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Cultural Integration in Public Spaces: Enhancing Child-Friendliness through Local Wisdom in Makassar and Malaysia

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DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.26905/lw.v17i2.13987>

Keywords:

Child-friendly urban design, local cultural wisdom, sustainable urban spaces, community engagement, urban planning

Abstract

This study explores the transformation of urban alleys in Makassar into child-friendly spaces by integrating local wisdom into urban design. Analysis was conducted on six alleys based on vocabulary terms to develop a child-friendly environment based on the advantages of each alley. The results show that key elements such as murals depicting national heroes, traditional games, and historical narratives were employed to enhance the functionality and cultural significance of these public spaces. The project not only revitalizes the physical environment but also serves as a platform for cultural education and community engagement. Findings indicated that this culturally integrated approach can be replicated in other urban areas, especially those with rich cultural traditions, to create sustainable and inclusive environments. The study emphasizes the importance of incorporating local wisdom into urban planning to preserve cultural heritage, foster a sense of belonging, and improve the quality of life for urban residents. This approach demonstrates the potential of culturally informed urban design to create vibrant, resilient communities that support the holistic development of children.