

# **Why Always Seeing Something from the Bad Side? Optimizing the Function of City Open Space to Facilitate Public Activity and Creativity. Case Study: Gasibu Square, Bandung**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Public open space which main function is to accommodate people's activities is an essential element to form the characteristics of the city. Number of people who come and do various activities at the space is one of the success design parameters of a public open space. In many big cities of the developing countries where the urbanization rate is very high, the initially designed functions of a city open space may often changed due to of the presence of street vendors to start their business. The presence of street vendors in the open space will indirectly stimulate more people to come, which eventually construct a new socio-temporal space that liven up the people activities in the city. This, however, may also raise some problems related to the beauty and cleanliness of the city. To the stakeholders this is the problem rather*

*Gasibu square Bandung is one of the city's open space facing this problem. Initially designed as a community sports facilities, this place is now changed to chaotic street vendor market people visited on Sunday. Various activities and socioeconomic characteristics of traders and visitors at the Gasibu market prove that Gasibu has succesfully accommodated people activities leading to the improvement of micro economy. The existence of Gasibu market with its slum an chaotic image, on the other hand, has ruined the beautiful image of Bandung.*

*Through a comparative study of similar problems in the cities of Malang, Surabaya, and Solo, this paper aims to show that through creative management in collaboration between the stake holders involved, the problems arising from the activities of street vendors in the open space can be minimized. Collaborative management is able to maximize the various potentials existing in the space to grow without causing negative effect to the city.*

**Keywords:** *public open space, street vendor, collaboration, place making, urbanization.*