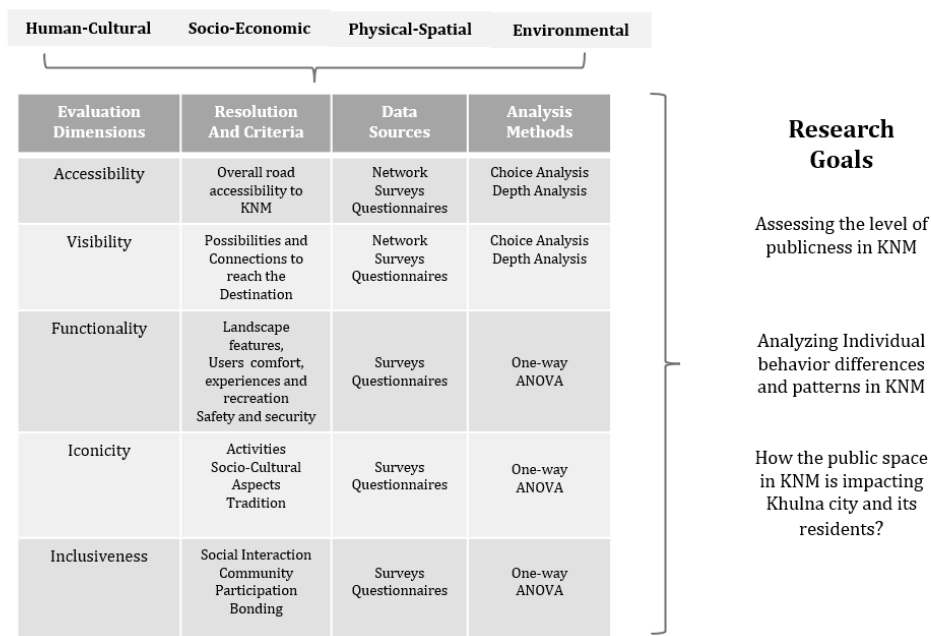


Figure 5, Publicness Evaluation Method of Inner Court Public Space at KNM (Source Author)

To evaluate accessibility, visibility, functionality, iconicity, and inclusiveness, the choice and depth analysis and the results of the questionnaires were subsequently analyzed. Lastly, under the main dimensions of human-cultural, socio-economic, physical-spatial, and environmental aspects, the five distinctive indicators were normalized and applied to calculate the overall publicness index for Khulna New Market after the incorporation of the center court as a public space and determining the publicness to achieve the objectives and results for our research goals (Figure 5).

2.3 QUESTIONNAIRES SURVEY METHODS

The questionnaire survey is mainly conducted to create an analytical dataset, where the responses of the samples from human cultural aspects to socio-economic spatial attributes will be collected and analyzed using IBM SPSS. Analyzes include descriptive statistics, correlation analysis (bivariate and partial), and comparative analysis. This data analysis will help us understand these interrelationships and critical factors.

2.3.1 Sample Design

A total of 400 questionnaires were distributed, and 385 valid responses were recovered for 95% confidence level and 5% margin error (Cochran, 1977), considering a population of below 1 million in the radius of the site.

2.3.2 Analysis Techniques

The analytical executions find the interplay between variables identifying strong and weak relations to justify the individuality and dependency among sectors. The descriptive analysis determines the overall central tendency to understand the general level of data. The bar charts of different individual aspects, such as income and age, depict each group's frequencies, which is essential to understanding the demography. The Pearson correlation coefficient @ helps to explore and determine the relationship between the continuous variables of different sectors, whereas the partial correlation measures the same relationship in the presence of a controlling factor or covariate. The partial correlation analyses will allow us to understand the relations after removing the impact of confounding variables. For example, controlling income range to identifying the relationship between socio-economic and human cultural aspects will eliminate the bias of economic constraints.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1 EVALUATION OF PUBLICNESS IN THE INNER COURTYARD OF KHULNA NEW MARKET

