Youth, Urbanism, and the City: Visions and Framework for Transforming Jeddah into a Youth-Friendly City

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ABSTRACT

This research paper explores the transformation of Jeddah into a youth-friendly city, focusing on creating inclusive public spaces, encouraging active youth participation in governance, leveraging technology for urban innovation, and embracing sustainable development practices. It proposes a multifaceted approach that combines policy reform, strategic planning, and community engagement to address young residents' unique needs and aspirations. Through a detailed examination of urban planning theories, an analysis of global case studies, and a review of relevant literature, the study offers a comprehensive framework designed for policymakers, local government officials, and stakeholders. This framework aims to establish a vibrant, dynamic urban environment that supports the youth population's well-being, creativity, and empowerment. Key policy recommendations include the establishment of youth councils and the integration of smart city technologies to foster innovation and civic engagement. By prioritizing short-term initiatives alongside long-term strategies, the research outlines a roadmap for making Jeddah a model city that values inclusivity, sustainability, and the active involvement of its young citizens in shaping their urban landscape. The findings underscore the importance of a collaborative, inclusive approach to urban development that places the needs and contributions of the youth at the forefront of planning and governance, ensuring their voices are heard and their potential fully realized in the development of their city.

KEYWORDS: Youthful City; Friendly City; Sustainable Development; Jeddah.

INTRODUCTION

Cities are the arena of an increasing percentage of the world's youth. However, most cities are unfriendly primarily to youth through planning interventions that take few-to-none steps to address the youth's needs and assess their spatial requirements. The surge in the number of youth living in cities and their capability as active inhabitants remains undervalued by planners and policymakers. In addition, youth and children in Middle East and North African urban centers are the most vulnerable groups. There is considerable potential for being adversely affected by the challenges that face today's cities (Nour, 2013).

A demographic tilt towards youth is notable in Saudi Arabia, with a substantial segment of the population under 30 years old. The 2016 Saudi population census recorded that youth between 15 and 35 years old represent more than one-third (36.7%) of the Saudi Arabian population (GAS, 2016). This trend is particularly pronounced in Jeddah - the gateway to Mecca, which has historically stood at the confluence of diverse cultures and economies, where the youthful demographic emerges as a pivotal force, shaping cultural trends, driving economic activities, and influencing social dynamics.

Following the directive of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and the National Transformation Program 2020, youth receive much attention; such attention requires translation into the physical environment regarding urban strategies and frameworks. Moreover, it is essential to have a youthful voice in city planning and place-making (Sika, 2016). Acknowledging the youth as central stakeholders in urban development is paramount for cultivating cities that are not only vibrant but also forward-thinking. By voicing their opinion about city-building issues, youth will have a better chance of inheriting an urban environment that works for their lifestyle and needs (Nour, 2013).

This research hypothesizes that involving youth in urban planning will result in a more inclusive, dynamic, and resilient urban environment. Youth-sensitive planning is a unique planning tool and culture that utilizes a site- and group-specific approach (Tirivanhu et al., 2018). The result of this approach is the additional value of youth consideration in the planning process and city functions. Sanoff (1999) argues that the best way to create cities that respond to the youth is through involving them in the process. Young people's involvement in community activities is essential to create an innate sense of belonging and the opportunity to be socially productive. Through youth participation in city planning, they develop their skills and become more active and city-oriented.

This research will highlight the critical role of youth-centric urban planning. It will discuss how focusing on economic vitality, social sustainability, and technological innovation is instrumental in fostering environments where innovation thrives, cultural richness flourishes, and overall urban resilience is bolstered. Key policy recommendations include the establishment of youth councils and the integration of smart city technologies to foster innovation and civic engagement. This research reveals that creating public spaces that are inclusive and accessible to all youth demographics significantly enhances social cohesion and community engagement. Establishing youth councils and integrating youth into urban governance leads to more dynamic and responsive urban planning, ensuring that the needs and preferences of young residents are adequately addressed. Leveraging smart city technologies and digital platforms fosters greater youth participation and innovation, providing young people with the tools to actively contribute to urban development. Aligning urban initiatives with sustainable development goals while respecting local cultural norms ensures that urban growth is environmentally responsible and culturally relevant. These findings underscore the importance of a collaborative and inclusive approach to urban development, placing the needs and contributions of youth at the forefront.

