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# Public Life of Small Towns Public Open Spaces in North Sumatra Province

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#### **Abstract**

The urbanization process that change urban space and people also goes on in small towns in North Sumatra Province, Indonesia. As the region becomes more urbanized, commercial centers grow up. In contrast, public open space tends to decline. In this condition, the study aim is to explore the public life that goes on. The research indicates that almost POS was not designed based on common criteria of successful POS in those of developed countries. However, people utilize the POS intensively and meet people needs. The using grade of the POS shows that there is no a significant different between well-design and poor design POS.

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Keywords: Public life; public open space; small towns; North Sumatra

#### 1. Introduction

# 1.1. Background

The city life shows that many people do their activities in the public open spaces (POS), such as streets, pedestrian paths, parks and squares (Whyte, 1980, Gehl, 1996). Many scholars have proven the benefits of the activities, such as improving social cohesion, as well as physical and psychological health. Even, the unwell-planned public open space still gives a positive contribution to people quality of life (Nasution and Zahrah, 2014). The study about how people use POS relates to the quality of the POS (Karuppannan dan Asivan, 2013; Zakariya et al., 2014; Ngesan dan Zubir, 2015; Malek et al., 2015).

The development of many towns in Indonesia, particularly in North Sumatra province, tends to neglect the quality of POS, compared to the commercial districts with more attention in planning and design. In Medan, the capital city of North Sumatra province, the urban area becomes a display of malls, cafes, theme parks and gated communities (Nasution and Zahrah, 2012). The similar image, though not as 'dramatic' as Medan, is found in many small towns in North Sumatra province. The towns are characterized by commercial districts or corridors, with rows of dense shop-house, and street vendors in front of them. As people of big cities run the day with private vehicle, social media, and television reality shows, so do the small town's citizens. Among these conditions, how is the quality of the POS? Do people use it frequently? Does space meet their needs? What kind

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of needs? The research is meant to describe the public life in the small towns, particularly in a developing country like Indonesia, where the design of urban space has not been a favor.

#### 1.2. Objective

The objective of the study is to explore the utilization of POS in small towns in North Sumatra province that configure public life. The study investigates the activities going on at POS, people who visit the place and the quality of facility and design relate to it. Moreover, the study also measures user satisfaction of POS to identify whether the place meets people needs. The exploration can describe the trend, similarity and difference of public open spaces in North Sumatra, particularly to compare them with those of capital city Medan. Thus, it can enrich the study of public life, particularly in the urban areas of developing country. It also can contribute to the local government to get a more suitable development for people condition and needs.

# 2. Literature Review

The study of public life means to take a look at how people use the urban space (Gehl, 1996). It can describe the changing of urban design related to the utilization, for example, what Gehl investigated in Copenhagen city center. A few years before Gehl's project, William H. Whyte (1980), carried out the study why and how urban space being utilized and 'life', meanwhile the others 'empty'. Refer to Gehl (1996), the successful public space characterized by the larger optional recreational activities than necessary activities. Moreover, people used it frequently (Jacobs, 2008) and involved a various social background of citizens (Whyte, 1980).

There are some aspects relate to the quality of POS, such as accessibility, facility, function/activity, management and climate comfort (PPS, 2000; Nasution and Zahrah, 2014). The good quality of POS will drive people to use it more intensively (Gehl, 1996; Whyte, 1980; Sakip et al., 2014). However, the premise does not apply to all places and cases. The study for neighborhood open space in Singapore, Delhi, and Kuala Lumpur that held by Karuppannan and Sivarn (2013) showed that the utilization of POS does not directly relate to its quality. The similar facts found in POS of Medan, North Sumatra, either in the urban-scale (Nasution and Zahrah, 2014) and neighborhood scale POS (Nasution and Zahrah, 2014).

The main difference POS of any place outside Indonesia, particularly in the developed country, is the POS are well planned and designed. In Indonesia, the design professionals – e.g. architect, landscape architect, urban designer – have not a proper role in designing urban space. Even, public place such as POS is not designed by the professional. This study tried to explore and investigate the quality of that kind of POS and how people used it.

