

What's Arabic for 'Charette'? Public Participation in the Baniyas neighborhood of Abu Dhabi

Surajit CHAKRAVARTY, Alhosn University, UAE

Meera MANSOORI, Alhosn University, UAE

Meera SHEHADEH, Alhosn University, UAE

1. Introduction

Public participation is a necessary part of due process in planning exercises in the United States and most liberal-democratic countries. In recent times public participation has become a part of the strategy of urban local governments in the United Arab Emirates. Abu Dhabi's Urban Planning Council (UPC), for example, has started using public participation in most of its projects. The reason for this sudden spurt of interest in high-visibility participation workshops is a matter of speculation. This paper examines the meaning of participation in Abu Dhabi, the processes involved in conducting participation, people's attitudes towards it, and the way it is constructed in a non-democratic context.

The United Arab Emirates was formed in 1971 with Abu Dhabi (city) as its capital. The country is a federal union of seven Emirates, with Abu Dhabi (Emirate, which includes the city of the same name) in a leadership role since it dwarves the others in size and resources. The local planning agency – Urban Planning Council (UPC) was formed as recently as 2004. Before that planning was carried out entirely by the Abu Dhabi Municipality (ADM) in collaboration with consultants, as needed. After the formation of the UPC, the functions of the ADM were restricted to plan implementation and enforcement.

The economy of Abu Dhabi is based primarily on oil and natural gas exports. Real estate, retail, financial services and tourism also play important roles. Over 80% of the residents of Abu

Dhabi are expatriate workers with no route to permanent residence or citizenship. Construction of the city began after independence. Some of the older areas, now about four decades old, and having been subjected to extreme weather conditions during that time, are in a state of disrepair. One such suburb is the Bani Yas neighborhood.

In recent times, local agencies involved with urban planning, have begun incorporating public participation into their process. It is remarkable that this is happening within Abu Dhabi's political context. It also raises questions regarding the purpose and nature of participation, and how it is reconciled with the local political culture.

Research questions

This research project is guided by the following questions. (i) What is the nature and role of public participation in Abu Dhabi? (ii) How is the idea of "participation" framed within a non-democratic political context? (iii) What can be done to improve the effectiveness of public participation in Abu Dhabi?

Public participation in Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi Citizens and the Sheikh

The Abu Dhabi government has allowed public participation at various scales. The ruler generally is sensitive to the needs of the people. Representatives of the government interact with the public in various forums. In Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed is represented by the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi. The council lays down public policies and development plans. It also ensures that these policies and plans are effectively implemented. In order to ensure that this is achieved, the council listens to the views of the citizens and incorporates them into the

final decisions it makes. The council is chaired by Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince (Abu Dhabi Government, 2013 b).

Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council (UPC)

The Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council (UPC) has begun using the idea of *majlis* to collect public opinion regarding planning. The Majlis is basically founded on tribal customs. UPC, under the leadership of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, usually comes to the Majlis in order to meet the citizens. The Majlis provides a platform through which the citizens freely interact with their leaders. This ensures that the government enjoys the support of the citizens. In the Majlis, the citizens are normally allowed to raise their concerns to the government. These can be concerns of both personal and broader interests. The citizens are also allowed to give their views concerning what they think should be done in order for their interests to be met. It brings about a certain degree of consensus concerning the planning decisions to be adopted by the government planners. The needs of the citizens end up being incorporated into the planning and development decisions made by UPC. This way, the public participates in the planning and development of their emirate (Abu Dhabi Government, 2013 a).

Shahama Majlis

One such *majlis* was held in the suburban area of Shahama in June 2008. The *majlis* was held inside a tent. This particular *majlis* brought together the residents of the Shahama and Bahia. This region is a collection of four neighborhoods. These are: New Shahama, Old Shahama, New Bahia and Old Bahia. These places are inhabited by Emirati Nationals who live on residential plots granted to them by the UAE government. About 25,000 people live in these neighborhoods. During the Majlis, the residents of Shahama and Bahia engaged with both local and international planners in order to determine an effective future vision for the region. Men,

women, youth, children, the elderly, shopkeepers, teachers, widows, widowers, and other citizens of different socioeconomic and political categories all participated in the meeting. They voiced their issues and went as far as giving possible solutions to the issues. After lunch break, the local residents and the planners who had attended the meeting joined hands in coming up with a master plan for the planning of the region. They shared, prioritized and changed various ideas. Some of the ideas which were deliberated during this particular Majlis included provision of affordable housing, lighting of streets and improvement of transportation, provision of recreation facilities and among others. Both local assets and local issues were taken into consideration by the planners and the local residents. At the end of the Majlis, the planners came up with a “consensus plan” which could be used in guiding the planning of the Shahama and Bahia region (Gudaitis, 2010).

Al Ain Majlis

Another Majlis which was held recently in Abu Dhabi was the one which took place on May 2011 at Al Ain’s Al Hil. The residents of this region signed an allegiance document which was presented to the Presidential Court and the UAE government. Although this particular Majlis tends to differ from the one which was held at Shahama, it needs to be pointed out that the demonstration of loyalty to the leader of the UAE shows that the residents of Al Ain are supportive to the governance of their emirate. As a result, they feel represented in the development plans adopted by their government. This is unlike in a case where the citizens are disloyal to their leadership. Under such circumstances, the citizens feel that the government has left them out of crucial planning and development decisions it adopts (Raafat & Hoath, 2011).

2. Case background

The Bani Yas neighborhood

Baniyas area is an old area that has houses that were built in the first wave of construction after independence in the 1970s. Many of the neighborhoods and houses retain their old configurations, even though large parts of the surrounding areas have been redeveloped. The area also maintains original demographic composition, which was brought about by the system of land distribution, allowing each (extended) family to occupy an entire compound for all the members of the family. All families of the tribe were able to occupy their own compounds, allowing close ties both within families and within the tribe. Since its construction the area has not been improved and many parts have fallen into disrepair.

During the 1960s Bani Yas used to be the resting area of the Sheikh when travelling between Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. Highway E22 happened to be the first asphalted roads constructed in the Emirates in the 1960s. The revitalization master plan of the Baniyas started in the 1970 and had gone through many phases. Community facilities and retail were built in 1970s and later in 1989 public buildings were constructed for the use and service of the general public. Recently the Government of Abu Dhabi officially introduced a land marking initiative to build an infrastructure one of its kind that encompasses everything the general public has been waiting for a long time (Baniyas Revitalization Master Plan 2011).

The People (Bedouin)

The word or term Bedouin or Badaw is an Arabic word and it means desert dweller or dwellers or settlers. The word Badaw could also mean plain or nothing meaning there is nothing in the desert. But the Bedouin people who are proud and masters of desert proudly had lived in what is today called United Arab Emirates for centuries (Baniyas Revitalization Master Plan 2011). The Bedouin people are Arab and are found in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar,

Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, Eritrea, Sudan, Egypt, Libya and other Middle Eastern countries. As elsewhere in the UAE, the social composition of Baniyas is composed of the so-called local people or the Arab Bedouin, Indians, Middle Eastern and Africa. According to a 2005 report the population of the city of Baniyas comprises 79% UAE or Arabs, 15% Asian born Asians, 5% of an African origin (Baniyas Revitalization Master Plan 2011 p.1).

The 2011 Revitalization Master Plan shows that at the moment the population of the city of Baniyas is 68,200. Furthermore, the document shows that there are 2,779 vacant residential plots and if the total occupancy capacity added together the population of the City of Baniyas would have been 85,900 people. The Revitalization Master Plan of 2011 once again stratified the age group of the City of Baniyas in which 71% are less than 30 years of age—which again 47% of the stated percentage are less than 20 years of age or younger. Therefore according to this calculation, the population of the Baniyas is less than 25 years. Furthermore, 36,000 of the city population which is equal 58% are from the UAE. As far as labor force goes, 63% of Baniyas are working people and age working age is stratified between 16 to 65 years old. In addition, the document shows 31,200 of the city population are engaged in active work. Meanwhile, 11% or 4,700 of the city population are school age residents (Revitalization Master Plan 2011 p.4).