3.1.1 Accessibility

Khulna New Market is one of the main attractions for city people for shopping, social gatherings, or even spending time near them. From the accessibility dimensions, through surveys and questionnaires, Khulna New Market is easily accessible by vehicles from all over the city, which tends to possess a good public. Generally, city people use easy bikes, rickshaws, motorbikes, or personal cars to reach Khulna New Market; mainly used vehicle among all of these are easy bikes as these are very easy to access and also cheaper than rickshaws or any other public transport existing in the city. The New Market area is connected through primary, secondary, and tertiary roads. The connectivity of the KNM with other significant city

nodes like Dakbangla, Shibbari, Sonadanga bus stand, Moilapota, Joragata, and Powerhouse makes the place a destination with east accessibility serving various purposes (Figure 6). The secondary and tertiary roads create strong linkages with its surroundings and the beside and behind areas of KNM, which enables easy access for the people.

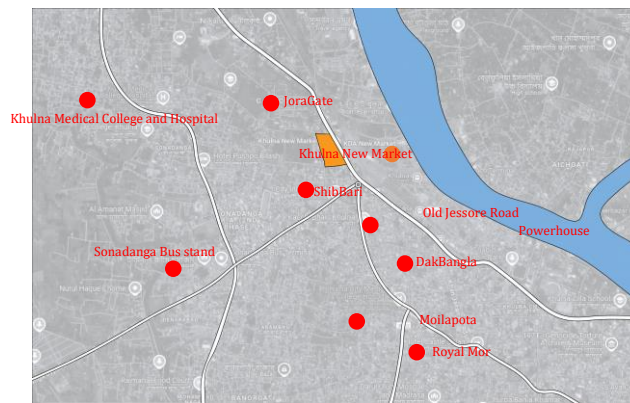


Figure 6, Accessibility Map (Primary Roads)

The Khulna New Market has four entrances on the four sides of its primary structure, and its functions are arranged around a central court with a looped circulation system. Vehicles have easy access to the KNM area, but inside the KNM, people must walk through the looped pathways to their desired destination. From the Four entrances of the KNM, the central court is directly visible, and people can walk straight to the central courtyard where the new KNM public space is being created.

3.1.2 Visibility

From the perspective of visibility, as KNM is easily accessible, it also exhibits more prominent visibility; the KNM area acts as a place of meeting for all social classes, making it the most vibrant public space in the city. The whole New Market area has opened up various scopes for socio-economic opportunities for the city, representing itself as an inclusive social space (Figure 7). Generally, different roadside stalls and foods near the mosque's premises turn the periphery of the KNM into an active social space (Figure 7), and at the same time, the transport affordability makes it easy for city people to visit the KNM area most conveniently. As the day turns to night, the number of hawkers and food or other stalls increases gradually in the KNM periphery (Figure 7). Typically, whenever people visit the market area, they tend to stroll inside the Market and often end up in the central court, enjoying ice cream, fuchkas, or coffee from the food shops beside the central court or simply sitting there with friends or family. Even when people come to the Market primarily for shopping, they often gather in the central court to enjoy food, chat, take photos, or relax. Owing to its prominent visibility and popularity, the central court naturally draws people in to spend time there. Mr. Atik, a consumer, says,

"Because of its location, availability of transportation, and the lack of proper social spaces in Khulna, people often come to the New Market to spend time on weekends or other holidays. We gradually gather in the central court for its affordable food options, ample seating facilities, and the sense it provides.

