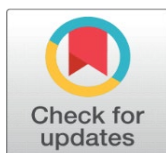


# UNVEILING URBAN VOIDS A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF CITY CENTRE CHANDIGARH

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## ABSTRACT

Growing urbanization has caused the emergence of urban voids which are enigmatic places that can potentially change city dynamics. The research paper “Unveiling Urban Voids: A Comprehensive Evaluation of City Centre Chandigarh” examines some overlooked spaces in cities referred to as urban voids with a specific focus on City Centre Chandigarh. The study aims to bridge theoretical urban design principles and practical urban development through exploring how these gaps could add value to the city’s functionality, beauty, and overall livability. This research identifies, and evaluates urban voids prevalent in this locality using physical analysis as well as community engagement. It contains findings that reveal their subtle features, problems and opportunities followed by practical propositions for building up these environs. Consequently, the paper posits that this finding underscores their needful presence among planners and designers when planning for sustainable development of cities hence the significance of recognizing them for what they are really worth.

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**Keywords:** Chandigarh, Sector17, Urban Public Space, Urban Voids, Community Engagement, Revitalization



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Urban landscapes are complex webs of activities geared towards satisfying diverse requirements and desires of the people who live in them. This continuous interaction between architecture and society gives rise to the concept of urban voids, which is a perplexing occurrence but still discernible within bustling city spaces. It has always been said that cities are centers of energy and life. However, some pockets of silence and vacuity exist which defy this rhythm of urban living. These unique places are characterized by some type of emptiness or idleness which makes them more suitable for research into the intricate relationship between design, use, and human life. According to Trancik urban voids were identified as negative, empty, and no human interaction urban spaces (Trancik, 1988).

In a magnificently designed city, where every brick appears to have a certain location, one would question if voids even exist. For even the most perfectly designed urban landscapes contain inexplicable gaps - the urban voids. In planned cities, the presence of urban voids can be particularly problematic as they disrupt the overall coherence and functionality of the urban design (Pluta, 2020). The investigation of urban voids is more than just an investigation of empty places; it is a question of careful balance that makes up the urban experience (M.Arch Thesis Kaushik, 2004). Understanding the reasons and logic behind the cause of these urban vacancies is crucial for planners, architects and stakeholders who design the community environment, can promote or degrade public participation and can result in economic vigor and cultural vibrancy (Rana & Kumar, 2022). The efficacy of a public place extends beyond its physicality to its capacity to achieve its intended functions, harmonizes and resonate with its users' requirements according to the surrounding context. This study intends to answer following research objective on urban voids in context of Chandigarh Sector 17.

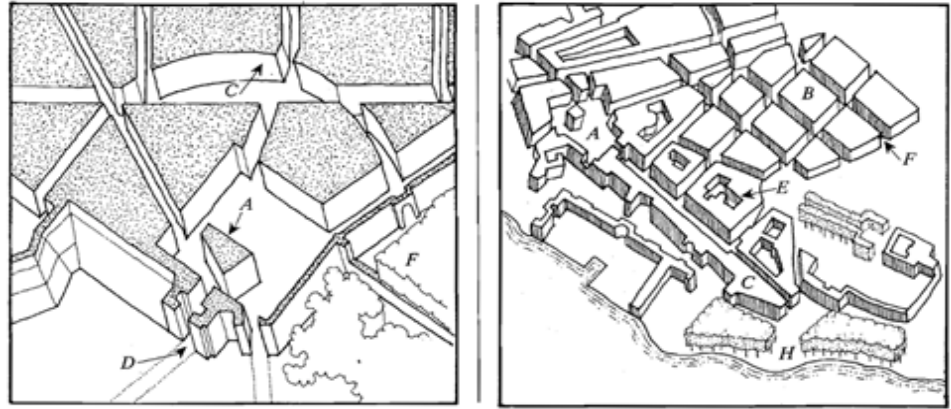
- 1) To understand the locations and characteristics of urban voids, as well as their impact on the overall functionality and vibrancy of the urban environment.
- 2) The study aims to discover user perspectives of Sector 17's underutilized spaces, as well as the factors that contribute to their disengagement from these locations.
- 3) The study explores into the upgrades and design solutions proposed by stakeholders to increase the beauty and utility of urban voids in Sector 17, thereby boosting social contact and community involvement.

Extensive investigation with these research objectives strengthens the study and will provide vital insights into the nature of urban voids and their consequences for immediate urban environment, ultimately encouraging a more vibrant and inclusive urban landscape in Chandigarh city centre.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The term "Urban Voids" encompasses underutilized or unused spaces within a city, ranging from abandoned buildings to vacant lots (Lopez-Pineiro, 2020). Over the decades various previous researchers discussed about different attributes of Urban Voids in city (Fig 2). Roger Trancik describes how urban design, urban solids, and urban voids delicately interlace to construct the rich fabric of cities, impacting both their physical and social characteristics (Fig 3). These factors are crucial in determining the spatial qualities, functioning, and aesthetic appeal of a city (Trancik, 1986). The created components of a city's physical makeup - the buildings, structures, and infrastructure - comprise the necessary framework known as urban solids (Gehl, 1989). This framework acts as a canvas for the dynamic mosaic of urban life, creating the basis for the whole urban environment (Mathew Carmona, Tim health, Taner Oc, 2003)

