

# The Built Environment Selected Writings

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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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## CHAPTER 8

### PUPILS SAFETY LEVEL IN COMMUTING TO SCHOOL

Mansor Ibrahim and Zainab Abdul Latiff,

#### INTRODUCTION

A safe route to school is a combination of many aspects in the provision of public facilities, which students utilize to help them reach the school safely. Good public facilities planning and design is about creating facilities that function well, both now and in the future. It should also be attractive, providing an inspirational and special function for the users. If it is not well maintained, poorly defined facilities will be produced that may cause abandonment, injuries and various difficulties to the users.

Schools are the students' path to build their own career in the future. The goal of a particular school planning is to create and maintain a positive and welcoming school climate, an environment in which teachers can teach and students can learn. Key to a safe school is creating a welcoming, friendly and a supportive environment. Therefore, it shows the importance of a sustainable school planning which is lacking for Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Puteri Wilayah, Kampong Bharu. Although Kampong Bharu is currently undergoing massive developments, its provision of public facilities still needs a lot of improvement and upgrading especially for the school students. The low-maintained public facilities results in heavy traffic, crime and flood incidents.

#### STUDY OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this study is to identify whether the initial purpose of public facilities which are streetlights, back alleys, drainage system, signage and accessibility can ensure the students safety when travelling to school. The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To understand the important functions of related public facilities provision towards safety of the students of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Puteri Wilayah (SMKPW)
2. To identify the current level of safety of the students of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Puteri Wilayah (SMKPW)
3. To identify the threats caused by ineffective provision of public facilities of school-related signage, back lanes or back alleys, accessibility and lampposts.
4. To make suggestions and recommendations in enhancing and upgrading the provision of public facilities so that it can serve as the tool for a safe route to school by the students of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Puteri Wilayah (SMKPW).

#### STUDY FINDINGS

The observation survey done consisted of four elements, which affect the safe route to school by the students. The data collected consisted of their amount, condition, existence and adequacy. These data then has been related with questionnaire survey conducted to the school students in terms of their satisfaction of the mentioned elements.