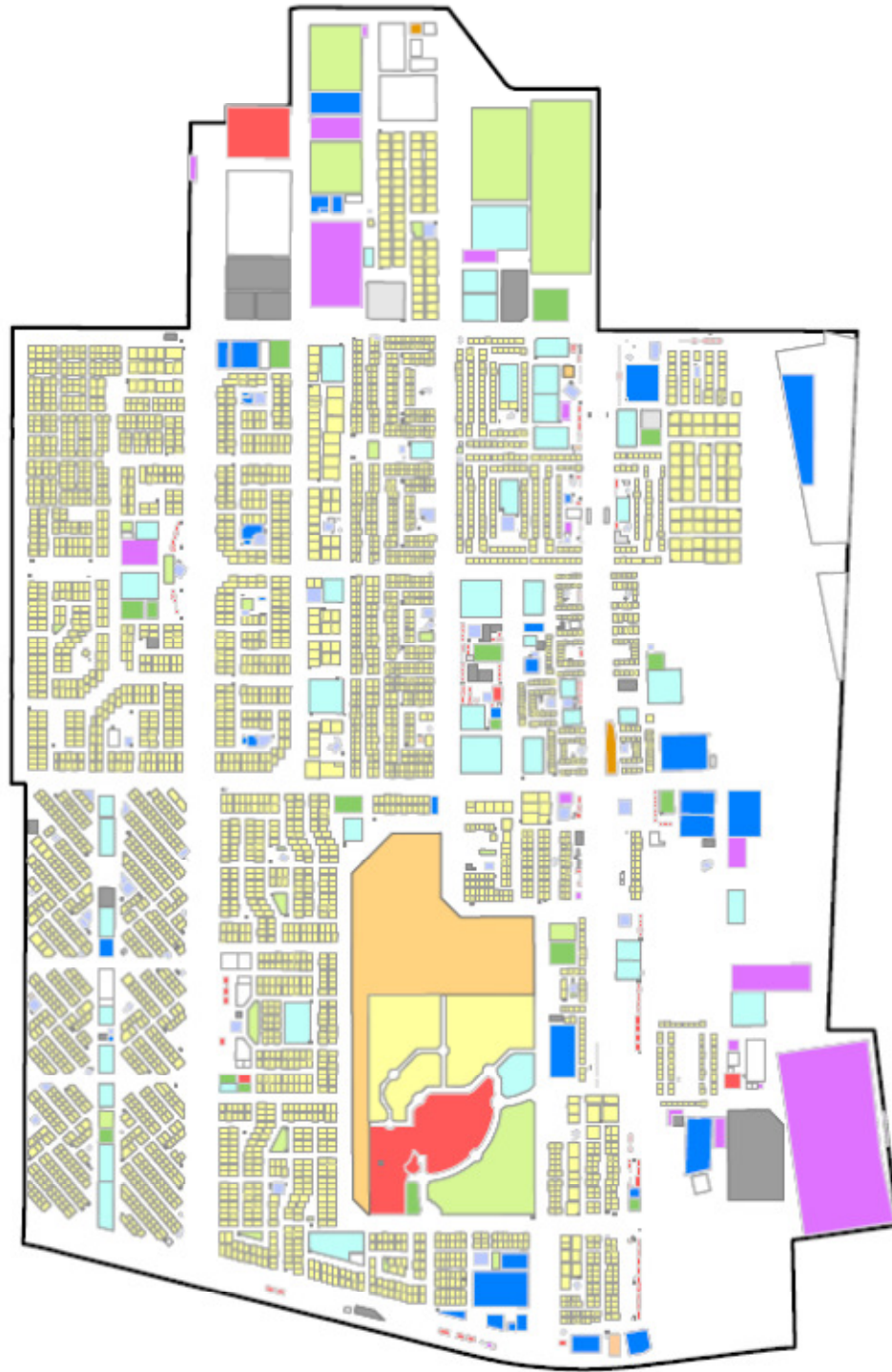
Land Use

Figure 3: Bani Yas Land use map. Source: Abu Dhabi Municipality, 2012.

Baniyas area is mainly emirate neighborhood that has 6 types of land use such as, residential, commercial, mix use, governmental, school, and community center as shown in the figure below. Baniyas has old houses that are in a bad condition as shown in figure 13, and these houses are called traditional houses and they are only 1 floor but the government had allowed them to add Ground plus 2 floors—which refers to a second story level building. The commercial are located in the two sides of the main roads as shown in figure 13, and it has multi types of uses such as clinic, restaurants, trailer, and car shops.

Baniyas has a center place which is called Souq Al Baladiya where people gather to get their needs and wants such as going to restaurants, printing shops, salons and much more. These areas are mainly mixed with commercial and mix use land use, which are 3 floors. There are schools which are distributed all among Baniyas neighborhoods with different categories primary and secondary. In addition there are private and public schools.



Figure 3: Old Emirate House



Figure 4: Commercial building that on main street (Abu Dhabi Al Ain Street)

In addition, there are multi governmental uses in Baniyas such as Baniyas municipality, Baniyas police station, etc as shown in the figures below. Baniyas have community centers such as, lulu hyper market, Yas market, Baniyas co-operation, two malls (Mafraq Mall & Bawabat Al Sharq Mall), and green market.

As can clearly be seen from the above map, the Baniyas Streetscape are not designed for pedestrian friendly, to the contrary they are designed for vehicles uses. Once again, as shown in the map below the sidewalks are disconnected and there is no clear path. The streets are not safe to move from one block to another because there are a lack of sidewalks and connections.

Bani Yas parks

Baniyas areas have one main park which is divided into two areas one is designated for family and the other one is for ladies and between them there is a wall as a buffer. This park is located at the main entrance to Baniyas Abu Dhabi Al Ain road. There is one park in Bani yas which is divided into two family parks and Ladies Park. The entrance to the park is by payment for

both parks. In Ladies Park, male are allowed to enter the park but they should be less than 8 years old to enter the park. While entering to the parks the direction is clear and the view is clear from the top while walking. They have foundations, and the games are been spread randomly and there are two kinds of games swings and a slider in which such size is not enough to fit a number of people which is usually designated for one to five persons per a game. There are benches that are distributed all around the walking path, and beside it is a basket pin but there are some benches that are randomly distributed on the green space without the basket pin. The parks have two types of lighting one with one bulb and the other one with four bulbs, and they had been distributed among the park in a good way which makes the view clear.

The parks size is good for the human scale, the stairs in ladies park is unsafe because it sharp and unsafe for old ladies. The parks design is grass and tress which looks like a natural design, and there is lack of landscape, and shaded area. The design of the benches is so simple that it doesn't encourage people to use it, and the games as we had mention is small and doesn't encourage children to play and stay a long time playing because children might get bored from it quickly. In addition, the games don't encourage the child to be excited and they are not usually helpful in thinking. The games are not designed for all ages it usually is for 3- 5 years; the swing is unsafe for the young kids because it doesn't have any belt safety. Some of the games are old and damaged and might be harmful for kids. The foundation it's not modern design and it doesn't attract children's, family and ladies. The design had a walkable path that is all around the area and usually it is been used for walking as an exercise for the ladies.

Baniyas Park lacks essential public services such as the bathroom, mosque, and shops. They have one bathroom but it is in a bad condition, it is located far away in the buffer area beside the park and the location is unclear. There are only two water machines and the designs

are in a bad conditions. The design of the park is simple there is no attraction in the landscape. Usually people gather at the first part of the park, because it's easy access. Because the other parts of the park are all similar and nothing special to encourage people to move from one point to another. The spirit of the park is usually a quiet place. The park lacks electronic games, which doesn't encourage or attract children to use the games.

The buffer that surrounding the park on the right side is unsafe, this buffer is close to the bathrooms, which is dark and has no lighting and no any clear direction leading to the bathroom. From winter to spring—it is the season which attracts the citizens to visit the park, especially if the weather is good. In normally days if the weather was normal usually weekend's people would come to the park, which make the park active.

3. Fieldwork

We started off our research after receiving an official letter to the senior management in the Strategic Planning division of Abu Dhabi Municipality. We were then directed to the Head of Research and Studies Section. They proposed a public participation study for the redevelopment of Baniyas Park. We had meetings with them to discuss preparation of promotional materials, advertisements, and scheduling necessary tools and props. To continue the workshop in a legal way we had to get permission from BaniYas Police Station. We received this permission by writing official letters explaining the purpose of the exercise.

During the course of several meetings with Abu Dhabi Municipality we discussed the locations where the workshops would be held. It was decided that Bawabat Al Sharq Mall, Al Mafraq Public School, Baream Private School, and Bani Yas Parks would be the best locations. The Municipality also approved on our survey, poster, and consent form.

Our next step was to get approval from the mall managers for setting up the workshop. We met with the manager, Mr. Ahmad and discussed the tools and materials that would be used during the workshop. They provided some materials for us to use such as tables, chair, and an appropriate location for our workshop which would be ideal for us to use.

The next step was to contact the school. To do this, we had to get permission from Abu Dhabi Education Council. We contacted them directly, in February, 2013. They requested us to provide them with a copy of our survey, schedule, CV, passport, report for our project, and official letter from Abu Dhabi municipality. This took too long which inevitably delayed the set-up of our workshop. After approximately two months, we finally received the approval on 21st April, 2013.

We carried out extensive interviews, survey and workshop across Bani yas and collected key information and data through statistic and maps, surveys, interviews, drawings, workshops, photographs and observation. We then compiled the information and analyzed it and according to it we wrote the recommendation. The analysis gave us an idea of what the majority of people would like to have in the park and the way it should be designed. We observed that there are a lot of people giving positive response. Almost everyone liked the idea of public participation and believed that it must be carried out in their area for every development. Public participation, as we noticed is very important for every development. It provides vital information to the planner in regards to public feedback and reviews. Since the public is the end-user, they must be included in the planning as it provides key information about what they would like to change in the plan.

*Workshop at Bawabat Al Sharq Mall***Workshop Day 1**

The workshop has started on 14th February 2013 in Bawabat Al Sharq Mall, It included two durations, the noon duration which included two sessions. The first session from (1.30 – 2.00) and the second session from (2.30 – 3.00). As for the evening duration it included four sessions, where the first session started from (4.30 – 5.00), the second session from (5.30 – 6.00), the third session from (7.00 – 7.30) and the last session from (8.00 – 8.30).