The article is structured as follows: a literature review discussing relevant studies on youth-friendly urban planning and the role of youth in urban development; a review of urban development policies in Saudi Arabia, focusing on youth; the methodology, describing the research design including case study analysis and policy evaluation; the theoretical framework outlining key urban planning theories that inform youth engagement and development; case studies of successful youth-friendly urban transformations in cities like Amsterdam, Seoul, and Tokyo; an examination of the state of youth and youth facilities in Jeddah; a vision for a youth-friendly Jeddah proposing a comprehensive strategy for transforming the city; identification of challenges and risks with potential obstacles and mitigation strategies; and a conclusion summarizing the findings and outlining future research directions.

This structure aims to guide readers through a thorough understanding of the elements necessary to transform Jeddah into a city that resonates with its younger inhabitants, evaluating the current state of urban development through the lens of the youth, pinpointing existing gaps and potential opportunities, gleaning insights from global best practices, and crafting pragmatic recommendations targeted at urban planners, policymakers, and community stakeholders. These recommendations are geared towards engendering an urban landscape in Jeddah that is not only habitable but also inspiring for its youthful populace.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Young people in Saudi Arabia are the pillars of the country's reform plan and the future of the Kingdom (Mitchell, & Alfuraih, 2018). Youth represent quite a majority of the country's population. The 2016 population census recorded that more than two-thirds of the country's population is below the age of 35 (GAS, 2016). However, the spatial requirements of youth are often underestimated. Recent studies conducted in thirteen Middle East and North Africa MENA region cities have discovered that many youth and children need more protection and receive adequate services (UNICEF, 2023). Although they represent most of the population, youth and children in these areas are the most vulnerable groups with a high potential of being affected by urban problems and challenges (Nour, 2013).

Simultaneously, several socio-cultural transformations in the region are triggered by information technology, social media, and satellite communication. Such transformation, which exposed the youth to different cultures and lifestyles, might be dissimilar from their own, resulting in cultural frustration. The latter might reflect what they need and how they envision their future cities. Hence, despite the increasing percentage of the world's youth living in cities, most city authorities need to be equipped to make their cities more youth-friendly.

Youth's involvement in urban design and planning has been historically considered one of the most efficient tools. Participation-especially when youth are involved- is justified by the increase in the usefulness of the decision-making process (Bahreldin & Ariga, 2011; Innes & Booher, 2004). Zakhour (2020) shows that public participation increased the legitimacy and quality of plans and satisfaction with the results. Besides, participation proved to be simultaneously analytical and generative when used to explore design ideas.

The concept of youth-friendly cities, underscored by the United Nations (World Program of Action for Youth), is a crucial aspect of sustainable urban development. This idea revolves around the principle that cities should not only meet the needs of their current inhabitants but also actively consider and integrate the perspectives of younger generations.

Youth inclusion in planning and policy-making is at the core of youth-friendly cities (Masri, 2018). Young people must have a voice in decisions impacting their lives, encompassing urban planning, educational opportunities, recreational facilities, and

employment prospects. Involving youth in these discussions ensures that city policies and plans are relevant and forward-looking (Palmy & Buchanan, 2020).

Participatory governance, as highlighted in Collins and Del Rey (2022), is essential in addressing the specific needs of youth. This approach transcends traditional public consultation methods by creating platforms for the active participation of young people in governance processes, allowing them to contribute ideas and have a meaningful impact on policy outcomes.

Central to youth-friendly cities is the commitment to sustainable and equitable development. This approach ensures that the needs of future generations are taken into account, leading to the creation of environments that are livable for current residents and sustainable for the long term (Wilson, 2022). Equity is crucial, as it ensures that the benefits of urban development are accessible to all youth, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Cities catering to youth typically provide abundant educational opportunities, avenues for employment, and recreational facilities. These provisions are crucial in nurturing well-rounded development for young people, preparing them for future challenges and opportunities. Designing urban spaces that are safe, accessible, and appealing to young people is another crucial aspect. This involves creating public spaces conducive to sports, arts, and social activities, fostering community and belonging (Loebach et al., 2020).