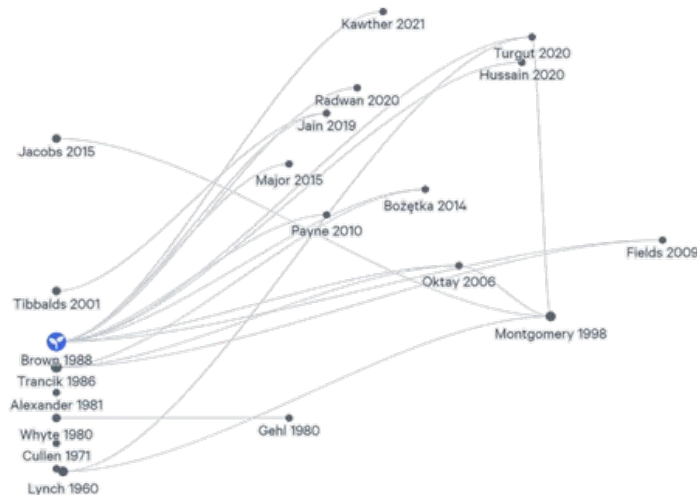
**Figure 1**



**Figure 1** Diagram Showing Pattern of Solid and Void in Urban Fabric  
**Source** Trancik, 1986.

However, the urban environment goes beyond these solids, displaying urban voids amid gaps and interstices. Urban voids are regions that have deviated from their intended functions and are frequently underutilized or abandoned. These gaps appear as abandoned lots, derelict buildings, or unstructured stretches (Kevin Lynch, 2013). The dynamic interaction between urban design, urban solids, and urban voids is dependent on how design decisions affect the existence or change of these areas. Overlooking key locations throughout the urban design process might result in voids, undermining the harmony and operation of the city (Whyte, 1980a). Deliberate design interventions, on the other hand, have the capacity to breathe new life into neglected areas, converting them into dynamic and vital components of the urban environment (Aruninta, 2009). Urban voids, intrinsic to any urban area, carry dual implications. On one hand, they present challenges such as overcrowding and a deficiency of public space. On the other hand, these spaces also serve as arenas for novel opportunities in terms of growth and development. Diverse classifications of urban voids based on various criteria, offering a nuanced understanding of their characteristics and potential effects.

**Figure 2**



**Figure 2** Map Showing Growth of Literature Over the Period of Time Made on Litmap  
**Source** Author

(Figure 2) The maps show prior influential research studies, including Lynch (1960) and more recent contributions by Kawther (2021) and Hussain (2020). Tibbalds (2001) and Payne (2010) are significant contributors to the field of study. The links show how fundamental ideas have changed and developed over time. Based on previous researches various factors can be taken into account when defining urban void in a planned urban space includes their origin, size, configuration, location, climatic considerations, surrounding context, ongoing activities, management protocols, ease of access, and ownership details (Raisoni & Petkar, 2023).

**Table 1**

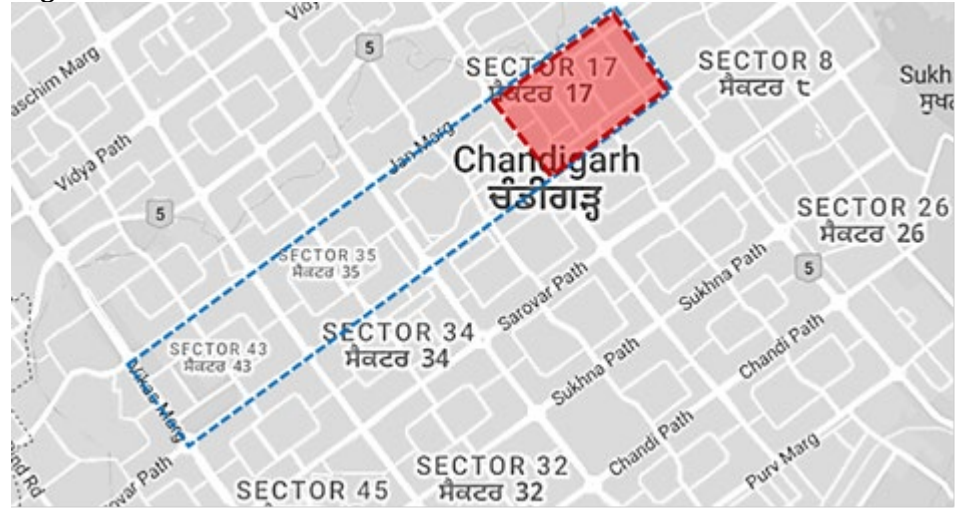
<b>Table 1 Table Based on the Classification Identified from Theory of Urban Voids.</b>	
<b>Classification Criteria</b>	<b>Categories</b>
<b>Size</b>	Tiny unoccupied lots, medium-sized plots, enormous abandoned industrial sites
<b>Location</b>	Inner-city voids, suburban voids, rural voids
<b>Function</b>	Vacant lots, deserted structures, brownfields
<b>Cause</b>	Bad urban planning, environmental deterioration, economic collapse
<b>Perception</b>	Eyesores, possibilities, community spaces
<b>Ownership of Land</b>	Governmental, private, communal ownership
<b>Level of Development</b>	Undeveloped, somewhat developed, fully developed
<b>Redevelopment Potential</b>	High, medium, low
<b>Environmental Impact</b>	Good, bad, neutral
<b>Social Impact</b>	Positive, Negative, Neutral