The first session:

Was opened with few number of people; three individuals during the first half hour. The first person was as follows: he expressed his admiration for the project and his support to the idea of development and that it is worth to consider it. His suggestion was a root development of the park through: 1) Improve the appearance of the park; trees, increase the number of games, variation in the form of games, and the quality of usage. That is the games should be varied in terms of shape and size for different age groups: one year old games and older children games. 2) To improve the services of the park in terms of hygiene of public facilities; like toilets or praying room by employing a competent employee for cleaning throughout all the working hours of the park. Restaurants 3) Provide restaurants in both the family park and the ladies park to facilitate the matter for the visitor, as an order delivery from an outside restaurant consume long period. 4) The park should be divided by placing electronic games in one area and another area for smaller children. 5) There should be specialized places set for the barbeque and other places to enjoy the nature, in addition to other quiet places.

The second person was an Emirati woman who was excited for the subject and was very encouraged to participate, where she started by introducing herself and how she has a trading license "The creative women" (to explain this kind of business we must refer that the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in coordination with Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce has provided unique trading license for The creative women who has a heritage business or small trading business as support from the country to help women in the trading business). Later she started spotting the light on Abu Dhabi Park and the ideas for (Al Mushref Park Abu Dhabi) for its spacious area and how they go to it when having small parties, birthdays, and family gatherings. In addition, she called on the importance of taking care of providing services that help people especially women in the ladies park and to be concerned in fulfilling their desires through the provision of sports walkway in the park to assist the woman in practicing sport, especially the Muslim woman who needs a unique special place for women only and the park is a good place to do sports and to practice it.

Furthermore, it spotted the light on providing sports club in the park as there is currently no women sport club in Baniyas area, which would in turn help the woman in practicing sport. Nevertheless, she also asked for the provision of a salon for women to save time. 1) Provide a small supermarket and provide a swimming pool for children and adults and have a facility to teach them swimming. And make the park suitable for all ages. From their perspective: through the provision of initial things for woman of such Gym, Salon and a place to care for children them in a place like the park would stimulate the woman to come and visit the park, for it facilitates doing everything in one place- the park, which can be a park and a secured place and a place dedicated to women which will not keep the woman away from shopping, entertainment and exercise her hobby. Also, she praised the presence of restaurants in the form of booths in the

park in a beautifully heritage shape of food and drinks to support woman in performing her work inside the park through giving the opportunity to the "The creative women" to perform their business inside the park in an orderly manner by putting the unified logo of the park which represents the region. The logo should be distinctive and even restaurants should be using the same logo. Through the provision of Heritage Club which collaborates with the "The creative women" with the cooperation of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce to support businesswomen in participating their business in this place dedicated to women and families; which encourage people to visit the park.

Provide manpower for Henna through "The creative women" who can provide the ladies who do henna or any other service. 2) Provide working women in the park .3) provide security in circumstance of lost child or thing through the development of the trust funds 4) Participation of the school in the events of the park. 5) Providing events throughout the months with cultural and heritage diversity 6) Providing educational games specialized in children's education and educational places, led by specialized guides; such as swimming 7) Provide Gulf and Arabic restaurants at reasonable prices 8) Having coffee shops but prevent smoking cigarette and anything detrimental to health. 9) Provide a special logo for the Park 10) Give a special feature for a garden. 11) Maintain the cleaning operation through the distribution of trash baskets in the park 12) Provide special places to have parties.

Third person: called for the need for development and expressed his appeal to the idea of development. 1) Attention to the hygiene of public utilities in the park. 2) Attention to the provision of different games. 3) Expansion in the facilities of the park.

The Second session:

Included two people, starting with the British woman who has never visited the park but was interested to participate to have an idea about the matter as she was interested in residing in BaniYas residential project. 1) She has seen that the project was important and necessary to be developed and stressed on the importance of having events for children and adults. 2) She has also said that the existing components in the questionnaire were excellent and encouraging to visit the park. The second person was a resident of Khalifa B: he had visited the park and thinks that it is important to maintain the park in terms of hygiene facilities and games. 3) The need to have water games. 4) Provide swimming pools. 5) Increase labor working times in the garden. 6) lack of labors in the toilets 7) The importance of the presence of restaurants in the middle of the park. 8) The presence of gym in the park and to be safely open. 9) Provide places for barbeque. 10) Provide a praying area for women in the family section. 11) Provide various restaurants. 12) Provide shaded places. 13) Put safety features in fountains. 14) Provide water coolers in the park and to distribute them inside the park.

The third session:

It started with one person only who lived in Baniyas suburbs. He thought that the importance of the development of the park is through: 1) Provide necessary games for the entertainment of children of various shapes to encourage the children to play and that there are no enough games currently in the park and they are not enough for the number of children especially at the weekends. The park is considered as one of the kind in the region. 2) To provide praying area for women in the family section, and to provide cleaning labors in the park around the working hours of the park. 3) Extend the working hours of the park especially at the

weekends and holidays period with the facility of opening the park at the noon time in the holiday period. 4) The park lack cleaning labors in the toilets. 5) There is no maintenance facility in the park for the games which are very old and not secure for children. 6) Expand the area of the park. 7) Provide water games like Yas water park to earn an income for the park.

The fourth session:

The session included four people of one family and the addressing of people was in the form of group discussion. They all called for the importance of maintaining the park and providing all services in the park. They started with the things that is lacking in the park. They have also called for the importance of prohibiting unauthorized food, where there are some people who sell food outside the park-which is not authorized by the official authorities. The food is exposed to the sun and might be expired. This poses danger on the children. They have also mentioned the unavailability of a cafeteria inside the park which facilitates the presence of those type people who take e of the situation to sell food. The other issue is the random selling operation inside the park by unauthorized women which is offensive to the general appearance of the park and is un civilized. They stressed on the importance of preventing them to do such thing for the public safety and that it is important that the municipality should monitor such activities of this category of people. To avoid this problem, it is importance to have restaurants inside the park, and the importance of providing booths for snacks under the monitoring of the municipality with relatively low prices that everyone can afford supported by the municipality.

The selling operation of "clothing" and other things should be prohibited in the park, as it is not suitable for the park appearance as it is a picnic and entertainment area. The park does not have enough games. In addition, there are no safety elements in the Games for the children.

The lighting in the park is very poor, which lacks the new civilization elements in the process of distribution of the games. The park does not contain the elements of civilization and progress. The natural look in the garden does not attract the individual and lack the presence of flowers and different types of landscapes that calms a person's psyche. The entry gate park is very small, so there is a need for expansion for the same, as the current situation does not help in realizing how many people are in the park and it allows people to enter without paying the fee of the park; which is not fair. The administration is not tuned on the mechanism of working in the park. The toilets are very remote and there are no cleaners in the women park which exists on the edge of the park and which is not used and the place is not clear to all. The lack of toilets tissue, hands soap and other necessary things. The lack of places for the elderly and people with special needs. There is no security in the park in the event of any accident or the loss of a child or a thing. The presence of an area right end of the park for women which is unused and the area is isolated, abandoned and planted with high altitude trees, which contains insects and snakes and it is an unsafe area and scary for the children, and it is isolated from the park by trees. There are two fountains in the park of large area and not secured for children, where lots of accidents have occurred. One of the most unfortunate events is when a small child fell in the fountain and died. There are no places for families to sit and no shaded areas in the park. There is no regular maintenance for the games in the park. The administration ignored many issued in the park is due to the reasons that they are unable to control people in the park and they are difficult people to deal with.

It is important to develop the park, and this project is a good project and important in the region. Among the improvements that we would like to stress are: 1) To prevent sales of Food & Beverages from the outside. Prevent sales inside the park in a randomly, uncivilized,

uncontrolled, and unauthorized by the municipality. 2) To provide places for the sale of food and beverages in the park which is authorized by official authorities at acceptable prices with the provision of restaurants in the park and provide machinery for drinks in various areas in the park with the provision of water coolers. 3) Provide toys for children at various ages with paintings that is loveable and entertaining and educational for children, which enhances the child to search, innovate and discover and this will take long time in playing instead of playing for few minutes only. 4) Provide practical games for children to motivate them to play. 5) Provide electronic games and other games that aim for the participation of parents in playing with children, which in turns the park to be a playing area for the whole family. 6) To divide the playing area in the park for ages of one year old to four years old, and an area for children of the age group five to ten years of age.

In addition to area for children above ten years old. So that the games would be targeted by different age groups. 7) Improve the appearance of the park through maintaining the landscape; flowers, small fountains that add nice voice in the park in addition to innovative decorations with modern and new ideas. 8) Distribute seats in the park in a nice and various designs. 9) The necessity to have security personnel to maintain security inside the park. 10) Provide security units in an event of emergency accidents. 11) To provide places for women like gyms in the open air and to distribute sports equipment in the park. 12) To provide new and secure electronic games for everyone. 13) To take care of having parties in the park and having shows all over the year to activate the park and to make a change and entertainment; such as the child day, mother's day, national and religious days, and drawing educational and heritage contests. 14) Encourage schools to have trips to the park and to participate the children in the entertainment activities by having visits to the park by the school. 15) Extend the working time of

the park in public holidays and weekends. 16) Use the alert equipments in the park in a civilized and non disturbing way in case of alert for a specific thing . 17) Put guiding plates in the park to facilitate the direction of people. 18) Taking care of environmental issues through having weekly care for trees and plants by spraying pesticides regularly. 19) Address the social issues in the park which is not accepted by lots of people. 20) Place plates in the park for the prohibited things by official authorities in a clear way, to avoid any complaints by individuals for prohibiting bicycles and playing with the ball in the park. In this way if the prohibition is by the municipality then there will be a sign for the penalties and the violation fees.

