

Identification of Urban Design Issues in the Town of Manali

Vandna Sharma

Department of Architecture, National Institute of Technology Hamirpur
E-mail: vandna@nith.ac.in

Abstract—Manali is a known famous tourist town in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. The development of the town has been regulated by the Town and Country Planning Department of the state. However, due to a number of reasons, the town has witnessed the high influx of the tourists in the past that has further attracted faster developmental activities. However, this development has also brought several urban level issues for the inhabitants and also for the tourists. This paper has identified such urban level issues of the town using survey method and further, the solutions have been given for the improvement of the same.

1. INTRODUCTION

Manali is a distinct tourist destination located in an Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Located at an altitude of 1826 meters above the mean sea level the town is bounded on three sides by snow clad mountains and is the lowest resort town due to environmental and ecological concerns (Development plan Manali). It is well connected by NH-21 with other parts of the state and others states. Recent years have seen fast urbanization and development in the town which has both positive and negative effects on the town (Development plan Manali). While the positive effects include boost to local tourism industry and increase in employment opportunities, the negative includes congestion, traffic problems and many more. Present paper is an attempt to study the urban patterns and development in location of Vashisht village in Manali town, to identify urban design issue sand propose appropriate solution for the respective problems. Manali agglomeration includes Nagar Panchayat area, Nasogi, Old Manali, Vashisht, Chachoga, Chadhiari, Aleo, Prini, Shuru, Ranghri, Suinsa, Sial, Chhial settlements. It serves the population of entire Naggar Block along with the 40% population of Lahaul and Spiti district, for higher order facilities [1]. It has been found that the unrelated developmental activities poses threat to sustainability to tourism in Manali [2].

Vashisht village is located on the banks of river Ravi and located at a distance of 6 kilometers from the main town.

2. THE STUDY AREA

The survey for the area was conducted and physical infrastructure and social infrastructure was studied using the existing land use map. Existing land use map shows that maximum area of the village is covered by orchards and vegetation along with reserved forest land. The area has residential and commercial land use which has increased in recent years.

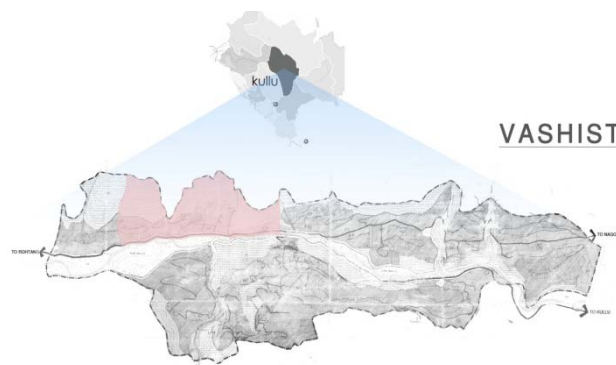


Figure 1 Map of Vashisht

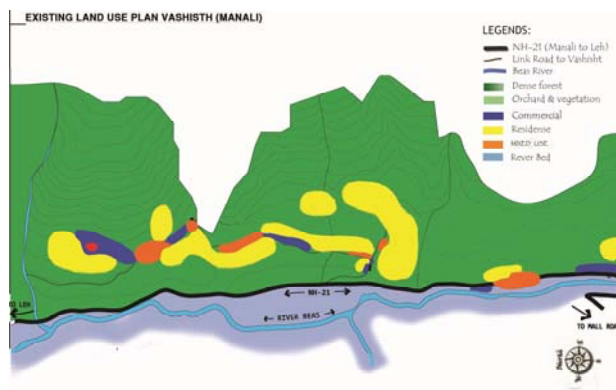


Figure 2 Existing land use pattern of Vashisht village

3. ANALYSIS

The study showed that maximum one or two storied residential building are located in the village with family size 4 to 5. Built mass categorization shows that maximum prevalent is residential land use followed by mixed and commercial land use. Occupation structure shows that maximum people are engaged in agriculture followed by business and services. Survey include interaction with people followed by filling up of questionnaire enquiring about the problems faced by the people. As the figure also shows that maximum people complained by insufficient parking problem, followed by size of streets and pathways further followed by lack and ill maintenance of public facilities.