### 3. AREA OF INVESTIGATION

The purpose of this research article is to investigate the emergence of urban voids within planned urban environments, with a focus on Sector 17 Chandigarh. (Figure.3) Sector 17 constitutes an integral segment of Chandigarh's commercial spine, which encompasses Sectors 17, 22, 35, and 43. A commercial and retail activity center that not only supports the city's economic heart but also functions as a bustling attraction for shoppers and entrepreneurs (Chatrath & Mishra, 2017). A crucial point to conduct research on urban voids within a busy commercial center, the 17th sector of Chandigarh is. Known for its thriving businesses and retail activities, Sector 17 plays a vital role in creating an intricate urban form. However, other sectors have mixed land uses that comprise institutional, residential and commercial activities (Gangwar, 2016). This heterogeneous land-use mixture can result in intricate urban voids, each with its individual traits. These spaces are delicately constructed to make them ideal for studying the entangled interrelations among different types of urban activities. Research investigates how changing urban environments are influenced by these gaps completely examining the concept of urban voids, their characteristics and the factors that bring about them. By delving into Sector 17 – one important sector within an active commercial precinct in Chandigarh – research enhances comprehension of the process whereby such voids emerge and impact on the dynamic interface between people and space (Chatrath & Mishra, 2017). This study of district 17 as a case of urban voids is not just about the specific characteristics this area has but also helps in appreciating the general urban planning and design. However, it is more than an inquiry into a single place as it

seeks to enhance collective knowledge that contributes to vibrant, useful, and accessible townscapes (Gangwar, n.d.).

**Figure 3**



**Figure 3** Map Highlighting Commercial Spine of Chandigarh City & Action Area Sector 17

**Source** Google My Map

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

To completely examine urban voids in Sector 17, Chandigarh, a mixed-methods approach was used, including picture documentation and a stakeholder survey. The research utilized a combination of questionnaires and cognitive maps to gather information from a sample of 50 people using the random sampling technique (LERNER, 2014). The picture documentation was done on different time intervals of day, intended to record activities prevalent in the area at that time and physical elements of the region. The survey was designed on the basis of picture documentation and intended to collect stakeholder’s viewpoints on the identified unused and less used spaces of sector 17. The questionnaires included questions about the participants' perceptions of urban voids in Sector 17 and their preferences for potential interventions.

The questionnaire designed for the study comprises various types of questions that align closely with the research objectives. Below mentioned are few questions, which were included in the questionnaire well aligned with research objectives

Type of Question	Research question	Question aligned with Research objective
Multi choice Question	Choose the image, areas of Sector 17 which you frequently visit & are familiar with	R1: Question aimed to identify accurate locations of urban voids and their characteristics based on user experience
	Suggest improvements which you think could enhance the appeal and usability of urban voids in Sector 17.	R 3 : question targets specific enhancements and context specific design solutions
Open ended Question	What facilities do you think could be added to the above- mentioned public areas in sector 17 in order to increase life to them	R2: Question aims to allows respondents to provide qualitative insights into the characteristics of urban space that may enhance the functionality and vibrancy of these spaces’ asp per need of space user

Closed-ended questions	If you have never visited or don't want to visit again any of the above-mentioned areas, please select the reason	R3: question aligned addresses the factors contributing to disengagement from these locations.
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The survey questionnaire effectively blends a variety of question formats, including multiple-choice, Likert scale, closed-ended, and open-ended questions, each designed to capture specific data relevant to the study objectives. This consistency assures that the findings have important implications for urban planning and design efforts targeted at rejuvenating these locations. The study, focuses on the features and locations of urban voids, user perception, and user-proposed remedies, provides as a complete tool for understanding the complexities of urban voids in Sector 17, Chandigarh.

Given the results at hand, it is proposed that a myriad of stakeholders (especially the public) be used to change urban voids. Community participation and collective initiatives can drive government agencies, private entities, and the community towards generating funds for this purpose. The findings from the study show that there is need for consideration of urban voids in Sector 17 of Chandigarh and possibilities of turning them into triggers for rejuvenation.

## 4.2. PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

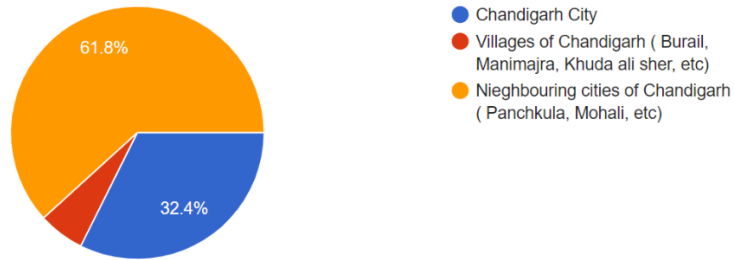
In order to carry out a comprehensive study on urban void, researchers took snapshots during peak hours by following a systematic picture recording strategy in two different pockets of Sector 17 Chandigarh (fig. 3). Each pocket represented a distinct aspect of the district, and documentation sought to portray the nuances of urban spaces within these locations. The first phase of this research (marked as B on figure 4) was focused on sector 17 which is known for its vibrant retail and business activities. Picture documentation included extensive photographs of streetscapes, public areas, architectural aspects and any other noticeable traits that contribute to or are symptomatic of urban voids in this busy area.