21) Have a uniform for labors. 22) Have a food court in an assigned area in the park that will not affect the appearance and the calm of the park. 23) Have games for special needs people and assign people to care for them. 24) Provide places to encourage the creative woman to do her business; like handicrafts, cooking, and painting. 25) The prices should be reasonable for everyone. 26) The development should be based on the priorities of everyone and serve different categories of individuals in the society. 27) The park should be in line with high criteria and standards for games, public facilities, landscapes, in secure and high quality standards that aim for the safety of everyone especially the children. 28) Proper lighting in the park. 29) Motivate the children to participate in the awareness operation in the park and how to maintain the hygiene in the park and help through the operation. 30) Provide a walking path for women and places for practicing sport, jogging, and running. 31) Provide events for the elderly in the park to share their experiences with children. 32) Provide relaxation sports like yoga and other exercises in the open air. 33) To have a specialized committee to extract the opinion of visitors regularly and meet with them in the park to take their opinion about improvements and complaints 34) the path

of the park should be clear and unconfusing for people through providing simple information about games.

The fifth session:

Included two people; one who lives in suburbs of Baniyas (Al Shamkha) which is fifteen minutes far from Baniyas. He said that the park is the only entertainment place in the region which he visits at the weekend. He also thinks that the development is a good initiative in terms of expanding and developing the park, and that our participation is a good thing. 1) The park lacks games, improper games, and the quality of the games is not good. 2) Maintain the hygiene of public facilities- toilets and praying areas. 3) Provide restaurants in the park to avoid buying from outside restaurants. 4) Monitor the administration to improve their work. 5) Provide shaded places with umbrellas and provide seating areas for families. 6) Improve the lighting system of the park. 7) Provide and improve games and electronic games 8) Extend the visiting hours. 9) Provide football field in the park in addition to various fields and playing areas. 10) Provide a gym in the park. And taking care of the general appearance of the park.

The second person: lives also in Baniyas suburbs and visits the park in the weekends as it is the closest park in the region. He said the park lacks football games and good games. The games are only for children at very young ages and not good for children over ten years of age, and even if they bring a ball to the park they are not allowed to play with it in the park, as it disturbs the people who are in the park. Therefore there should be special area assigned for playing football. Provide electronic games in the park. Provide restaurants and coffee shops in the park. Distribute machineries for selling beverages inside the park. Assign places for barbeque. Assign places for families. Provide places for games and seating areas.

The sixth session:

Included a group of young men of the age group 13- 16, some of them participated in the discussion and gave their opinion and answered the poll and others gave their opinion only. They were very eager for the idea and their priority was to have a football field in the park. Because playing football in the park is not allowed. They also stressed on the importance of changing the administration in the family section, who do not respect young men and they think of them as children who wants to foul around and create problems. They complained of the treatment of the guard who swears with bad words and yell at them and threaten them with the police. Their opinions includes: providing water games, contests inside the park. Extend the working hours of the park. Encourage the schools to have trips to the park. Provide seats in the park. Improve the parking areas around the park. Improve the lighting system in the park. Provide games like train, and rental bicycles in the park. Provide a swimming pool for the adults and children. Provide events in the park.

The number of participants was 18 people of different ages, nationalities, residents of Baniyas and its suburbs. The beginning was very encouraging for our project, there were various ideas and opinions about the subject and we have seen that this subject was a main concern for the residents and nonresidents of Baniyas area, which encouraged us to improve our performance and encourage them to participate. It is true that there were some session which did not include lots of people, but this is not a sign of their lack of concern about the subject, it is rather a beginning that requires more time for the people to understand the idea and participate.

The workshop continued for two more days yielding rich information in the form of quantitative and qualitative data.

6.2 Workshop at Bani Yas Ladies Park

6.2.1 Workshop Day 1

The second place we have done the workshop is Baniyas Ladies Park for two days during the weekend, Thursday and Friday. During the preparation for the workshop in the park on Thursday, there was also a workshop and awareness program by the municipality in the department of community service in the Municipality of Abu Dhabi. Their campaign was interested in raising awareness about the importance of maintaining the park and services in several parks in the emirate of Abu Dhabi, including Baniyas Ladies Park. We thought it was good to participate with them to avoid any contradiction in the workshops. After Conversation with workers in the program and knowing what the campaign is about, including that they have time to talk with parents about Baniyas Park and their opinion about improving the park. So we agreed to participate with them in the workshop and to participate in the workshop with parents in polling their opinions about Baniyas Park and the ways for its improvement.

The duration of the program lasted for two hours; a TV show for children and parents as an awareness program to maintain the cleanliness and safety of parks in the emirate through the identifying the children's top priority in the park then had questions for the participation of children, then they moved to the free Atelier to express their opinion about parks through drawing. The third session was for the parents and their participation in the development of the park. We participated in this workshop by introducing ourselves to the parents and identifying the mechanism of our park and our study. The audience was large and enthusiastic to participate. The workshop included a group of women who expressed their opinions and debate about the priorities that should be present in the park and things which must be avoided. The number of

people varied between twenty to thirty people, of who participated and presented their views while others participated in the questionnaire only and others did both things.

6.2.2 Workshop Day 2

This day was accomplished with the help of the municipality, as we participated with them in the workshop session which was assigned to poll the opinions and participation of the public, in regards to their vision about the development and improvement operation of Baniyas park. The second day was different, as we made a field round to poll people's opinions for the large unexpected number of people. Controlling people today was more difficult than yesterday. Therefore, it was hard to hear them. We decided to make the field round to take the opinions on group basis.

Workshop at Bani Yas Family Park

Workshop Day 1

First group:

The first group encompassed four people- three women and one man, and their individual opinions were as follows:-

First person: of course we want to develop the park, first by providing games in the park, especially that the current games are old and few and with no change or maintenance. Improve the performance of the administration for the bad treatment of young men. Provide electrical games and provide football stadium to avoid prohibition by the administrator, especially that it is a family park-for now we are prohibited to play ball in the park. Provide restaurant in the park, as

the current one is not a part of the park. As for the hygiene, it needs improvement in terms of toilets cleanliness.

Second person: women in the family park are suffering from the unavailability of a prayer area in the park. We need the provision of praying room in the park. The hygiene of the toilets is bad as they are not clean and does not have proper ventilation. Female manpower should undertake the cleaning process. As for the entertainment element in the park it is lacked for the number of games are few and not proper for usage in terms of safety which is in bad condition and rusted. There should be new games in the park and electrical games and places dedicated for barbeque.

Third person: take care of the hygiene of toilets and provide manpower to do the cleaning process of the park and toilets around the working hours of the park, the games are old and noisy which is scary for children and annoying for people. There is no place dedicated for barbeque, therefore we need places for barbeque, and vendor machines. Set up a radio station to alarm in case of missing thing or person.

The fourth person: provide games and electrical games in the park, to be new and of various use and appropriate for all ages. Maintain the hygiene operation in the park and different facilities. Provide events like parties- educational and entertainment- in the park to improve it.

6.4 Workshop at Schools

6.4.1 The Mechanism of Workshop in Schools:

An introduction about the project and clarify the aims in ten minutes, then divide the students into groups and distribute maps to start the workshop in regards to everything needed by the workshop; park maps, transparent papers, pencils and papers for the opinion poll to start

expressing their opinions about the park for 15 minutes. Then every person start to express the ideas and discuss them in groups, then a discussion panel will be open for everyone to share ideas and opinions. Finally we conclude by the opinion poll and thank the participants and take photos if they allow us.

6.4.2 Workshop Day 1 at Al Mafraq School: Day one 29th April 2013

The workshop consisted of 25 female students who were divided into five groups and we distributed the workshop tools on them for one hour.

The first group: the students did a preliminary drawing about their visions and demands about Baniyas Ladies Park. The plan illustrated providing a walk way in the center of the park. Put entertainment games in the right side as illustrated in the drawing. Provide regular games like max flight, scissor, death train, plate. The section contained an entrance gate and in the left part also water games and theater with gate. Provide a restaurant in the park as illustrated in the planning drawing. As for the second plan, it was about the problems that they suffer from like banning older children from entering the ladies park and no discrimination among people, there should be more gates and there should be a sprayer and supervisors in the park to avoid problems and accidents in the park. As illustrated in the plan (as shown in figure 23).

Second group: the students put two plans one for the family park and one for the ladies park, the first plan included dividing the park into different sections: kids section, elder children section, with space between them, there should be ice rink in the left side and prayer area and place for parties and events. As for the right side, divide the place into three regions. The first region to be allocated for barbeque, second region for ladies gathering with coffee shop, third

region is the food court in the center of the other sections, and a fish tank in the center of the park. Provide train to transport people between sections in the park. As illustrated in the planning diagram. The second plan is for the family park, in the center of the park, there should be restaurants and coffee shops, and a train to transport people between sections to the games section, birds section, water games, and provide Sheesha for men, as illustrated in the plan. (as shown in figure 24).

Third group: the plan illustrated the division of the park and distributing services: entertainment games for children, games for elder children, modern games and a fountain with high dividers in the center of the park as illustrated in the plan. They also wished to have safety element and regulations boards and to take care for the hygiene of the toilets and expand the entrance gate. (as shown in figure 25).