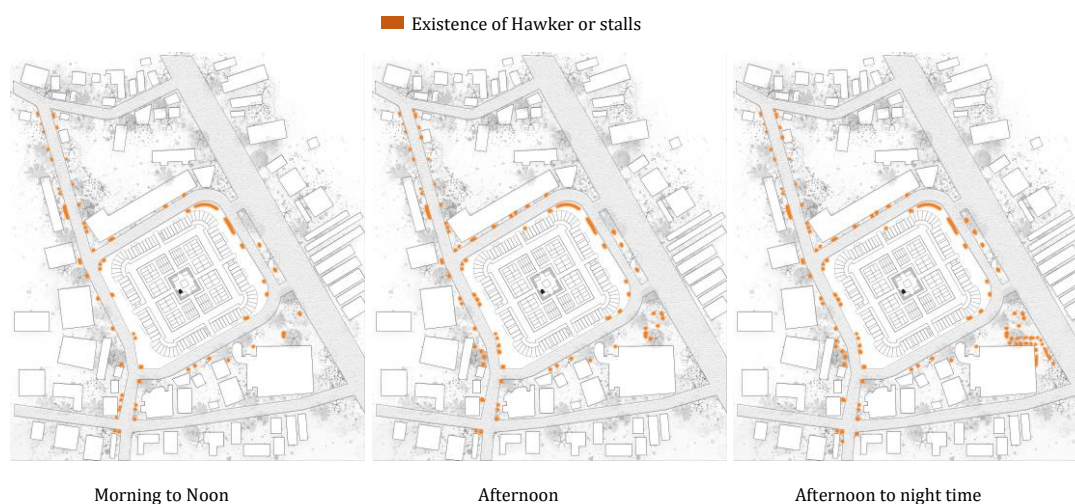


Figure 7, The number of hawkers at different times in the periphery of KNM

3.1.3 Functionality

In terms of functionality, to meet the city's increasing social, cultural, and economic needs, KNM has turned itself into an active socio-cultural-economic place, which creates diversity in celebrating and promoting spatial events of everyday life. The market area has six to seven prominent functional typologies, including retail shops, brand shops, food shops, restaurants/bakeries, a mosque, a church, a wet Market, etc. KNM embraces a public space inside its central court for different social classes through its malleable functionality, creating a rich production of socio-cultural activities and vibrancy. The surveys found that a large number of people gather at the central court nowadays to relax, have food, or create memories, and its character makes it an excellent social space that the formal functions and facilities could not develop over the years.

The inner central court features a landscape that connects with cultural significance, with seating arrangements under large trees, fostering a sense of engagement with socio-cultural perspectives and providing comfort to visitors. From morning to night, especially from afternoon to night, the inner courtyard attracts people of all classes and ages, representing it as a popular recreational area for city residents. This space has also positively impacted numerous small businesses, including ice cream shops, food stalls, bakeries, and toy vendors, leading to significant profits and many people's socio-economic growth (Figure 8). The space transforms into a vibrant public area from the afternoon onwards, attracting people of all social classes, ages, and genders. The invisible connectivity keeps the area lively until the Market closes, while its openness ensures psychological security, fostering safe and comfortable social interaction.



Figure 8, The Center Courtyard of KNM working as a Public Space

3.1.4 Iconicity

Recent developments corroborated in the center court of KNM created significant impacts for the city people by increasing socio-cultural interaction. KNM was designed during the Pakistan period in the 1960s, and the functions were arranged around a central court with a looped circulation system that articulated a bold and dominating three-dimensional form. The radial road networks and the rapid growth of informal commercial development in the market area were causing the original New Market to lose its appeal. In response, the Khulna Development Authority (KDA) re-designed the inner courtyard as an interactive public space for the city's residents.

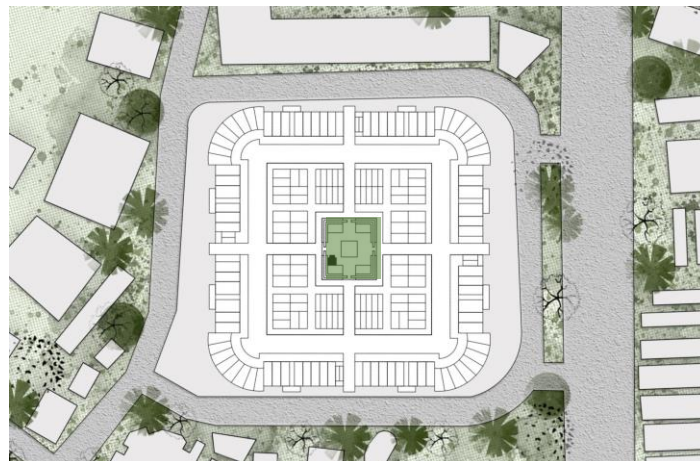


Figure 9, The Center Courtyard is conceptually working as traditional UTHAN and the functions are around it