On the other hand, the second part (highlighted as C in figure 4) targeted the Northern half of sector 17 which included commercial and institutional parts. In this place, the method used for picture documenting aims at showing unique urban voids created when commercial meets institutional functions. The visual data acquired from these specific sections proved to be a tremendous tool for the study, allowing for a thorough and complex investigation of urban voids. It also helped respondents connect with the context, which improved the entire survey experience.

## 4.3. SAMPLE SELECTION OF STAKE HOLDERS

In the initial phase of this survey, a meticulously chosen sample group consisting of 41 individuals which were engaged to conduct pilot research. All participants in this study are residents of Chandigarh and tricity region. The insights derived from this group's survey offer a distinctive perspective on potential enhancements to the city's core public spaces. Leveraging their expertise in spatial aesthetics and functionality, the opinions of each participant are expected to be informed and discerning, given their professional backgrounds in architecture, urban design, students other professionals.

**Figure 4**  
Your residence Location



**Figure 4** Pie Chart Shows the Distribution of Respondent's Residence Location in Tricity Region.

**Source** Author

#### 4.4. SURVEY DESIGN

An in-depth assessment of urban voids in Chandigarh's Sector 17 was conducted using a thorough study technique that included photographic recording with a stakeholder survey. This mixed-methods approach aims to capture stakeholder perceptions of voids, their underlying causes, and potential cures using visual data acquired through image recording. The survey form was divided into three sections for a more focused analysis: the first section collected demographic and personal information from respondents, while the other sections were tailored to the distinctive peculiarities of Sector 17's southern (figure.6) and northern (figure.9) areas. The survey instrument included a smart combination of multiple-choice and open-ended questions, as well as visual aids in the form of relevant images, providing a full and informative investigation of urban voids in Chandigarh's city center. The study focused on identifying and analyzing urban voids in Sector 17 of Chandigarh through the use of the Trancik method, as described in Roger Trancik's book "Finding Lost Space: Theories of Urban Design. The study found a consensus among participants regarding the need for significant changes in Sector 17's urban voids. Participants in the study overwhelmingly agreed that the urban voids in Sector 17 are not fulfilling their potential and are hindering the overall liability and vibrancy of the area.

**Figure 5**



**Figure 5** Aerial 3D View of Sector 17 Showing Encircled Area B Plaza 1, C Area Plaza 2 Action Area for Survey

**Source** Image from [www.artstation.com](http://www.artstation.com), info by Author

### 5. ABOUT THE CONTEXT

The commercial center is 130.09 acres in size and comprises of four-story buildings clustered around a central crossroads in a typical Indian design idea. The Town Hall, Post and Telegraph Offices, Chamber of Commerce, and various banks are important enterprises in this region. The Post and Telegraph office block measures 140 feet tall, while the remaining structures will be 56 feet tall with four stories each. Exclusive stores or restaurants occupy the bottom level (and often the first floor) of these shop-office complexes, with offices filling following floors. Residential accommodations, according to Monsieur Le Corbusier's design for this region, should not be included owing to the accompanying demand for supplemental amenities such as green areas and educational institutions that require larger areas.

### 6. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

For study two plazas were selected from city center area, one which has Neelam cinema as landmark other is next to bank square area. 41 respondents who are also residents of city Chandigarh were chosen as sample for the study. Survey concluded main reasons for visiting sector 17, as per survey statistics, were activities like shopping and leisure, 62.1 % respondents visit sector 17 for both. The 80% of visitors cited "fun time" as their reason for visiting sector 17, hence the sector is popular site for leisure activities such shopping, socializing and dining out etc. In conclusion, Sector 17 is well-known for its retail and recreational possibilities, and it is also a favorite destination for individuals seeking a good time (Gangwar, n.d.).