# 3. Methodology

# 3.1. Respondents

The study took place in twelve small towns' POS in North Sumatra Province. They are Binjai, Stabat, Lubuk Pakam, Sei Rampah, Pematang Siantar, Brastagi, Batubara, Kisaran, Sipirok, Pandan, Sibolga, and Tarutung. The study area was the active urban-scale POS, showed by the activities occurred at those places. Most of the POS were the squares; two of the POS are a park and a river promenade. There were 781 respondents in the POS that interviewed. The surveyors chose them randomly at the activities zone.

# 3.2. Variables and data collecting

The study collected the data at the weekend on March 2015, while the utilization of POS reached the peak. The observation recorded the quality of the POS, such as the accessibility, the facility, the function and activity, the natural elements, and the management. Except the management factor, four of the five variables that indicate the quality of POS, are the elements of design. People who agreed to participate in the survey filled a set of questions guided by the surveyors. The questionnaire consisted of the questions about demographic background (age, gender, education, occupancy, and residential status) and the intensity of the utilization of POS (time of visits, duration, frequency, aim of visits, the activities). The field survey measured people perception based on the 5 points Likert scale, from 5 to 'very satisfied' to 1 'very unsatisfied'. The means score of each

variable indicated the level of satisfaction. The average rating higher than 3 reflected the respondents were satisfied, and the lower than 3 showed that respondents were not satisfied.

#### 4. Result and Discussion

# 4.1. Study area

North Sumatra province is a region that mostly rural. Agriculture and Plantation are the major economic income of the province. In the era of Dutch Colonial in Indonesia, there were just six autonomy towns, namely Medan, Binjai, Tebing Tinggi, Pematang Siantar, Tanjung Balai, and Sibolga. The other towns are the Kecamatan-towns as the capitals of the regencies. When the government applied autonomy regulation since 1999, the new regencies with the new urbanized areas have been rising. Those areas characterized by the denser commercials districts. Now there are 33 regencies and towns with more than 12 million people in this province. The towns and regency-towns have less than 300.000 populations.

Most of the urban-scale POS in the province are the squares, as the typical features of the government complex since the Dutch era. The squares become the center of the government and public facility buildings around them. The city hall, great mosque, and town/regency parliament houses are some of the typical buildings around the square. The square becomes the place of the official nation-ceremonies, such as Independence Day and the National Hero Day. However, the daily function of the squares is the public area where people socialize, exercise and play.

# 4.2. Respondents characteristics

There were 836 respondents participated in the survey. They were mostly the local residence, youth of 16 – 20 years old, and students. The male is larger (55.70 %) than female (44.30 %) (Table 1).

Table 1. Respondent characteristics (in percent)

					ı	Public Op	en Spac	е				
Variable	Bat	Bra	Bin	Kis	Lub	Pan	Pem	Sip	Sta	Tar	Sib	Ram
Number	68	70	70	70	70	70	70	89	70	70	44	30
Residence	86,8 0	84,3 0	71,4	75,7	66,7	72,3	80	61,8	45,7	49,3	74,4	60
Female	30,9 0	28,6	55,7	38,6	24,3	58,8	71,4	52,8	42,9	45,1	47,7	36,7
Male	69,1 0	71,4	44,3	,61,4	75,7	41,2	28,6	47,2	57,1	54,9	52,3	63,3
Age	31- 35 16,2	16- 20 41,4	16- 20 38,6	16- 20 37,1	16- 20 40,6	16- 20 38,0	16- 20 50,0	16- 20 80,9	16- 20 47,1	16- 20 32,9	16- 20 34,1	16- 20 36,7

Note:

Bat = BatubaraLub = Lubuk PakamSta = StabatBra = BrastagiPan = PandanTar = TarutungBin= BinjaiPem = Pematang SiantarSib = SibolgaKis = KisaranSip = SipirokRam = Rampah

# 4.3. Quality of POS

#### 4.3.1. Facility

Most of POS were squares with typical rectangular form and facilities. The squares were grass field, with a pendopo (a kind of permanent open stage) for the official ceremonies purpose. The other facilities took place in one part of the squares, e.g. one of the corners, consisted of the seating area, pedestrian path/jogging track, children playground/tot lot, garden, and trees. There

were street vendors in almost all squares, they usually sole foods and toys. Less than half of the squares had a complete facilities (Binjai, Sipirok, Stabat, Sibolga), such as the basketball and badminton fields, fitness/exercise instruments, and tot lots. The POS in Brastagi, Pandan, Rampah and Tarutung had the poorest facilities and design (Table 2). The other POS had some facilities but had a lack management and maintenance. The dirty - leak - lack - facilities were the common condition at those places. Brastagi and Rampah, for example, only had a poor maintenance grass field and seating area. Except the two POS (mean score lower than 3), the satisfaction level with the facilities were fair, with mean score 3 or more, but not reach 4. The highest satisfaction level found in Stabat (mean score 3.5), although the facilities were less good than Kisaran, Binjai and Sipirok (Table 3).