The inner courtyard now functions as a "UTHAN," similar to the traditional courtyards in rural Bangladesh homesteads. Like these conventional spaces, the inner court serves as the central hub, with surrounding structures and activities focused around it, fostering social interaction and strengthening community bonds (Figure 9). Just as village people traditionally gather in the UTHAN during festivals and other occasions to perform rituals, in the KNM inner courtyard, people come together on holidays, Chaad Raat (the night before Eid), or other special occasions to celebrate and spend quality time friends or family.

3.1.5 Inclusiveness

Regarding the inclusiveness dimension, the KNM inner court has spatial openness, boundaries, community participation, safety, and comfort, which represent its malleable spatial quality for spontaneous social interaction. Flexibility in its spatial design allows the area to adapt to the needs of its users, whether as a social meeting spot, a place to enjoy food, relax, or celebrate any occasion, and more. KNM inner court has a multi-disciplinary viewpoint on social, cultural, economic, and environmental aspects, establishing a symbiotic relationship between conceptual and communal bonding and creating a flexible and fluid urban public space. The landscape in the court establishes an informality with flexible interventions reflecting informality in the space, enhancing the social, cultural, and economic growth and development, producing sustainability in the social life of the city people through dynamic and informally formal systems. This social interaction and communal bonding development positively impact the socio-cultural-economic development of Khulna city people based on the socio-spatial aspects of cities in developing countries in the Global South like Bangladesh.

3.2 ANALYZING PUBLICNESS THROUGH QUESTIONNAIRES SURVEY DATA ANALYTICS

3.2.1 Summary Statistics

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics				
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Serial No. of Responses	1	385	193.00	111.284
Age of Respondents	1	5	2.39	1.005
Level of Education of the Respondents	1	6	3.44	1.133
Professional Status of the Respondents	1	6	3.23	1.721
Monthly Household Income of the Respondents	1	5	2.56	1.219
Improvement of Communal Bond	1	5	3.31	1.029
Enhancement of Social Interaction	1	5	3.62	1.217
Satisfaction Level with the Current Socialization	1	5	3.53	.832
Elevation of Economic Viability of Various Businesses in Market Area	2	5	3.54	1.067
Positive Impact of Enhanced Social Interaction on Commercial Economic Growth	1	5	3.44	.903
Improvement of Overall Public Participation and Spatial Perception	1	5	3.28	1.002
Spatial Comfort Level	1	5	3.41	1.245
Most Relaxed and Comfortable Time of the Day	1	5	3.15	1.119
Valid N (listwise)	385			

Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics of the responses, which reflects that most respondents are younger, which signifies that urban youth participation is a positive factor. Where the education level is moderately high, insightful responses from diverse professions are validated, and potential variability is present. The socio-economic factors declare the majority involvement of the middle-income group, representing the most critical urban society segment. The high level of satisfaction with social interactions and the promising improvement in communal bonds are also depicted in the chart. With a high variation in the economic question responses, the current socio-economic growth scenarios are also questioned. The spatial perception comfort level has a multi-variety of opinions with a significant satisfactory level. The summary statistics explain the variability (as the standard deviation is relatively high in some cases), general agreement with the positive statements, and some areas of high satisfaction. However, the diversity and relatively large spread of information demands further investigation and analysis to understand the relationship between all aspects and their interests, which will help guide the overall improvement of KNM and its level of engagement with people. Also, be informed about the accurate level of public awareness and be able to present correct evidence.