Fourth group: the diagram illustrated the ideas of the students about Baniyas Ladies Park by placing security office close to the entrance and clear direction of the park, by providing clear lightings and landscape by providing more trees and flowers. Provide prayer room and restaurant section and coffee shop and games sections. Provide parking spaces outside the park as illustrated in the plan: (as shown in figure 26).

Fifth group: the students illustrated their ideas about Baniyas Ladies Park; we should have more water games, ice rink, public market, electronic games, food court, and swimming pool in the center of the park. Walk way and flowers around the park. Expand the entrance gate (two gates) as illustrated in the plan. (as shown in figure 27).

All groups shared their ideas and discussed them while focusing on certain ideas and they all shared the entertainment element for children and adults in separate sections. Provide the

safety element and female supervisors in the park. Expand the entrance gate. Attention to the hygiene of the facilities of the park. Have more services like coffee shops and restaurants. The workshop was concluded by active participation of all students and polling their opinions about our project.

School Workshops Day 2 at Al Mafraq Public School and Al Baraem Private School

The second day of the workshop in Al Mafraq School:

The workshop included twenty-five students, who were divided into groups, each group of five students and then they were given tools. The workshop started with a power point presentation for ten minutes introduction about the topic.

Workshop at AL Baraem Private School:

The workshop was for two hours in one day and included a number of female high school students and attended by faculty members. The workshop was first introduced by PowerPoint presentation about the project and about the mechanism of the workshop for students then were distributed students into groups to be discussing their opinions and discuss the opinions between students and faculty members.

4. Analysis

Analysis of quantitative data from surveys:

	Male	Female	
Q7 a	4.21	3.69	0.52
Q7 b	3.92	3	0.92
Q7 c	3.87	3.56	0.31
Q7 d	3.776	2.8	0.976
Q7 e	3.41	2.52	0.89
Q7 f	3.34	2.2	1.14
Q7 g	2.84	1.75	1.09

Q7 h	3.38	1.81	1.57
Q7 i	2.52	1.54	0.98
Q7 j	2.952	1.81	1.142
Q7 k	3.36	2.1	1.26
Q7 l	3.21	2.36	0.85
Q7 m	3.53	2.64	0.89

Table 1: Difference between opinions of genders regarding the different elements in the park.

The total is N= 303 surveys as it's shown in the table above. There are differences between the male and female opinion, in Q7(f) the males are happy and satisfied with the shaded areas but the females are not because the ladies park does not have any kind of shaded areas as there is lack of trees that help provide shade to them. In Q7(g), the males are satisfied with the games that are provided in the family park but the ladies are not because they have fewer games and some even have been removed or damaged. Q7(h) is about the prayer room in the park as there is only one provided for the males only. In Q7(j) and Q7 (k) the females are not happy with the current services the hygiene and cleanliness in the bathrooms in the ladies park.

	Male	Female	
Q8 a	1.35	1.33	0.02
Q8 b	1.55	1.69	-0.14
Q8 c	1.44	1.69	-0.25
Q8 d	1.51	1.41	0.1
Q8 e	1.67	1.88	-0.21
Q8 f	1.576	1.78	-0.204
Q8 g	1.79	1.87	-0.08
Q8 h	1.46	1.74	-0.28
Q8 i	1.792	1.8	-0.008
Q8 j	1.59	1.74	-0.15
Q8 k	1.38	1.37	0.01
Q8 l	1.87	1.66	0.21
Q8 m	1.33	1.28	0.05

Table 2: Difference between opinions of genders regarding their preference for the availability of certain facilities/amenities in the park.

	Male	Female	
Q9 a	1.07	1.08	-0.01
Q9 b	1.31	1.32	-0.01
Q9 c	1.075	1.05	0.025
Q9 d	1.05	1.06	-0.01
Q9 e	1.06	1	0.06
Q9 f	1.08	1.05	0.03
Q9 g	1.3	1.1875	0.1125
Q9 h	1.09	1.15	-0.06
Q9 i	1.02	1.01	0.01
Q9 j	1.08	1.15	-0.07
Q9 k	1.2	1.04	0.16
Q9 l	1.18	1.16	0.02
Q9 m	1.05	1.04	0.01
Q9 n	1.03	1.02	0.01

Table 3: Difference between opinions of genders regarding the type/number of events one is willing to attend if organized in the park.

	Less than 18	18 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 years more	
Q7 a	3.58	4.12	4	4.21	4.75	-13.5
Q7 b	2.84	3.68	3.57	4.05	4.75	-13.21
Q7 c	3.74	3.67	3.55	4.17	4	-11.65
Q7 d	2.93	3.35	3.18	4.05	4.5	-12.15
Q7 e	2.86	2.83	2.92	3.47	4.5	-10.86
Q7 f	2.47	2.87	2.62	3.17	3.75	-9.94
Q7 g	2.05	2.29	2.35	2.44	3.75	-8.78
Q7 h	2.31	2.89	2.09	2.35	4.5	-9.52
Q7 i	1.88	2.19	1.72	1.77	3.25	-7.05
Q7 j	2.25	2.44	2	2.7	3.75	-8.64
Q7 k	2.42	2.76	2.53	3.35	4.5	-10.72
Q7 l	2.65	2.94	2.38	2.78	4.25	-9.7
Q7 m	3.1	3.18	2.58	3.05	4.5	-10.21

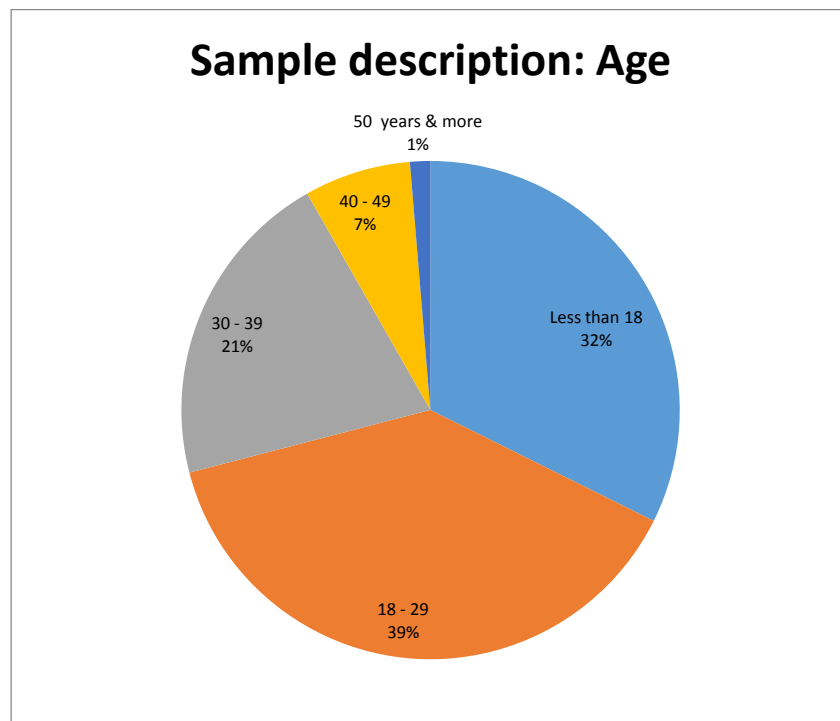
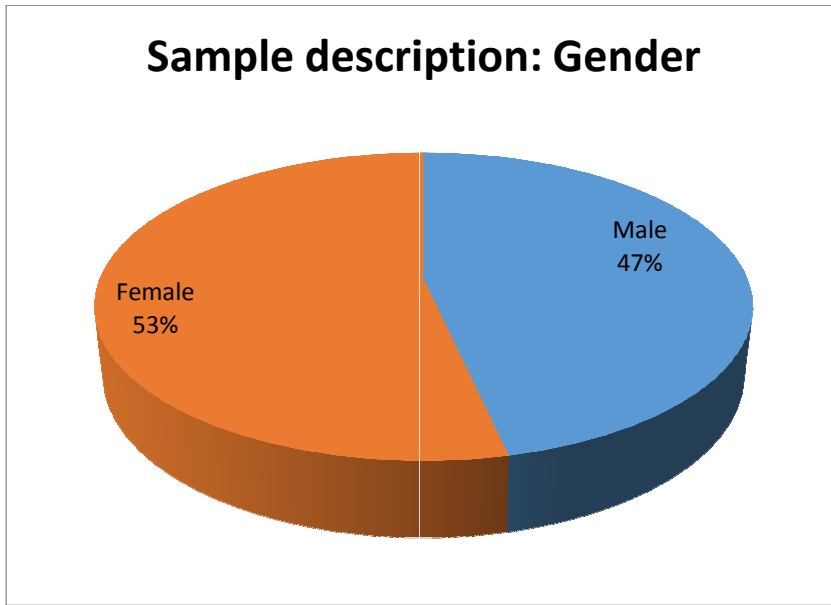
Table 4: The difference between opinions through different age categories regarding the different elements in the park.