Table 2. POS facilities

POS						POS F	acilities							Des
	Par	Toi	Grf	Ped	Ben	Ost	Exe	Bas	Tot	Stv	Mos	Gar	Tre	•
Bat	-	V	<b>V</b>	V	1	V	-	-	-	V	V	V	V	Fair
Bra	-	V	V	-	V	V	-	-	-	<b>V</b>			V	Poor
Bin	V	V	V	V	V	V	-	V	V	<b>V</b>	V	V	V	Fair
Kis	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	-	-	-	V	V	Good
Lub	-	V	V	V	V	V	V	-	-	-	-	V	V	Poor
Pan	V	V	V	-	-	V	-	-	-	V	-	-	V	Poor
Pem	-	V	V	V	V	-	-	-	-	V	V	V	V	Poor
Sip	V	V	V	V	V	-	-	V	V	V		V	V	Good
Sta	V	V	<b>V</b>	V	V	V	-	-	V	√	V	V	V	Fair
Tar	-	-	-	V	V	-	-	-	-	<b>V</b>	-	V	V	Poor
Sib	-	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	<b>V</b>	-	V	V	Fair
Ramp	-	V	V	V	-	-	-	-	-	V	-	-	V	Poor

#### Note:

Par = Parking lot

Toi = Toilet

Grf = Grass field

Ped = Pedestrian path

Ben= Bench/ outdoor seating

Ost = Open stage/ pendopo

Exe = Exercise/fitness instrument

Bas = Basketball Arena

Tot = Tot lot

Stv = Street vendor

Mos = Mosque

Gar = Garden

Tre = Trees

Des = Design quality

Table 3. Mean score of people satisfaction with POS facilities

Variable						Publi	c Open	Space					
	Bat	Bra	Bin	Kis	Lub	Pan	Pem	Sip	Sta	Tar	Sib	Ram	Aver.
Dimension/widht	3,88	3,70	3,27	4,00	4,06	3,75	3,60	3,67	3,86	3,26	4,25	3,57	3,74
Parking lot	3,50	2,61	2,87	3,84	3,31	3,40	2,99	3,44	3,56	3,07	3,84	2,47	3,27
Pedestrian path	3,63	2,77	3,43	3,81	3,61	3,44	3,50	3,42	3,54	3,10	4,32	3,30	3,49
Toilet	3,28	1,77	2,17	2,30	2,03	3,07	2,14	2,90	2,07	2,47	2,14	2,00	2,41
Playing area	3,65	3,33	3,24	3,20	3,61	3,59	3,27	3,54	3,66	2,81	4,09	2,53	3,38
Sport/exer. Area	3,79	3,77	3,46	3,73	3,73	3,69	3,29	3,33	3,64	2,99	4,23	4,03	3,65
Sitting area	3,90	3,21	3,46	3,54	3,76	3,85	3,61	3,63	3,54	3,53	3,39	3,93	3,62
Garden area	3,72	2,94	3,31	3,64	3,79	3,71	3,60	3,76	3,63	3,11	3,28	2,50	3,43
Picnic area	3,43	2,60	2,94	2,90	3,36	3,46	3,24	3,63	3,36	2,73	2,75	2,07	3,06
Mosque/praying	3,84	2,60	3,39	2,71	3,09	3,39	2,46	3,36	3,57	3,21	2,64	2,00	3,05

area													
Dining area	3,63	3,20	3,36	2,16	3,23	3,37	3,39	3,16	3,84	3,40	4,05	3,63	3,36
Street vendor	3,47	2,86	3,01	3,57	3,04	3,40	3,00	2,69	3,71	3,24	4,16	3,83	3,34
Average	3,64	2,95	3,16	3,28	3,39	3,51	3,17	3,38	3,50	3,08	3,60	2,99	3,32