A large number of bachelor and high school levels' student participation (Figure 10) intensifies the actual urban needs of a more comprehensive range of experiences, leading to a more nuanced analysis. Their broader and upgraded perspective will also help to identify contemporary interactions with the urban environment, enriching the analysis with diverse points of view and ensuring the inclusivity of the survey; it is also critical for long-term urban planning with a sustainable point of view.

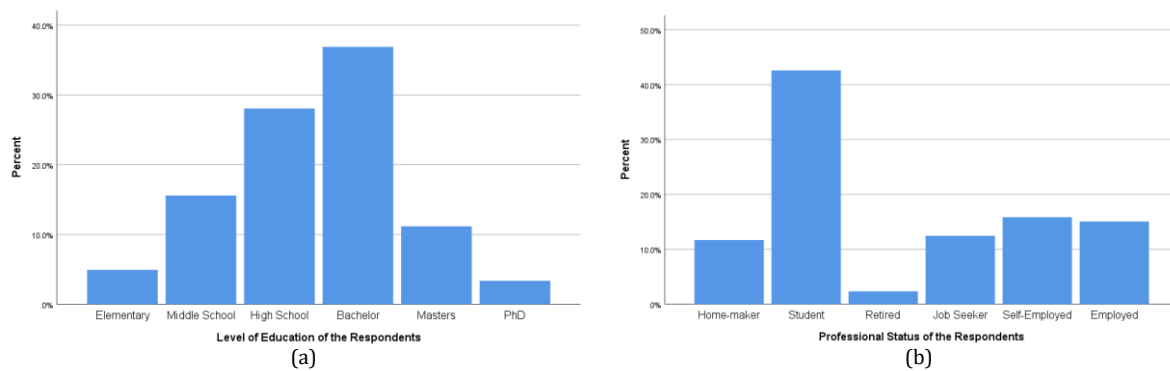


Figure 10, (a) Education Level Bar Chart, (b) Professional Status Bar Chart

3.2.2 Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis explains the correlations between different attributes and variables to interpret the publicness. Table 2 calculates all the possible bivariate correlations between all variables of the questionnaires, which juxtaposes all possible explanations that can describe the publicness of KNM. The overall explanations are stated below:

- Socio-demographic factors:** Indicates a mature, informed population with responsible public behavior frequenting Khulna New Market [Age – Education Level: ($r=0.335, p<0.01$) – Moderate Positive Relation].
- Professional status and income level:** The almost linear relationship between income and professional status would impact the expenditure pattern and engagement in KNM activities influencing market offerings. [Professional Status – Income Level: ($r=0.393, p<0.01$) – Strong Positive Relation]
- Communal and social interactions:** A linear relation between interaction and bondings highlights a natural socio-cultural state with harmonious interactive space, which could be a significant attribute of publicness and social cohesion [Social Bond-Interaction Relation: ($r=0.838, p<0.01$) – Exceptionally Strong]. The central courtyard surrounded by the Market acts as a social magnet, attracting diverse people, fostering social interactions and communal ties, and connecting the urban population.
- Social satisfaction level:** Most people with social satisfaction have a positive point of view about KNM, which is the catalyst for social bonding and economic growth. As it is above the median, it reflects the positive sense of importance of KNM and the joy and fulfillment of local people.
- Economic Aspect:** The relation between financial viability and growth denotes that KNM is vital in broader economic regeneration. [Economic Viability – Growth Relation: ($r=0.471, p<0.01$) – Strong Positive Relation] The place is also economically vibrant, resulting in enhanced publicness.
- Physical spatial aspects:** The renovation and current spatial settings straightly explain the high comfort level and urban engagement in the public space. High spatial comfort means high public participation leads to the ultimate definition of publicness [Spatial Participation – Perception Relation: ($r=0.569, p<0.01$) – Strong Positive Relation]. Also, Figure 11 suggests that afternoon and evening are most effective in spatial comfort, critical times for the most satisfying and effective urban recreation. It also indicates the sense of public spatial attributes lies in the renovated design of KNM.

