



SUSTAINABLE PLACE MAKING IN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE RECREATION AT HORTON PLAINS HIKING TRAIL, SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Measuring effectiveness of man-made elements related to the user's experience is common in the outdoor adventure recreation literature. However, this is almost non-existent in Sri Lanka despite having hundreds of outdoor adventure sites with man-made elements. Due to lack of research-based place making method, the natural environment becomes the subject of hazardous impacts and accidents. The literature suggests that "space of the place" directly affects the adventure experience of the human being, but it varies according to the "difficulty rate" of the trail. Purpose of the study is to measure effectiveness of man-made elements by using "place measurements" and "nature responsiveness" as indicators related to "space of the place". The indicators were applied to three selected places at Horton Plains hiking trail, a class 02 type of trail in Sri Lanka. The results show that both natural context of the trail and the man-made elements play a key role in experience of the user. Moreover, the experience can be enhanced by placing designed elements in the hiking trails with emphasis on the above indicators.

Keywords: outdoor adventure recreation, user experience, difficulty rating system, place and space, sustainable architecture