#### 4.3.2. Accessibility

Most of the POS had no good accessibility, due to the absence of pedestrian linkage and public transport integration (Project for Public Spaces, 2000; Gehl 2002; CABE dan DETR, 2001). The only good aspect of accessibility was the clear gates. There was no controlling or filtering of the visitors. The POS was mainly a typical square with roads surrounded. Thus, the place seemed like an 'alienated island'. However, the POS were not so hard to be reached due to the not so busy traffic, at least if it compared with Medan (Nasution and Zahrah, 2014). With these conditions, all aspects of accessibility were generally perceived at a good level (the satisfaction level more than 3, though the satisfaction level did not reach 4. The fact related to the people's circulation habit that more preferred private vehicle (primarily motorcycle) than walking or public transport, even though the distance from home was less than 500 meters. Only two POS (Brastagi and Pematang Siantar) that the majority of visitors came to the POS by walk (Table 4). Since most of the respondents used the motorcycle to get to the POS, there were no problems with the distance. Though many respondents lived more than 5 km from POS, they were generally satisfied with the accessibility aspects, including distance (Table 5). The fact was similar with capital city Medan (Nasution dan Zahrah, 2013), so it can be said that motorcycling is one of people's fashion in North Sumatra region. The reality is different with the nature of many POS in other places, particularly those of developed countries. In those cases, the POS are good quality if having the good pedestrian linkage.

Table 4. Vehicle ownership, transportation mode and POS distance from home

Variable						Publi	c Open S	Space					
	Bat	Bra	Bin	Kis	Lub	Pan	Pem	Sip	Sta	Tar	Sib	Tan	Ram
private vehicle ownership	mot 61,2	no 57,1	mot 64,3	mot 59,7	mot 53,6	mot 43,9	no 57,1	no 54,5	mot 57,1	mot 50,0	no 40,9	mot 48,9	mot 46,7
Transportat ion mode	mot 52,3	wal 61,4	mot 51,4	mot 64,3	mot 48,6	mot 50,7	wal 38,6	mot 51,7	mot 67,1	mot 52,9	mot 45,5	mot 38,6	mot 22,7
Distance	< 500 m 35,3	< 500 m 45,7	> 5 km 34,8	3-5 km 35,7	0.5-1 km 50,7	< 500 m 35,3	> 5 km 30,0	> 5 km 47,7	> 5 km 37,1	> 5 km 28,6	3-5 km 36,4	1-3 km 43,2	0.5 - 1km 30,0
Mot = motor o	cycle			No	= no priva	ate vehicl	е		Wa	l = walkin	ıg		

Table 5. Mean score of people satisfaction with POS accessibility

Variable							Public C	pen Sp	ace					
	Bat	Bra	Bin	Kis	Lub	Pan	Pe m	Sip	Sta	Tar	Sib	Tan	Ram	Aver.
	Dat	ыа	DIII	INIS	Lub	ı alı	1111	Sip	Sia	ıaı	Sib	Tan	INaiii	AVGI.
Distance	3,6 5	3,2 1	3,3 4	3,3 4	3,5 4	3,3 4	3,3 6	3,1 2	3,2 0	3,2 4	3,7 7	3,6 4	3,03	3,37
Easy entering	3,7 6	3,4 9	3,7 9	3,7 9	3,6 5	3,5 7	3,6 7	3,3 4	3,8 1	3,3 6	4,1 4	3,8 9	3,83	3,70
Transportatio n	3,7 3	3,4 7	3,7 9	3,7 0	3,5 4	3,4 7	3,7 6	3,4 7	3,5 7	3,3 0	4,0 2	3,6 2	3,73	3,63
Traffic	3,4 9	3,5 3	3,5 4	3,7 0	3,6 4	3,3 1	3,9 6	3,7 2	3,8 1	3,2 7	4,0 0	3,7 7	3,63	3,64

Average														
	3.6 <sub>a</sub> 6	3.4 3	3.6 2	3.6 3	3.5 9	3.4 2 <sub>b</sub>	3.6 9	3.4 1	3.6 0	3.2 9	3.9 8	3.7 §	3.56	3.59



Fig. 1. Some of poor design and maintenance facilities in (a) Lubuk Pakam (b) Brastagi (c) Sibolga

# 4.3.3. Climate comfort

The climate comfort relates to the presence of trees, garden, and the sun heat and rain protector. One of the features that fill almost the POS is trees and grass field. The natural elements were arranged along the POS periphery. There were some trees in the seating area of some POS. Thus, they shadowed the area below from sun heat. However, at some POS the trees did not meet people needs, because of the number, distribution, and the quality. The people satisfaction level of this features were below 3 in Batubara, Brastagi, Tarutung, and Sibolga. However the rest were perceived good, but the mean scores were below 4. The satisfaction level for rain protector is the lowest, since, except pendopo, there was no construction with canopy in almost all the POS.