Therefore, the overall bivariate correlation matrix suggested a quantitative measurement to understand the dynamics and interwoven play of KNM. It also unveils KNM as a commercial place, a public realm, and a crucial part of the urban fabric. This integrity proves the public nature of urban third place's requirements.

The partial correlation matrix in Table 3, where the age of the respondents is the control variable, has expressed some crucial insights. First, the positive relation of spatial comfort level reveals that spatial perception and public participation are significant. The preference for the most comfortable time of the day doesn't signify any totally spontaneous and statistically less substantial criteria. Still, as Figure 11 has already satisfied the public's urges, it indicates that the daytime is not necessarily required for the validation.

Table 2

All Bivariate Correlations													
***		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Pearson Correlation	1	.335**	.553**	.415**	-.162**	-.177**	.065	.144**	.127**	.012	.069	-.230**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.001	.000	.204	.005	.013	.810	.178	.000
2	Pearson Correlation	.335**	1	.284**	.157**	.057	.082	.083	.141**	.109**	-.041	-.064	-.084
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.002	.268	.107	.106	.006	.032	.420	.207	.099
3	Pearson Correlation	.553**	.284**	1	.393**	-.016	-.082	.085	.241**	.155**	.000	.004	-.015
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.751	.110	.097	.000	.002	1.000	.937	.764
4	Pearson Correlation	.415**	.157**	.393**	1	.243**	.175**	.231**	.618**	.409**	.005	.133**	.020
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.002	.000		.000	.001	.000	.000	.000	.916	.009	.700

5	Pearson Correlation	-.162**	.057	-.016	.243**	1	.838**	.394**	.315**	.520**	-.008	.031	.188**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.268	.751	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.868	.549	.000
6	Pearson Correlation	-.177**	.082	-.082	.175**	.838**	1	.397**	.258**	.532**	-.026	.021	.107*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.107	.110	.001	.000		.000	.000	.000	.612	.688	.036
7	Pearson Correlation	.065	.083	.085	.231**	.394**	.397**	1	.222**	.485**	-.011	.058	.067
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.204	.106	.097	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.835	.253	.190
8	Pearson Correlation	.144**	.141**	.241**	.618**	.315**	.258**	.222**	1	.471**	.010	.002	.033
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.006	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.852	.976	.521
9	Pearson Correlation	.127*	.109*	.155**	.409**	.520**	.532**	.485**	.471**	1	-.017	.063	.077
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.013	.032	.002	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.737	.219	.130
10	Pearson Correlation	.012	-.041	.000	.005	-.008	-.026	-.011	.010	-.017	1	.569**	-.046
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.810	.420	1.000	.916	.868	.612	.835	.852	.737		.000	.367
11	Pearson Correlation	.069	-.064	.004	.133**	.031	.021	.058	.002	.063	.569**	1	.037
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.178	.207	.937	.009	.549	.688	.253	.976	.219	.000		.470
12	Pearson Correlation	-.230**	-.084	-.015	.020	.188**	.107*	.067	.033	.077	-.046	.037	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.099	.764	.700	.000	.036	.190	.521	.130	.367	.470	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Demographic Aspects: 1. Age of Respondents 2. Level of Education of the Respondents 3. Professional Status of the Respondents 4. Monthly Household Income of the Respondents

Human-Cultural Aspects: 5. Improvement of Communal Bond 6. Enhancement of Social Interaction 7. Satisfaction Level with the Current Socialization

Socio-Economic Aspects: 8. Elevation of Economic Viability of Various Businesses in Market Area 9. Positive Impact of Enhanced Social Interaction on Commercial Economic Growth

Physical Spatial Aspects: 10. Improvement of Overall Public Participation and Spatial Perception 11. Spatial Comfort Level 12. Most Relaxed and Comfortable Time of the Day