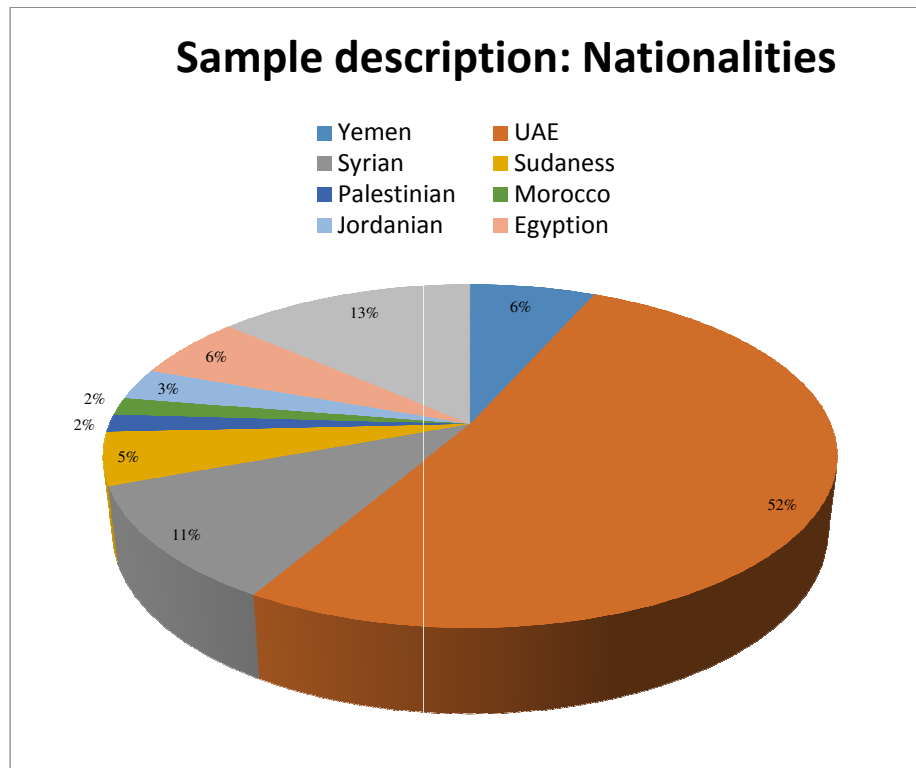
	Less than 18	18 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 years more	
Q8 a	1.33	1.36	1.35	1.38	1	-3.76
Q8 b	1.6	1.54	1.69	1.89	2.25	-5.77
Q8 c	1.65	1.55	1.5	1.46	2	-4.86
Q8 d	1.36	1.29	1.73	1.8125	2.5	-5.9725
Q8 e	2.01	1.71	1.62	1.58	2	-4.9
Q8 f	1.51	1.69	1.96	1.58	2.5	-6.22
Q8 g	1.68	1.9	1.83	2.05	2.5	-6.6
Q8 h	1.72	1.52	1.58	1.82	1.5	-4.7
Q8 i	1.68	1.76	1.94	2.29	1.25	-5.56
Q8 j	1.78	1.52	1.73	2	1.25	-4.72
Q8 k	1.31	1.33	1.44	1.76	1.5	-4.72
Q8 l	1.5	1.82	1.98	2	1.5	-5.8
Q8 m	1.16	1.3	1.4	1.72	1.5	-4.76

Table 5: The difference between opinions through different age categories regarding their preference for the availability of certain facilities/amenities in the park.

	Less than 18	18 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 years more	
Q9 a	1.17	1.02	1.02	1	1.25	-3.12
Q9 b	1.34	1.22	1.38	1.71	1.5	-4.47
Q9 c	1.1	1.06	1.01	1	1	-2.97
Q9 d	1.12	1.03	1	1.05	1	-2.96
Q9 e	1.04	1.01	1.04	1	1.25	-3.26
Q9 f	1.1	1	1.12	1.05	1	-3.07
Q9 g	1.22	1.23	1.26	1.25	1.25	-3.77
Q9 h	1.23	1.1	1.02	1.05	1	-2.94
Q9 i	1.02	1.01	1.02	1	1	-3.01
Q9 j	1.13	1.11	1.08	1.125	1.25	-3.435
Q9 k	1.13	1.14	1.04	1.06	1.25	-3.36
Q9 l	1.2	1.14	1.225	1.11	1	-3.275
Q9 m	1.04	1.07	1.04	1	1	-3.07
Q9 n	1.03	1.02	1.04	1	1	-3.03

Table 6: The difference between opinions through different age categories regarding the type/number of events one is willing to attend if organized in the park.





Answers to open-ended question on suggestion for improvement

Suggestions
Located nearby mosque, and arrange the facilities
Improve the games and clean the bathrooms
Restaurants, electronic games, clean bathrooms and a cleaner and place for "Abayas"
No
Allow children to play football
Place for children for football
football stadium, skate
I suggest that the expansion of the park there are many places is important can be used for women's sports
Entertainment programs and competitions for children, Fireworks, Dances (popular arts), al yola (tradition dance)
Provide workers to clean the park to maintain the utilities
develop the entertainment, taking care of the cleanliness, and provide restaurants and café shop
electronic games, events for special needs, Cleanliness
Improved facilities such as bathrooms, locate the mosque in a near place, improving the children's games, allocation of places for barbecue
Mosque , and repair the games
The guards behavior is unacceptable and unwelcome the visitors
Build a mosque for women

full awareness to the visitors in terms of the cleanliness and maintain beautiful places
No suggestion
Please allow playing football, and provide BBQ area
make use of each part of the park
New restaurant
I suggest to have a Special theater festivals , café shop, gym, and expand the park
Mosque, and electronic games
Cultural events, fireworks, and an orderly entry Visitors
Repair the games and increase the number of games, and provide a mosque for women's, and clean bathrooms
to be in the park café shop, mosque, fire walks, and gym
All the things listed
improve the children games And attention on the safety and security
a mosque nearby in the centre of the park, and a special day for families
Please make a train without a fee, remove the swing
Clean bathrooms and provide a supervision cleaner, and make the mosque closer and put water sprinklers to moisten the atmosphere
Upscale cafes, jogging track, security, time dedicated to women
Security, time dedicated for men and family, cleanness, upscale café
Provide First Aid shop in simple cases (child injured during playing, fainting, etc.)
Music, football, cricket
Security, entertainment games , place for praying
More attention to the existing facilities within the park, Impose financial penalties on those who do not abide by the rules of hygiene especially women's bathrooms, Increase the number of workers, Barbecue places.
Lighting is not enough, BBQ area, develop the games, Attention to cleanliness of facilities
Please make a mosque, train, electronic games with free fees
we want Coffee Shop
New Games
Football stadium
Football Stadium , water land, prayer room , bathrooms, and formula 1
Grocery 24 hour
Increase the games, increase the timing , and increase the Recycle Bin
All had been mention above, only please make the entrance free and distribute water while there are visitors.
Wonderful just need to add more lighting
Clean bathrooms, mosque, horses, and emphasis on boys do not enter the park
Fees free for entrance, Security, worker cleaner
Cars train
develop the electronic games
Electronic games - Cultural events and concerts and educational events
Football stadium only for young people
Small trains, electronic recycle bin, electronic device for lost children
May Allah give you wellness everything is very good
the guards gate are not friendly dealing with visitors hope so that they be more friendly

we hope that the administration park improve the level of treatment with the visitors at the gate
The Guard don't care about the children and they deal roughly with visitors
Fireworks, contests, and festivals
Attention to the cleanliness of toilets and cleanliness of the park, set up a mosque for women
Games, BBQ area , gym
it's a pretty garden just need system and cleaning from kids and some care
Mosque for ladies, BBQ area, football and bicycles area, kids games.
the guard doesn't deal friendly with the visitors
Provide security cameras and improve the area especially the entrance
change the public announcement
Games, BBQ area , gym, restaurants
Kids games, women's mosque , cleaning services
Kids games at the center of the garden only, the voice of the gate is annoying, too many rubbish
Please cancel the guard at the door of the garden because its uncivilized view
Please pay attention to the bathrooms, Remove of the game that made a sound at entrance of the park, change the public announcement because the sound is not clear, there is no space or place for bbq.
Change the public announcement because the sound is not clear and securing better water
Plays
Cultural
Bowling
Give each visitor a map of the garden
A space for bikes ride
No suggestion
Swimming pool and games
Volleyball games
Flowers
Support the park awareness programs to serve the masses to take care of this program
Increase the electronic games
Expand the park to enjoy the park
Expand the entrance door, Cafeteria and restaurants
Please have a library corner
Sabouni Stadium
expand the park, put many restaurants
provide mosques for prayers, water games and electric, Cafeteria (McDonald's)
Swimming pool, water games, restaurants , old souq , entertainment games for adults
entertainment games for adults, Cafeteria and restaurants
Give wellness
improve the park
water games, Ice Skating Rink, entertainment games, Tomboys are not allowed to enter the park
Restaurants, electronic games and water games, clan bathrooms, festivals, prayer room, expand the parking, police women
games and clean bathrooms, souq for famous brands and change the name in to bani yas land and provide

restaurants and coffee shop and lots of games and flowers similar to Flower Garden in Dubai
clean bathroom and improve, a train that goes around the park, expand the park, provide buses for ladies with free fees, and Pest Control
Restaurants, global village, and an area for party (close area)
Sports fields and recreational games, restaurants and cafes, develop Cleanliness and bathrooms, improve the appearance of the garden
provide sport fields, improve the cleanliness of the park and take care of the park and work on it and provide games for summer and spring
clean bathroom, attention on the appearance of the park, the Women tighten security
Expand the park, park cleanliness, and provide restaurants and prayer room.
make the outside place safer for children and adults and improve the appearance of bani yas garden
Improve the bathrooms, a mosque, increase number of parking, and increase the number of security.
amendment the facilities and clean bathroom and increase the games in the park
In addition to the clinic the garden, put more security in the
Ladies Saloon
Electronic games, bicycles, expand the park, provide buses for ladies.
No Suggestion
Restaurants, Football stadium, cinema, parking, and water games
Security, entertainment games
to have in the park mosque, electronic games, and gym
don't switch off the lights earlier
cleaner bathrooms, Area for stuff, and restaurants inside the park
Restaurants, electronic games, and prayer room
Construct a gym for ladies or a club that provide all important centers, construct a " souq sha3bi" old souq
Change the games and provide or put tents for families in case of having a nap.
signification games compared to the global village
I hope that there will be a nursery building
Contests for children
Air-conditioned room
Games
New games, Entertainment competitions
Maintains the park and all what it contains
zoo, Hyde park
Fully developed
TV screen
Circus Show
Change the games and replaced with new ones
The development of games for children and perform the necessary maintenance
Increase recreational Games
Please remove the coffee shop in order to preserve the public health
Add new lighting in all parts of the park
Mosque