Figure 6



Figure 6 Graph Showing Survey Participants

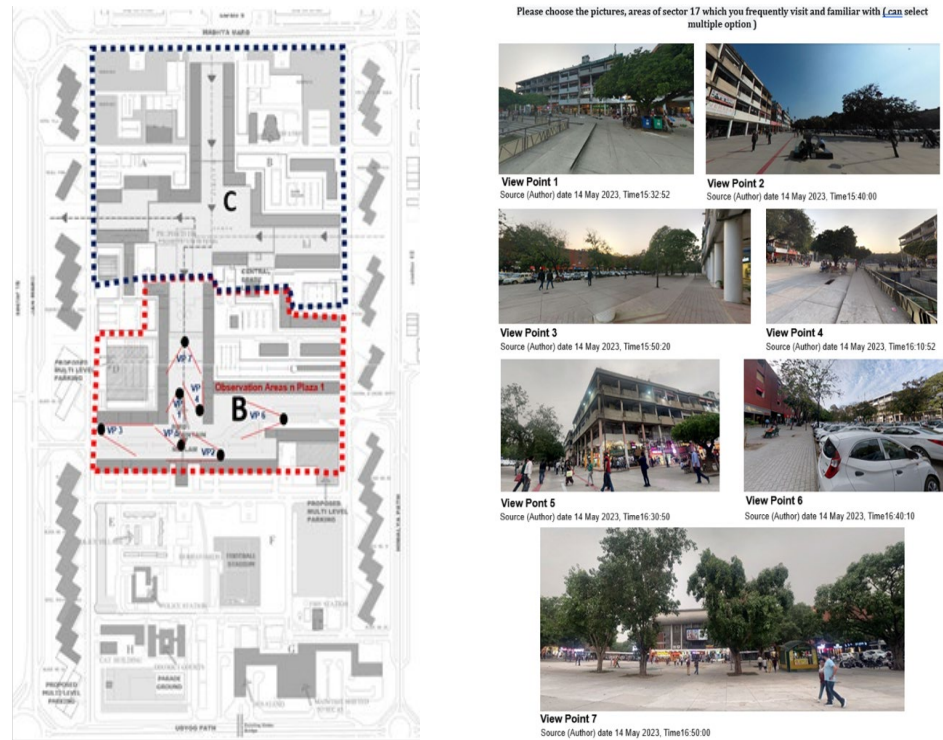
Source Author

Section 1 of Survey included question like “Please choose the pictures, areas of sector 17 which you frequently visit and familiar with, stakeholders were asked to choose multiple options from given photographs of plaza B (figure:4).

The survey data reveals a distinct hierarchy in the popularity of Sector 17 localities. Plaza 1 is the most frequented place, with 45% of respondents favoring its lively environment. View Point 2, View Point 3, and View Point 5 each draw around 30% of visitors owing to their distinct attractions. View Point 6 draws about 15% of responses because of its particular vibe. View Point 4 and View Point 7 each receive 5% of visits and cater to certain interests. The research highlights Plaza B dominance, which is followed by the trio of View Point 2, 3, and 5, indicating the nuanced distribution of preferences within Sector 17.

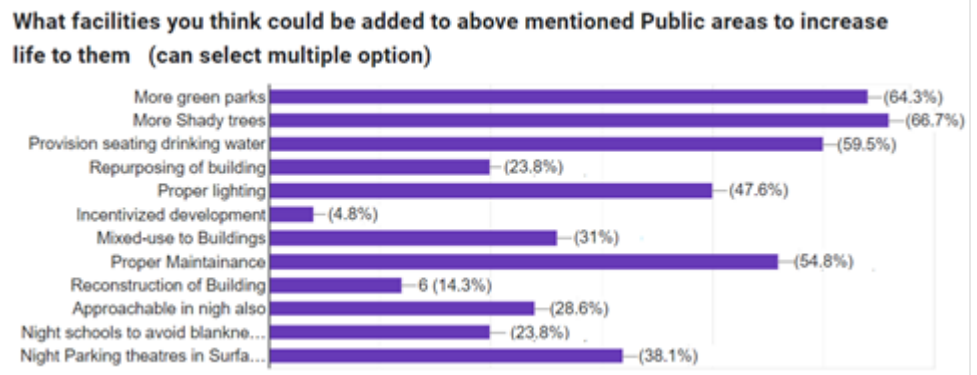


Survey responses on prospective facilities to be added to Sector 17 public areas reflect a variety of preferences for boosting the vibrancy of these locations. The most common responses were "More green parks" and "More Shady trees," both of which received a considerable percentage of 84%. "Provision of sitting and drinking water" is also widely supported, with 76% of respondents agreeing. 68% of respondents chose "Proper Maintenance" as an important issue. "Mixed-use of Buildings" finds traction in terms of improving functionality and attractiveness, with 56% of participants favoring its adoption.



**Figure 7** Images Showing Action Area for the Survey Plaza B, Left Image Shows Map with Spots for Observation Right Side Image Shows Different Activities Happening in Space.

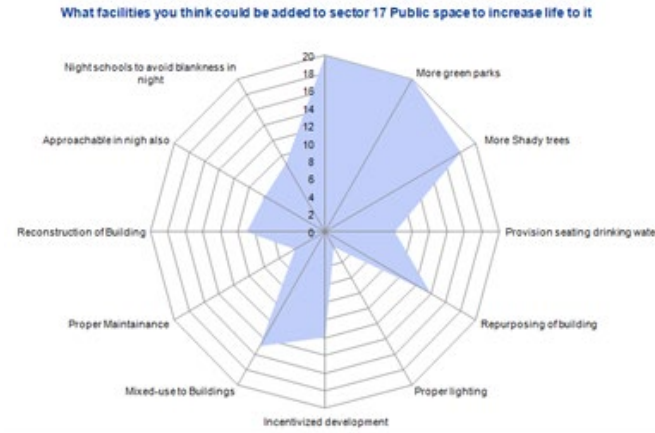
Source Author



The importance of appropriate illumination is clear, with 44% of respondents selecting "proper lighting." Furthermore, 44% of those respondents like locations that are "approachable at night." Innovative suggestions to alter these places include "building repurposing," which is supported by 40% of respondents, and "night schools to avoid blankness at night," which is supported by 40% of respondents. 28% of participants believe that "incentivized development" is helpful. Less

commonly cited options include "building reconstruction," which received 16% of replies, and the proposal of "night parking theatres in surface parking to boost evening liveliness," which received 12% of participation.