Table 3

Partial Correlations					
Control Variables	***		1	2	3
Age of Respondents	1	Correlation	1.000	.569	-.044
		Significance (2-tailed)	.	.000	.385
		df	0	382	382
	2	Correlation	.569	1.000	.054
		Significance (2-tailed)	.000	.	.288
		df	382	0	382
	3	Correlation	-.044	.054	1.000
		Significance (2-tailed)	.385	.288	.
		df	382	382	0
*** 1. Improvement of Overall Public Participation and Spatial Perception; 2. Spatial Comfort Level; 3. Most Relaxed and Comfortable Time of the Day.					
Df: Degrees of Freedom implies that the number of independent data required for the estimation and the consistent values compromise a sample size of 382, which is significant for the age as a controlling variable.					

3.2.3 Validation With Automatic Linear Modelling

The automatic linear modeling (Figure 12) suggests that the predictions are accurate with high accuracy (90.8%). The forward stepwise method highlights the excellent predictors, and the low information criterion emphasizes the good fit of the model. It can be considered a reliable model on the question of variations and relationships with the age of the respondents in the executed questionnaire survey.

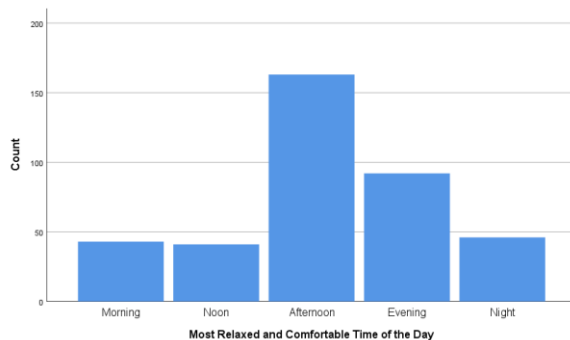


Figure 11, Bar chart representing the most comfortable time of the day

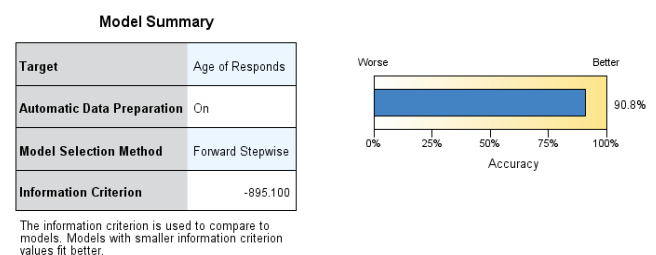


Figure 12, Automatic Linear Modelling for Validation Check

4. Conclusion

Community Participation and social interaction play the most fundamental role in making public space more vibrant, workable, and functional. This study reveals the dynamics of the inner court of Khulna New Market under the dimensions and indicators that create a diverse public space for Khulna City people and the city itself. The flexible character of the space,

the influence of traditional "UTHAN," and the informally formal planning approaches crafted an enhanced spatial arrangement in the inner courtyard of KNM. All these diversifications invite more users to create socio-economic engagement, producing a rich-sensible spatial practice. The participation of all socio-economic classes and dynamic-adaptive approaches allow the context to construct a non-order and no-ownership space, which ensures more comfort and a sense of belongingness to the users.

This study further expanded her findings on socio-economic demographic factors, communal interactions, user satisfaction level, and physical-spatial aspects for user comfort to focus on the public needs and the flexible-informal attributes of the inner court, positively impacting city people's lives and living. Finally, an inclusive review of socio-cultural-economic and physical-spatial-environmental aspects was analyzed. This paper also indicates how public spaces are essential in strengthening socio-cultural collaboration, promoting spatial equity, and preserving traditional practices. All of these spatial practices and activities positively influence city people's lives, local economics, and interactions among different groups, and they exhibit the urban planning framework of cities in developing countries like Bangladesh to a great extent.

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