The main objectives of this research were:

1. To determine the existing situation of open spaces in low income areas.
2. To analyze the implications of the opportunities and challenges faced by children and young people.
3. To propose planning solutions towards child friendly urban spaces in low income neighborhoods in Nairobi.

Methodology

The data collection process involved the use of both primary and secondary sources. The primary data sources included the adoption of the data observed, oral interviews, administration of questionnaires and mapping. The secondary data employed were of published and unpublished documents, interview research and internet sources.

Key findings

1. The presence of open spaces available in the study area is classified into institutional, front yard and courtyards spaces, school playgrounds and children playgrounds.
2. Child friendly residential neighborhoods are starved of open spaces that are safe for children to play in. Community and urban planners need to design an area that is child friendly to give space for the children at Umoja I estate. This is due to the failure of implementation of the Umoja I estate structure plan for the area.
3. There is a lack of essential services, such as parking, sanitation facilities and play areas for people to use and enjoy.
4. Children are more likely to play in unsafe environments due to lack of proper guidance and advice given to them.
5. The condition of the front yard and courtyards spaces is poor. The quality of the outdoor spaces and the playgrounds impacts community health due to dusty and rough conditions which is a risk factor.
6. To address this issue, some changes were made to improve the quality of the front and back yards.
7. The main recommendation of the study is to develop an integrated recreational facility that is accessible to children in the Umoja I estate.

Main recommendations

- Development of recreational public space
  - Accessible recreational space
  - Adequate recreational space and related facilities
  - Essential accessibility for the recreational facility
  - Proper management of the recreational space

Goals of the development project

Planning for a child friendly residential recreational public space in Umoja I estate

Objectives of the planning development project include:

1. To ensure that the land use in Umoja I estate is developed in a way that takes into account the needs of children.
2. To ensure that the space is developed in a way that considers the needs of children in Umoja I estate.
3. To ensure that the space is developed in a way that improves the quality of life for children in Umoja I estate.

Implementation strategy

- The preferred strategy is to develop an integrated recreational facility that is accessible to children in the Umoja I estate.

The preferred model is a combination of three models for integrated recreation in Umoja I estate.

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Conclusion

The study concludes that the provision of open spaces in low-income areas is critical for the well-being of children and young people. The lack of accessible and safe recreational spaces in Umoja I estate is a major concern that needs to be addressed. The proposed integrated recreational facility is a crucial step towards improving the quality of life for children in Umoja I estate.

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References