**Figure 8**

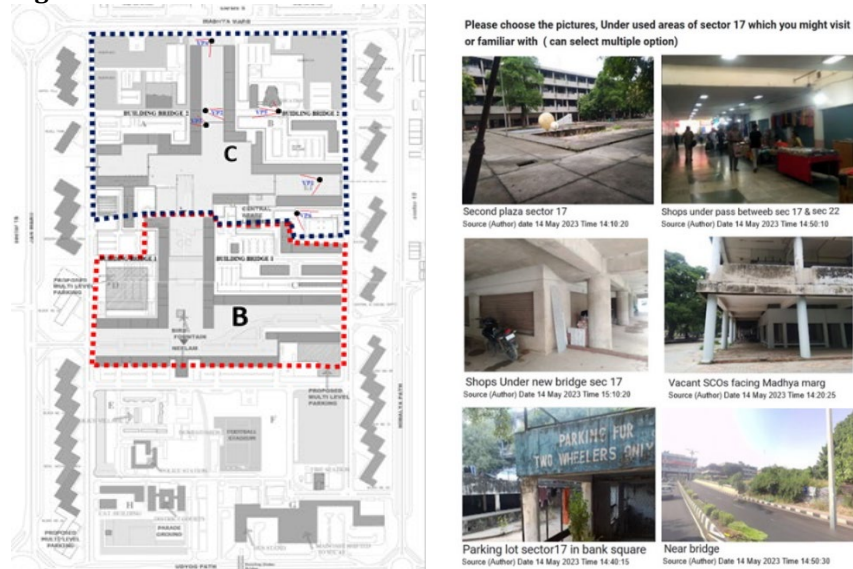


**Figure 8** According to the Data Presented in Figure 4, Respondents Were Asked About Their Preferences Regarding Facilities to be Added in Plaza 1.

Source Author

Two plazas in Sector 17 were chosen for investigation. The research indicated that Plaza B has specific features, while Plaza C's results are as follows. Plaza C comprises mostly of a bank and a state library. Institutions such as banks and post offices do not function as focal centers of economic and social activity in metropolitan areas. These specialized enterprises mostly serve individuals with unique business requirements (Sarin, 2021). As a result, these establishments' operating hours are limited, with most closing early in the evening at 7:30 p.m. As a result, the city core takes on a bleak and deserted ambience after this period, resembling a partial Urban Voids in the center.

**Figure 9**

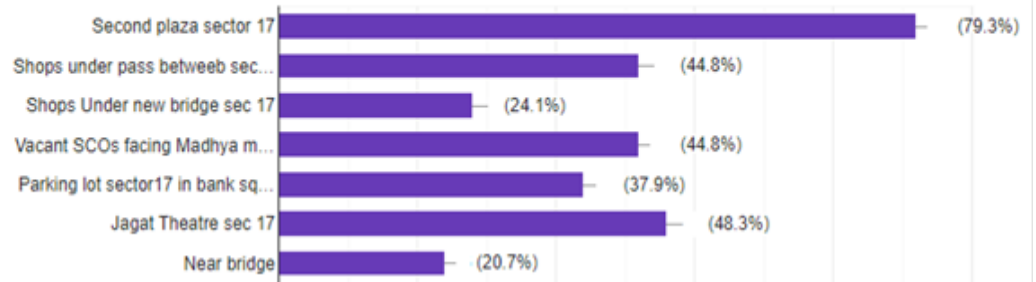


**Figure 9** Survey Question Showing Different Areas of Section C. Left Image Shows Viewpoints of Observation in Plan, Right Side Images Show Actual Scenario on Site Figure:2.

Source Author

**Figure 10**

Please choose the pictures, Under used areas of sector 17 which you might visit or familiar with ( can select multiple option)

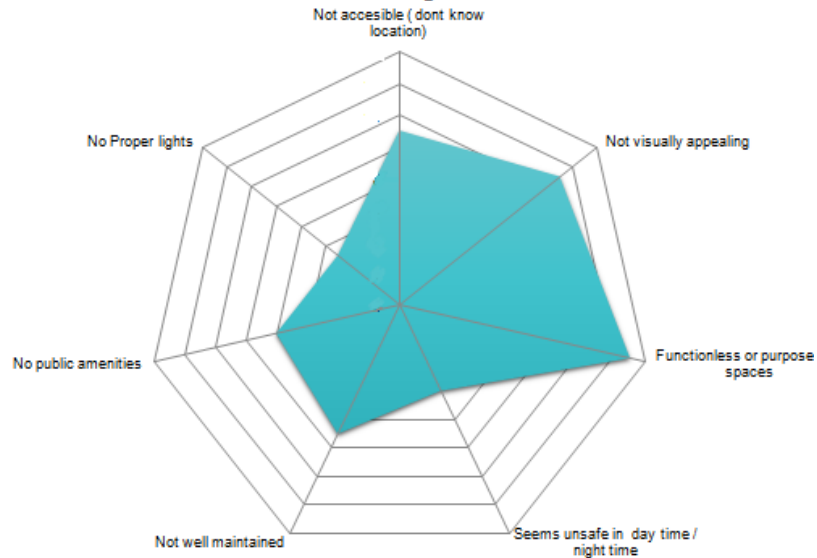


**Figure 10** Survey Question from Survey Form.

According to the study results, the Second Plaza in Sector 17 is the most recognized underutilized region (57%). Vacant SCOs facing Madhya Marg (45%), stores beneath the pass between sectors 17 and 22 (33%), and space under the new bridge in Sector 17 (30%) all stand out. Parking lots are also mentioned in Bank Square (36%), and Jagat Theatre in Sector 17 (27%). Some responders (18%) highlight underutilized locations near bridges. However, 12% select "None of the Above," indicating a variety of viewpoints on underutilized locations. These observations provide guidance for future revitalization initiatives.

