

ESAF PROMOTE BEACHES AS PUBLIC SPACES BY...



Research on the Functionality & Development of beaches



Facilitating and ensuring community participation in beach development



Advocating with Local Self Government (LSG), State Government, District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) and other relevant departments to develop beaches



Developing specific proposals, designs, various awareness and functional programs and "Beach for All" campaign to promote beaches as inclusive and accessible public spaces

BEACHES AS INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES



Introduction

Beaches are the most vibrant public spaces we can find around. The tranquility of the blue waters and gentle sand shores can't be defined with words, rather it is always one of the best experiences humans have ever had. This is one of the main reasons, why human settlements increase in beach cities around the globe. The potential opportunities which beaches create are endless, however it is not been used properly.

India is one of those countries, which have innumerable beach wealth. Beaches can play a vital role in developing healthy and active lifestyle among citizens. Beach with adequate and accessible infrastructure encourages people to be active and make use of the given facilities. Engaging in various physical activities helps to significantly reduce the exponential rate of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD's), which is claimed to be an ever growing threat in the modern scenario. More than visiting purposes, the potential of beaches to engage community in different activities like; sports and games, children's park & open gyms create a new avenue for an active & healthy lifestyle. These activities can positively contribute to the physical and psychological well-being of the citizens.

Beaches in Kerala are spread over 550 Kilometers of coastal line. Kerala accommodates around 40 natural beaches, of which some are globally recognized and most visited. Ironically, beaches are the least used public spaces of the state and are neither explored nor developed despite of its wide potential. It requires a joint effort from different stakeholders to redesign and develop the beaches in Kerala.

Photo Courtesy: <http://econews.com.au> / upwardsleader.com



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Indicators of a Developed Beach

- Versatility and mixed use of the beach and its surroundings
- Inclusive and accessible infrastructure including; walkways & tracks for Non-motorized Transport (NMT)
- Around-the-clock accessibility
- Sufficient public and creative amenities
- Exhibit and appreciate local culture and identity
- Promote waterborne activities
- Ensure revenue to the government through tourism promotion
- Promote participatory development with the involvement of local community and create livelihood opportunities
- Proper and professional management

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE BEACHES IN KERALA



Pollution



Safety and security



Lack of Professional Development Approach



Lack of Inclusivity and Accessibility



Lack of proper infrastructure and amenities

SCOPE OF DEVELOPING BEACH AS AN INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACE

- ▶ Beach is both economical and viable to develop and use as a public space. Constitute a Beach Development Committee for individual beaches, which includes Local Self Government (LSG), elected officials, district administration and community representatives etc., as decision makers in beach development
- ▶ Beach environment is spacious and barrier-free, when compared to other public spaces and it can accommodate visitors in large number. It also has a great scope for promoting functional activities in multiple aspects like; water related sports and adventures, arts and heritage, beach fests etc.
- ▶ Beach provides ample opportunity to promote physical activities through; play space, children's park and open gyms etc. Develop inclusive, accessible and people centric design to provide opportunity for all, irrespective of their age and disabilities
- ▶ Beaches significantly affect the physical and psychological development of people, especially in abating NCD's
- ▶ Beaches can strengthen the local economy, if provided with livelihood opportunities for the local community. Developing beaches through community participation create opportunities for beach market and other participatory business practices. Inclusive beaches attract large number of visitors and subsequently generates revenue for government