No suggestion
Cut the grass Regularly
No suggestion
Bring all restaurants such as, KFC, pizza huts, etc.
a specify a part of the park for ladies, and Development educational games for kids
Sort and trimming the trees of the garden and do not leave the water open
a management the follow up the requirements and the public needs, ads on TV and newspaper about the events that are going to be held in the park, the Offers for companies to do their offers in the garden
Renewal the games and replace the old pieces for safety, An area for nursery ,increase Offers for Children and Families.
expand the parking area at the family section
Repair places that are interest for tourists, a special place for sport
no signs for remembering God "Allah"
workers who have experience in dealing with the Visitors
I suggested that they repair the games and provide a train and make the place like the global village
Divide the park in to four part because its large size section for skate, Sandstone, marine, and park
Festivals and tents for sales and music event to make the park famous
No Suggestion
they should build playgrounds such as football and basketball, and they should build a skate
electronic games and sport field such as football and basketball etc. and train death
Department for animals, pedestrian corridors and sports, increase lighting, heritage
I think it would be nice if restaurants were added and perhaps have different festivals held in there as well.
Increasing the lighting in the garden
No Suggestion
Increase landscape
presents of workers clearers
Dealing with specialized companies to make new games, workers and labors, area for tradition foods and heritage stuff
I would like it to be like the other parks in terms of games
Thank you for the park
I hope that it will be implemented and give some attention
Enlarge the garden, concert halls
Change the time and extended
expand the park timing
expand the park timing
Café shop and swimming pool
Place as global village
the suggest is taking care and the system
improve the services such as the prayer room and Clearness
Games for all ages and ladies, control, provide a space for football, A small concert hall for children, gym, bathroom, Women workers for cleaning, Renal bikes, restaurant with reasonable price for all, increase the timing
rental bikes, Grocery market price, remove the trees to make the view clear, concert hall, games for all ages,

payment control while entering, provide space for football
increase the timing during the holidays, games for all ages, café, restaurant, bathrooms, prayer room, payment control while entering, allow children to bring the ball and provide a space for football
there should be a small parks in each area that serve the children daily and a Walk particular for sport
Increase the timing, games for all ages, bicycles for ladies, football, Price controls either in the restaurant or enter the park.
we support all ideas, but must take into account the entry fee, games and eating all appropriate and not expensive and misuse and The importance of the female element to be a labor Women, Attention to entertainment and diversify services, multi events for kids and ladies and serve all women ages and we want an open cinema
weekly entertainment such as (birds - plays)
a prayer room and a gym for ladies
restaurants, prayer room, new games, grocery
Children pool, Flower garden
Please pay attention to the nature in the garden
increase the games and expand the park
Regulate the entry of visitors
A special walk path for exercise, change some trees that have no useful, put a series of diverse restaurants
Safety, increase games, repair all utilities at the park
library for family, internet (wifi), theater, workshop + skills education (drawing, drawing on sand, Painted / drawing on glass and other , AC conditioner in summer, snowstorm games in summer, a Work camp for schools with the cooperation of the Scouts
Please don't allow the shisha in the garden cafeteria - please make the entrance free - please make the garden only for families because the workers make a pressure on the park.
Have BBQ area, improve the games, shaded area
No Suggestion
a special day for families and another day for ladies
A day for family and day for youth
I hope they control all around the park
swimming pool for women and men , Bicycles, Café, Beauty salon for ladies, restaurant, Grocery with a reasonable price, family visit only , space for football, Payment control while entering
provide securities all around the park , services, clearness, and facilities such as prayer room and restaurant
Adjust the bathrooms and workers for cleaning, canteen with reasonable price for all, a place for football at bani yas family park, games for adults and children, cut down the trees, order the park and lighting , a day for tradition food and yola
Development of services and the provision of services
Increase the games and distribute them all among the park and taking care of the green and the cleanliness of the park
Bani yas water world
The need for a water sports and swimming pool
Games such as, swimming pool, bicycles, roller coaster, and trumelena
Games similar to yas world and amusement games
electronic games, swimming pool for ladies and mans
Taking care for the sport tools
Section for electronics games and sections for small games. And the park should be divided for a Bbq area, games, and an area to enjoy nature and silence.

family park in which all family (father and mother) share in games and activities and have culture and education programmers, taking care of the restaurant and prayer room, small parks that will serve the area (fareej)
Develop the utilities and electronic games
God grant you success and give wellness
Provide prayer room for women's, games, and ladies saloon.
You need to improve too much and put flowers.
Put rules and electronic Recycle Bin
Every citizen or visitor have to maintain the cleanliness of the park
a private space to play football and bikes
expand the park and provide a football stadium
no comment and suggest
Improving Lighting for Al Wathba Park, Insects and soil treatment, open Bani yas park morning until 12 noon, Booth for sale
the guards doesn't deal friendly with visitors
Please put people who have experience in dealing with the public and have uniform
I suggested the most important things are safety and children games, the park is very nice but it only lack some development and safety rules.
Booth for women's cloth, perfumes, and kids toys with reasonable prices. Please lasting insecticide spraying
Expand the park
Football stadium only for young people
Large screen display to watch movies, sabouni stadium.
Display screen for matches, games, improve the bathrooms and prayer room, restaurants, coffee shop, and beautiful view
Supply of some electronic devices
In addition to the clinic the garden, put more security in the park in order to avoid problems
Build a small hotel
seed flowers and clean the mosque and bathrooms, and take the fountains for the children safety, provide water cooler to make it easier to buy
Restaurant - BBQ area - gym - games for all ages.
exclusion the café popular content in the garden immediately, re-dye the color of the garden, Access is an electronic ticket and not in manual from the park keeper, department for dangers games for older people
Taking care of the park
The park need football - volleyball - basketball, you need to increase the games and improve their level, provide bathrooms
football stadium
Enjoy
Build a mosque for women is very important
Improve the games and clean the bathrooms and build a mosque for mans and women's
a special corner for events , and a corner for shops and restaurants
I hope that they repair the electric games, A place for barbecue

Thematic Map of Qualitative Data

Opinions collected at the Family Park

Opinions collected at the Ladies Park

Recommendations based on opinions collected

Based on the data collected from the workshops and surveys we find that the following improvements are most desired by those visiting the park.

- Providing games:

The majority of users prefer to have many and different types of games that serves all age groups and genders such as electronic games like in Theme parks and arcades; these are especially popular amongst the teenagers. Also other entertaining games and play grounds for the very young ones. The games should be distributed along and around the park and in sections, for example a separate area for playing football and another for kid's playgrounds. In addition, the games should adopt the modern style that provide higher standards of safety and entertainment at the same time.

- Provide cleaners

The park visitors/users have suffered from the lack of cleanliness of the public bathrooms, the mosque and also some areas in the park; and so they had the suggestion to have cleaning hours during the visiting hours and not only when the park's closed.

- Offer more and better services

The park visitors claimed that there is no designated rooms or places for the ladies to pray in. In addition, a food court is very much needed in the park and in both (family and ladies area) also a coffee shop/café and some vending machines (snacks & drinks) that could be distributed along some areas of the park.

- Health Club

Requests that a swimming pool located at the side of the park with providing some instructors and trainers and a gymnasium located in the right side of the park which

is would be very useful as there are some unused areas/plots. In addition, the ladies requested a saloon.

- Instruction and guidance

Abu Dhabi Municipality should provide some instruction and rules by using signage (what's allowed and what's not) - fees, costs & expenses, behaviours, types of facilities available and directions.

- Awareness

Spread awareness by advertising events that help preserve public property (games, vending machines, bathrooms cleanliness and mosques). In addition, help protect the environment and how to conform to the instructions of the garden.

- Management supervision

Supervision of property and behaviours of the visitors, fair and unbiased attitude and equality between visitors. As some of the visitors have complained from such mistreatment and have asked for nothing but pleasing results.

- Accessibility

Access to the park should be easy and clear, by developing a better street system and by providing proper sidewalks. Providing special areas for the drop offs and pickups and also areas for bus stops and parking; in order to avoid traffic jams and crowd.

- Landscape

The landscape needs improvement in the type and design, to attract visitors. Using flowers, shrubs, landscape shaded areas, lighting, and the addition of fountains.

- Events

There should be an agenda for events in the park such as cultural events, national events, children and family; these different events can come off monthly or annually.

- Emirati culture awareness

The culture can be revived and shown through hosting several events and providing information booths and kiosks to display the different traditional materials used, food consumed and history lived.