**Figure 11**

Reasons for not visiting above mentioned areas?



**Figure 11** According to the Data Presented in Figure 8, Respondents were Asked About Their Preferences Regarding Facilities to be Added in Plaza 1.

Source Author

Respondents' reasons for not visiting or wanting to revisit certain underutilized sites in Sector 17 are varied and give useful insights into prospective changes. A prominent criticism expressed is a lack of visual appeal, implying that improving the

aesthetics of these spaces might make them more appealing to visitors. Another common complaint is a perceived lack of accessibility, with some respondents expressing unfamiliarity with the sites. The concept of functionless or purposeless places emerges as a crucial component, meaning that defining defined duties for these locations may make them more appealing. Maintenance emerges as a reoccurring worry, implying that frequent maintenance is essential for maintaining visitor interest. The lack of public facilities, insufficient green space, safety problems both during the day and at night, and insufficient lighting are all mentioned, emphasizing the need of creating functional and safe settings. These factors highlight the possible areas for development in transforming underutilized spaces in Sector 17 into dynamic and appealing public spaces.

**Figure 12**

**Facilities to be added to unused areas to increase their usage**



**Figure 12** Stakeholder's Response to Question in Survey Form.

**Source** Author

## 7. DISCUSSION

Sector 17, despite being the heritage sector and heart of Chandigarh, experiences limited pedestrian activity, leading to inactive urban areas. The sector contains a considerable number of empty spaces and unused commercial floor space remaining unoccupied. Additionally, the underground parking at Bank Square over the time converted into a dumping site, further contributing to the neglected condition of the area. Furthermore, the locations beneath vehicular bridges in Sector 17 also remain vacant and devoid of vitality. This underutilization of space is a prevalent challenge in urban planning where certain areas are developed without considering their potential for activation and integration into the larger urban environment. In survey Many respondents recognize the potential for substantial enhancements in areas situated beneath the new bridge in Sector 17. Key improvements mentioned include the installation of seating, access to drinking water, improved lighting, encouraged expansion, adoption of mixed-use building practices, and consistent professional maintenance. Additionally, respondents emphasize the importance of allowing nighttime access and exploring options such

as night schools to revitalize the area. While there are suggestions for repurposing existing structures and advocating for mixed-use plans, specific recommendations were lacking from some participants. Overall, the remark emphasizes the possibility of making this room more useful and attractive. The popular notion of repurposing a building is tempered by a lack of agreement on its precise utility, which also applies to the concept of mixed-use structures. Practical suggestions such as prioritizing maintenance, improving lighting, and providing facilities like as seats and drinking water stand out for their potential to improve the area's overall ambience and livability (Boparai, 2013).

**Figure 13**



**Figure 13** Word Cloud Formation by Bibliometric Software

Source Author

The desire for encouraged expansion and evening accessibility implies a desire to recruit enterprises and increase the liveliness of the region. Notably, the idea of constructing night schools emphasizes the possibility of reusing underutilized facilities for instructional reasons. The recommendations that have been made for the parking lot at Bank Square, Sector 17, are similar to others. People who gave their views said that it is necessary to include seats, drinking water, repurposing tactics, sufficient lighting, incentive development, mixed-use structures and meticulous upkeep. In different ways of looking at things are also presented in the importance of clear and explicit developmental reward such as guaranteeing provision of basic amenities like sitting and drinking water; site rehabilitation and mixed use structures (Hashem et al., 2022). To sum up, the cumulative remarks of the respondents reflect a high level of urgency in respect of public spaces redesigning at Sector 17. Furthermore, proper lighting, night time accessibility, drinking water provision and seating are necessary in facilitating users' comfort and ensuring that urban environment is secure and agreeable. The proposals also include regular maintenance as the first priority together with evening access and educational programs to improve parking lot's functionality, convenience and safety.

One of the primary causes of vacant areas in Sector 17 stems from the absence of residential spaces within the sector specifically after working hours. Incorporating coworking spaces in Sector 17, Chandigarh has the potential to

enhance the overall vibrancy of the area without violating the edict that prohibits residential development (Nakano et al., 2020). Coworking spaces support commercial activities and can contribute to a more dynamic environment in Sector 17 by providing flexible and collaborative workspaces. These facilities can attract entrepreneurs, startups, and professionals seeking a stimulating and productive work environment. The influx of people generated by these spaces can increase foot traffic throughout the day, addressing dead space caused by insufficient residential areas. Moreover, coworking spaces can serve as supportive facilities for commercial activities such as multinational companies and small-to-medium enterprises by offering amenities like meeting rooms, event spaces, and networking opportunities which foster a sense of community among businesses (Riddell, n.d.). Adding coworking spaces in Sector 17 is a strategic solution to revitalize the area while adhering to regulations against residential developments; attracting diverse professionals will further support this vibrant transformation. Sector 17 in Chandigarh encounters various difficulties with empty spaces and underutilized areas, despite being a heritage site with a central location. Resolving these issues necessitates a holistic strategy that takes into account aspects like land utilization, community involvement, and principles of urban design in order to rejuvenate the sector and establish a livelier and more equitable urban setting.