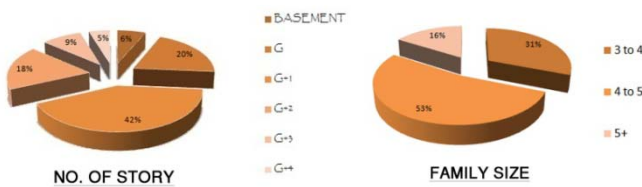


Figure 3. Prevalence of family size and number of stories in buildings

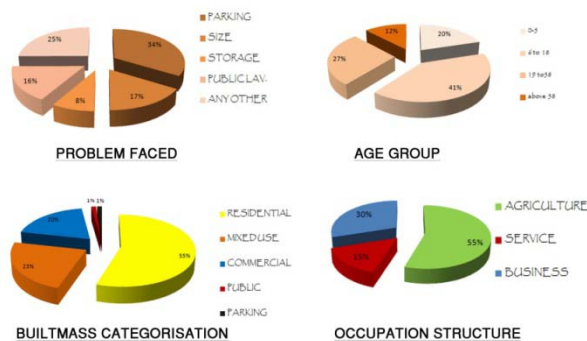


Figure Problems faced by the residents, Age group categorization, built mass categorization and occupation structure prevalent in the study area

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Different urban design problems especially in category of physical infrastructure were identified during the survey and are discussed along with their proposed solutions as under:

1. Road NH-21: the road has lesser width, insufficient barrier and roadside parking problem is there.

Solution: Increase width up to 15m, provide barrier and retaining wall.

2. Link road: has lesser width, insufficient barrier, roadside parking and no shoulder

Solution: increase width up to 8m, provide barrier and retaining wall.

3. Pedestrian walkways: very congested and is unfinished and irregular in structure

Solution: increase width up to 1.5m and provide paving

4. Parking: not sufficient, improper turning radius, and heavy traffic

Solution: provide public parking space

5. Bus-stop: improper stoppage and is unsafe

Solution: proposal for bus-stop at Vashisht chowk

6. Water Supply: exposed pipeline and laid on pedestrians

Solution: pipe line should be laid underground

7. Electricity: overhead connection, high risk of exposed cable overhead

Solution: cable line should be laid underground

8. Drainage: open drainage, unplanned drainage system, unsafe and has insufficient width

Solution: provide proper covered drainage, should be separate from drinking water supply line

9. Sewerage: lack of solid waste management

Solution: provide sewerage and disposal system in order to manage the solid waste

10. Sewage disposal: use of septic tanks which is ill designed and improper disposal system that further causes pollution.

Solution: Septic tank should be connected with main disposal line

11. Street lights: insufficient street lights

Solution: provide sufficient street light with 10m distance alternate

12. Street furniture: no relaxing and waiting area and insufficient street furniture

Solution: provide street furniture in the study area

13. Dustbins: no solid waste disposal equipment/dustbins provided

Solution: provide dustbins at proper distances.

Study of physical aspect of urban infrastructure of a village of Manali town gives an idea of rising urban issues with growing development and ever increasing urbanization

5. CONCLUSION

Public option and participation is important in achieving comprehensive and sustainable development. This study has identified the problem of the area through the public opinion and recommended the possible solutions, which when followed will not only improve the quality of life of people, but also increase their faith towards the government's

approach. Further attending to these solution will achieve a comprehensive and sustainable development in the study area.

REFERENCES

- [1] Development Plan, Hamirpur, Accessed at http://tcp.hp.gov.in/Application/uploadDocuments/developmentPlan/PlanDoc020150127_174424.pdf on 26th Sept. 2017.
- [2] Shalini Singh, Destination development dilemma—Case of Manali in Himachal Himalaya, In *Tourism Management*, Volume 29, Issue 6, 2008, Pages 1152-1156