- Neighborhood pocket parks

The residents of Bani Yas have suggested that small parks and green pockets in their neighborhood is necessary very useful. This way the neighborhoods get a unique and environment friendly look and also people can use them on a daily basis.

Conclusions

In the concluding section we attempt to answer the three questions with which we started the project. (i) What is the nature and role of public participation in Abu Dhabi? The Municipality of Abu Dhabi deserves credit for embracing the idea of public participation and supporting research on the topic. There is no doubt that organizing charrettes will make planning endeavours more sensitive to people's needs. Our research also shows that there is an appetite, amongst the city's residents – both locals and expatriates – for telling their story and having their opinions heard. The people who participated in our workshops, for example, were highly appreciative of the fact that the Municipality was involving them in plan-making. If, however, the participation process is not extended to include non-citizens of all socio-economic classes, it runs the risk of appearing exclusionary.

(ii) How is the idea of “participation” framed within a non-democratic political context? Islam stresses the importance of consultation – known as *shura*. This is not really a version of

“democracy” as some have argued. But it is certainly considered a way for the government (or any decision-maker) to make better decisions, consider all perspectives, and create consent, thereby earning legitimacy for the decision. The Qur’an dedicates a whole chapter to *shura*. According to Al Raysuni (2011) *shura* serves the following purposes: (1) determining a correct or the most correct course of action, (2) release from the tyranny of subjectivity and selfish whims, (3) preventing high-handedness and tyranny, (4) teaching humility, (5) giving everyone his due, (6) promoting an atmosphere of freedom and initiative, (7) developing the capacity for thinking and planning, (8) increased readiness for action and support, (9) promoting goodwill and unity, and (10) willingness to endure undesirable consequences. Thus *shura* provides a bridge between planning theory emanating from the liberal-democratic tradition and Islamic thought on representation and consultation.

(iii) What can be done to improve the effectiveness of public participation in Abu Dhabi? Currently the process of conducting a public participation event is complicated, involving a series of permissions. It can be simplified through enabling legislation that allows the UPC, ADM, DOT (and other relevant agencies) to sanction participation exercises. It is strongly recommended that the participation process be sanctioned by a decree and institutionalized in plan-making and implementation procedures of all agencies involved in urban planning. Further, the participation process should be expanded to include all residents of the city. The participation process ought to return to the community at least once to report how the suggestions were incorporated in the plan, and to get another round of comments. Finally, participation has the potential to become proactive. Communities can be encouraged to envision their parks, streets, markets etc. on an ongoing basis.

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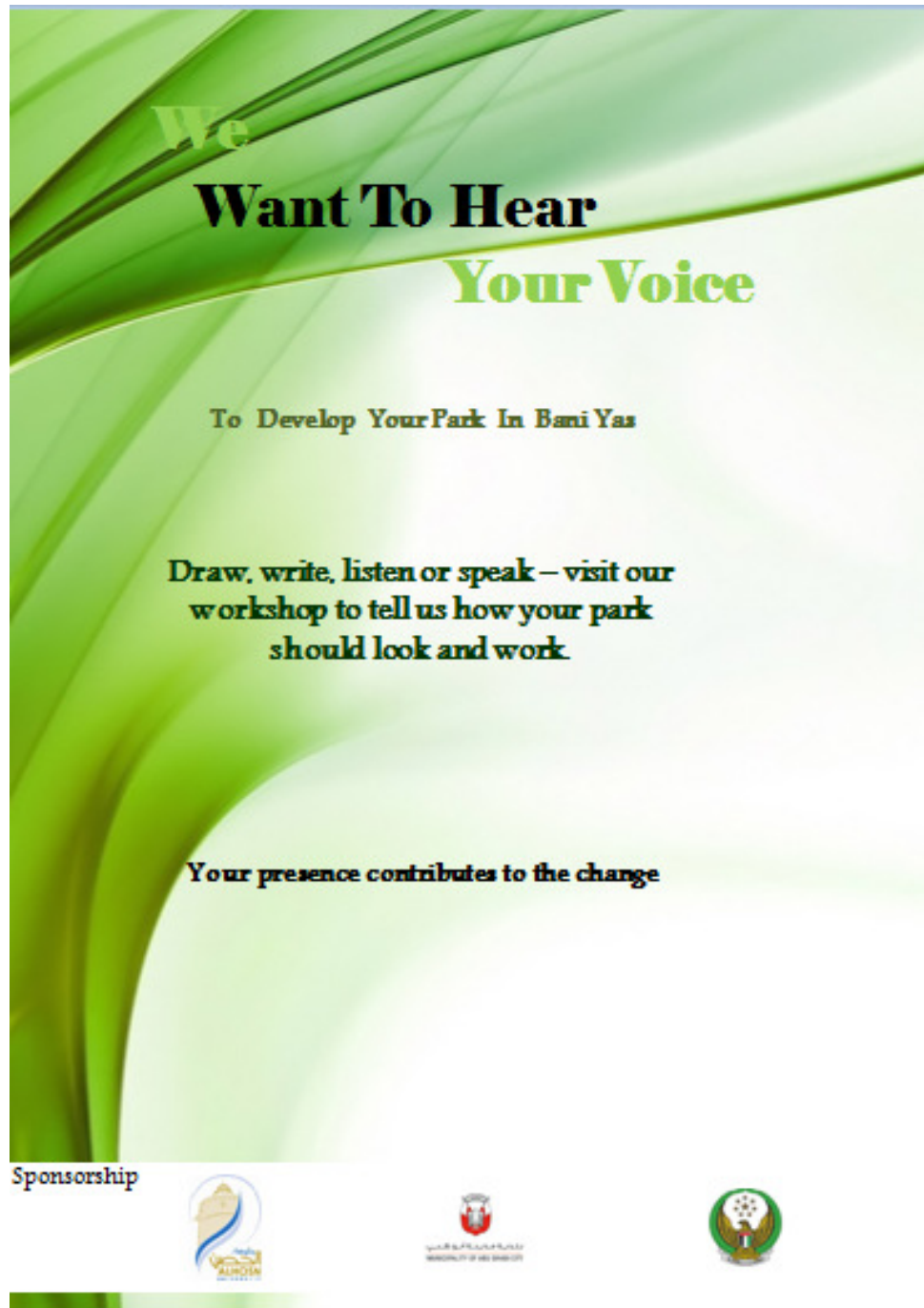
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Appendix A: Advertisement



نحن
نرغب بسماع
صوتك

لتطوير حديقتك في دبي ياس

يمكنك المشاركة من خلال الرسم . الكتابة . الاجتماع
أو النقاش - دورونا في ورشة العمل لتتعرف على
تطلعاتكم حول الشكل الأمثل لحديقتكم

حضوركم يملأه نهج التطوير

برعاية :



*Appendix B: Surveys and Consent form (English & Arabic)***Survey****Public participation in Bani Yas Park**

Good morning/afternoon Sir/Madam,

Al Hosn University Students is carrying out a survey to assess residents' needs and attitudes toward the parks and recreational facilities available within their neighborhood. This survey will take around 5- 10 minutes to complete.

Thank you,

Place of living	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18 -29 <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50 years / more
No. of family members	No. of children < 18 years (___)
Nationality	

Q1. When do you usually visit the park? Multiple answers possible

No.	Weekends	(v)	Weekdays	(v)
1	Morning		Morning	
2	Afternoon		Afternoon	
3	Evening		Evening	
4	Night		Night	

Q2. In the table below please give points for the elements in the park:

No.	Elements/ Evaluations	Excellent 5	Good 4	Acceptable 3	Needs Improvement 2	Poor 1
1	Accessibility					

2	Parking					
3	Timing					
4	Landscape – Trees & Plants					
5	Lighting					
6	Shading area					
7	Playing area / games					
8	Prayer room					
9	Restaurants					
10	Restrooms					
11	Cleanliness					
12	Benches					
13	Waste Collection					
14	Restaurants					

Q3. What are the facilities or amenities that you would like to be available in the park?

No.	Statement	Very important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Not important at all
1	Shaded Seating Areas	1	2	3	4	5
2	shaded Plaza	1	2	3	4	5
3	BBQ Area	1	2	3	4	5
4	Picnic Area	1	2	3	4	5
5	Educational and Cultural Areas	1	2	3	4	5
6	Water Interactive Play Areas	1	2	3	4	5
7	Skate park	1	2	3	4	5
8	Multipurpose Sport field for football, basketball,	1	2	3	4	5
9	gym	1	2	3	4	5
10	Bicycle racks	1	2	3	4	5
11	Vending machines (-snacks & drinks)	1	2	3	4	5
12	Café	1	2	3	4	5

13	Restaurant	1	2	3	4	5
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Q4. What type of events would you be interested in attending if they were organized within the Park? Multiple answers possible

No.	Event	(v) /(x)		No.	Event	(v) /(x)
1	Cultural Events/Arts			8	Educational Events	
2	Musical Events			9	Charity Events	
3	Events for kids			10	Sports Events	
4	Events for parents & kids			11	Events for females	
5	Special need and/or orphans			12	Events for Senior citizen	
6	Entertainment Events			13	Health awareness programs	
7	Cooking Events			14	National themed events	

Q5. Write your opinion and suggestions that can help to develop the park:

Additional comments / suggestions

Q6. Do you have a suggestion for a name that this new park could be known as?

Suggested name for New Park

THANK AND CLOSE INTERVIEW