## **8. INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO REVITALIZING URBAN VACANT SPACES**

### **Green Spaces and Urban Farming:**

Sector 17 abandoned lots if transformed into green areas or community gardens may improve air quality, biodiversity, and community well-being while also increasing food security via urban farming programs in some common area (Giyarsih et al., 2024). This strategy can successfully minimize urban gaps by regenerating unused places while also giving ecological, social, and psychological advantages. By incorporating green areas and urban farming into its urban planning framework, Urban plazas such as one in sector 17 Chandigarh may encourage sustainable development, improve quality of life, and create a more resilient and dynamic urban environment and also reduce the effect of heat island in plaza.

### **Mixed-Use Development:**

The potential to attract new residents and corporations as well as foster vibrant communities also lies in reimagining empty spaces as mixed-use places that are comprised of residential, commercial, and recreational uses in form of coworking spaces (Gehl, 1989). In Sector 17 Chandigarh, mixed use development can be a way of minimizing urban gaps, as movement in late evening because of coworking spaces in sector will reduce the deserted effect after office working hours. This will create lively interconnected places that draw in new inhabitants while at the same time attracting businesses that expand community participation thus improving quality of life. The success will depend on carefully adhering to Chandigarh edicts and modern heritage character while considering input from the community, investment in infrastructure and services.

### **Cultural and Recreational Facilities:**

To eliminate the problem of urban voids in Sector 17, Chandigarh, cultural and recreational services are essential. Repurposing abandoned structures for cultural activities, such as art galleries or public parks, can rejuvenate these underutilized areas by providing hubs for cultural interchange and athletic facilities (Whyte, 1980b). The Chandigarh Edict identifies Sector 17's center plaza as a "Pedestrians

Paradise," underlining the need of establishing pedestrian-friendly venues for cultural and recreational activities.

**Figure 14**



**Figure 14** Image shows Urban Plaza with all essential component to make it vibrant and full of life  
**Source** Kay, 2012

### **Tactile Urbanism:**

Designers and city planners have been playing with tactical Urbanism strategies as short-term and low-cost activities to achieve long-term and successful effects in Urban design. Implementing temporary uses like pop-up markets or festivals to activate underutilized spaces temporarily while long-term plans are being developed. These events can help bring life and economic activity to these areas in the interim. Cities may revitalize abandoned places by strategically utilizing temporary activities, transforming them into vibrant and inclusive locations that meet the different needs of inhabitants and tourists (Hadavi & Kaplan, 2016).

### **Visual aesthetic improvement:**

Visual richness is another important factor of successful public spaces. Painting and murals have the power to turn dreary urban places into visually appealing communal spaces. Painting walls or installing vivid public art provides a lively, engaging environment with a strong sense of community. Activating blank walls with interactive elements such as chalkboards or bulletin boards encourages public interaction and adds excitement to the environment (Mathew Carmona, Tim health, Taner Oc, 2003). Activating all three planes in an urban setting in different ways might alter the space's visual appeal. Ground with green covers and hopscotch base, walls with paintings and murals, or floor fountains, human scale games, etc. can contribute to the life in space and activate the dead zones.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

The urban fabric of cities is constantly evolving to meet the needs and demands of a modern society (Kaushik, 2004). This evolution often leads to the creation of urban voids, which are empty or underutilized spaces within the city fabric. These urban voids can be found in various forms such as abandoned buildings, and unused public spaces. In the case of Sector 17 in Chandigarh city, urban voids have been identified as a significant issue. Upon analyzing Sector 17 in Chandigarh from the perspective of urban voids, a number of noteworthy observations emerge. Despite its designation as a bustling commercial area, certain characteristics within the

vicinity align with the concept of urban voids. The urban voids in Sector 17 of Chandigarh city can be classified into several categories. These categories include: large holding capacity projects that have become economically unsuccessful; obsolete areas that no longer meet current needs; lands with different assigned and existing land uses; areas creating untidy conditions; and neglected or forgotten urban spaces. These Urban void spaces contribute to the visual decay of the cityscape and deteriorate the overall urban environment. Additionally, these activity devoid spaces create safety concerns and can become breeding grounds for illegal activities. The recommendations for revitalizing underutilized spaces reflect a shared objective to transform these areas into dynamic and practical zones. Respondents emphasize the importance of maintaining these spaces appropriately, which involves creating shaded areas, enhancing pedestrian pathways, upgrading existing plazas, and introducing green spaces. This approach aims to establish an inviting and versatile environment that embodies the city's identity while also catering to the needs of residents, visitors, and businesses alike. By addressing these issues collectively 'Sector 17 has great potential to evolve into a more vibrant 'appealing 'functional 'and lively urban space that fulfills both local inhabitants' aspirations as well as visiting tourists' desires while reviving its intrinsic essence. Striking this balance preserves Chandigarh's distinct identity while promoting growth.

The findings of this study extend beyond the urban context of Sector 17 Chandigarh, it offers valuable lessons for urban planning and design in any other cities commercial hub facing similar issues. Urban planners may transform urban voids into dynamic areas that promote social interaction while also contributing to the general resilience and sustainability of urban environments by focusing on sustainable practices and inclusive design principles. This study is a call to action for stakeholders to realize the potential of urban voids as possibilities for regeneration, which will eventually lead to more dynamic, functional, and equitable urban landscapes.

### **CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

None.

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None.

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