Table 6. Mean score of people satisfaction with climate comfort

	Bat	Bra	Bin	Kis	Lub	Pan	Pem	Sip	Sta	Tar	Sib	Tan	Ram	Aver.
Trees	2,69	2,66	3,49	3,24	4,01	3,04	4,03	3,98	3,86	2,99	2,36	3,76	3,47	3,35
Wind velocity	3,50	3,24	3,64	3,73	3,64	3,57	3,99	4,13	3,79	3,33	3,57	3,75	3,70	3,66
Sun- shading	2,81	2,27	3,19	2,70	3,43	3,06	3,75	3,78	3,24	3,23	1,95	3,75	3,53	3,13
Rain protecting	2,97	2,16	2,77	2,37	3,03	3,29	2,96	3,48	2,83	3,20	2,12	3,48	3,57	2,94
Average	2,99	2,58	3,27	3,01	3,53	3,24	3,68	3,84	3,43	3,19	2,50	3,57	3,27	2,99

#### 4.4. Public life

The people came to the POS were variable in age, but most of them were teenagers. They came to the POS in a group, indicated that they were socializing. The people utilized POS frequently, mainly 1-3 times a week, and stayed there for 1-2 hours. The facts were similar with capital city Medan (Nasution and Zahrah, 2014). However, not like Medan, the utilization of the POS was going on until night. Kids and teenagers still utilize POS for various activities, such as playing or just sitting in a group with friends. It can be said that from the duration of using, the POS in the small towns was more intensively used. The most activities going on in the POS was sport/exercising, such as jogging, walking, aerobic gymnastic, fitness, cycling. People also played various game-sports, such as football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, roller skate and the skateboard. However, there were

not always the adequate facilities for such games. Grass field became a multi-purpose ground for many kinds of games, but pendopo also became the arena for skateboard, roller blade and badminton (Table 7).

The other popular activity was sitting. Most of the POS had the facility, except Rampah and Pandan. People sat everywhere they could sit; not just on the seating equipment, but also on the grass field, pendopo steps, the garden or pedestrian path barrier, even on the motorcycle. In Stabat, the moveable chair was part of street vendors' equipment. Since there was a large number street vendors' chairs and utilized by many visitors, it became the main facilities at the square. The fact, it gave contribution in supporting public life in the POS.

Besides teenagers, the most visitors of POS were children. They came to the POS did not always relate to the presence of tot lot. Rampah and Brastagi, which had no children playground and its equipment, still utilized by children. The fact indicated that the activity in the POS did not always directly relate to the quality (Karuppannan dan Sivarn, 2013; Nasution and Zahrah, 2013, 2014). POS Kisaran, for example, had a complete facility with good design, but the place was not more utilized compared to fair-design POS like Stabat and Pematang Siantar.

In average, people generally satisfied with function and activities of POS, even the poor quality POS in Rampah and Brastagi, which had a lower satisfaction level for facilities. The fact showed that people felt that the POS met their needs, though it had not reached an optimal level. The highest satisfaction level was for sport and socializing function, and the lowest was politics and democracy function (Table 8)

Table 7. Activities at POS

POS							A	ctivity							
	Jog	Wal	Сус	Pfb	Pbb	Pvb	Psb	Pbd	Aer	Fit	Pkd	Pki	Sit	Pic	Din
Bat		V	-	V	-	-	_	-	-	-	V	-	V	-	V
Bra	V	V	-	V	-	-	-	-	-	-	V	-	V	-	
Bin	$\sqrt{}$	V	-	-	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	-	V
Kis	$\sqrt{}$	V	V	V	-	-	-	-	-	-	V	V	V	-	-
Lub	V	1	-	V	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		V	-	-
Pan	$\sqrt{}$	-	-	V	-	-	-	V	-	-	-	-	V	-	V
Pem	$\sqrt{}$	V	V	V	-	-	-	V	V	-	-	V	V	V	V
Sip	V	V		V	-	-	-				V		V	V	V
Sta	V	V	V	V	-	-	V	-	V		V	-	V	V	V
Tar	$\sqrt{}$	V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	V	V	V
Sib		V	V	V	V	V	-	V	-	V	V	-	V	-	V
Ramp	-	-	V	V	-	-	-	-	-	-	V	-	V	-	V

Note:

Jog = jogging

Wal = walking

Cyc = cycling
Pfb = playing football

Pbb = playing basketball

Pvb = playing volleyball

Psb = playing skateboard/

rollerblade

Pbd = playing badminton

Aer = aerobic

Fit = fitness/ exercising

Pkd = playing (kids)

Pki = playing kite

Sit = sitting
Pic = picnicking

Din = dining / street vendor

Table 8. Intensity of activities at POS (in percent)

						Public	c Open S	paces					
	Bat	Bra	Bin	Kis	Lub	Pan	Pem	Sip	Sta	Tar	Sib	Tan	Ram
Time of visit	16.00 -	12.00	06.00	16.00	06.00	16.00	06.00	12.00	16.00	12.00	16.00	16.00	10.00
	19.00 39,7	16.00 27,1	10.00 49,3	19.00 42,9	10.00 77,5	19.00 55,9	10.00 41,4	16.00 41,6	19.00 72,9	16.00 34,3	19.00 76,9	19.00 74,4	12.00 23,3

Duration of visits	1-2 61,2	1-2 51,4	1-2 58,6	1-2 67,1	1-2 65,7	1-2 51,5	1-2 45,7	1-2 47,2	1-2 61,4	1-2 50,0	>2 41,9	1-2 78,6	1-2 50,0
(hour)													
Freq. of visits	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	1-3 times	>3 times
(per week)	46,3	50	65,7	58,6	52,9	61,8	52,2	67,4	68,6	68,6	50,0	50,0	46,7
Aim of visits	Sport /exer 53,8	Sport /exer 68,6	Sport /exer 40,3	Sport /exer 64,2	Sport /exer 80,6	relax 32,8	Sport /exer 33,3	Ff gath 33,3	Ff gath 41,8	Ff gath 60,3	Sport /exer 56,8	Sport /exer 38,6	Sport exerc 33,3
Activity in the weekend	POS 51,5	POS 52,9	POS 38,9	POS 47,8	POS 44,3	natur 41,4	natur 31,9	natur 37,1	POS 52,9	POS 47,8	POS 61,4	Cafe. 52,3	POS 36,7

Note:

exe = exercising

Relax = relaxing

Nature = natural tourism

Ff gath= Family / friend gathering

Table 9. Mean score of people satisfaction with POS function/activity

	Bat	Bra	Bin	Kis	Lub	Pan	Pem	Sip	Sta	Tar	Sib	Tan	Ram	Aver.
Recreation	3,52	2,96	3,31	3,57	3,40	3,40	3,24	3,70	3,61	3,17	2,93	3,40	2,75	3,30
Sport/exercise	3,91	4,04	3,51	3,96	3,96	3,69	3,47	3,48	3,73	3,14	4,09	3,77	3,77	3,73
Socialization	3,72	3,39	3,51	3,66	3,61	3,49	3,56	3,53	3,76	3,23	3,98	3,70	4,07	3,63
Politic	3,31	3,03	2,99	2,96	2,99	3,21	2,77	3,33	3,21	3,10	2,95	2,41	2,97	3,02
Average	3.62	3.36	3.33	3.54	3.49	3.45	3.26	3.51	3.58	3.16	3.49	3.32	3.39	3.42



#### Fig. 2. Some of public life

#### 5. Conclusion

The result of the study shows that public life in small towns' POS of North Sumatra province was going on intensively, with or without an adequate quality of design, facility, and management. It is similar with Medan, where they have no many choices for free access place in the city. The research confirms several similar studies (Karuppannan and Sivam, 2013, Nasution and Zahrah, 2013, 2014). The researchs found that quality of POS was not always equal to its utilization. The phenomenon particularly found in cities of developing country like Indonesia, where there is limited choice. However, with the fair satisfaction level, the quality of POS has to be enhanced. It is necessary for the government to place the POS as one of the development priority. The future step recommends the deeper analysis in formulating the quality of POS that more suitable for local people needs.

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