With the advent of digital technology, youth-friendly cities are increasingly incorporating technological innovations to engage young people. This might include using social media for governance, providing digital platforms for civic engagement, and offering technological education and employment opportunities (Brady et al., 2020). However, the implementation of youth-friendly policies is not without challenges. It requires a paradigm shift in traditional governance models and often necessitates additional resources. There is also a risk of tokenism, where youth participation may become more symbolic than impactful.

The literature review underscores the critical importance of integrating youth into urban planning and development, particularly in Saudi Arabia, where the majority of the population is under 35. Despite their significant presence, youth needs are often overlooked, especially in the Middle East and North Africa, where they face considerable urban challenges. Effective youth participation enhances the quality and relevance of urban plans, fostering sustainable and equitable development. Youth-

friendly cities should provide educational opportunities, employment avenues, and recreational facilities while leveraging technological innovations to engage young people meaningfully. However, implementing these policies requires a paradigm shift in governance and resource allocation to ensure youth participation is impactful and not merely symbolic.

2. REVIEW OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN SAUDI ARABIA, FOCUSING ON YOUTH

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 represents a monumental shift in the country's approach towards urban development, signifying a strategic pivot that places the younger generation at the forefront of its planning and development efforts. This ambitious vision aims to transform the urban landscape of Saudi cities, reimagining them as vibrant, dynamic centers rich in opportunities and catering to the aspirations and needs of the youth (Alismail & Faridi, 2021). At the heart of this vision is the development of a more diversified economy that provides opportunities for the youth, which is crucial given the country's demographic structure, with a large proportion of the population under 30.

The essence of Vision 2030 lies in fostering vibrant urban living. The Quality-of-Life Program 2020, integral to this vision, targets substantially enhancing the urban lifestyle. It focuses on improving sports facilities, cultural venues, and entertainment options to make cities more attractive to young Saudis (Klingmann, 2023). This initiative is designed to provide a variety of engaging activities and opportunities for the youth, contributing to lively and active urban spaces.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of education in urban contexts, the Saudi government has made significant investments in educational infrastructure (Allmnakrah & Evers, 2020). This includes the construction of new universities and research centers strategically integrated into the urban landscape to make them both accessible and relevant to the needs of urban youth.
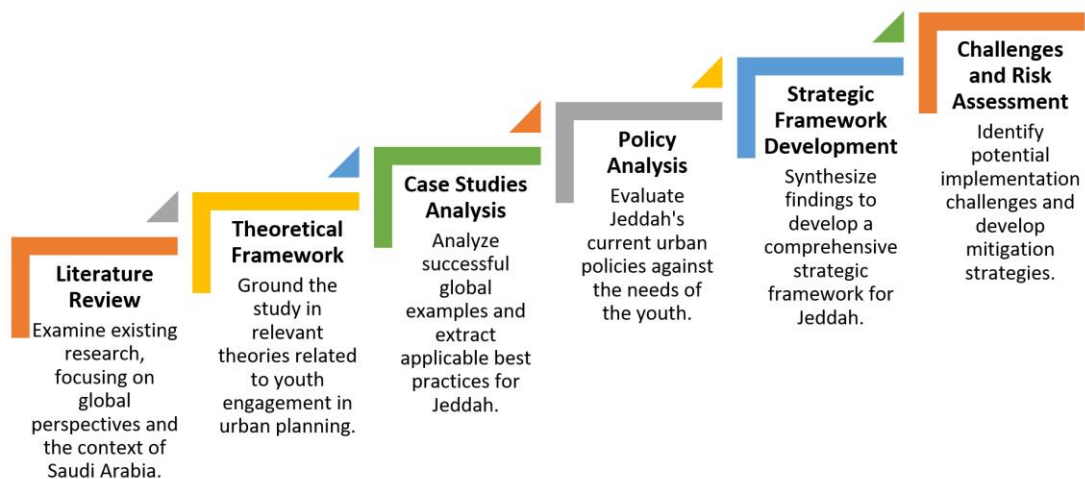
A notable challenge, as explored in Almulhim and Cobbinah (2023), is striking a balance between the Kingdom's deep-rooted traditions and the aspirations of its rapidly modernizing youth. This challenge is particularly acute in urban areas, where the pace of change tends to be more rapid. The task involves creating urban environments that respect and uphold traditional values while embracing modernity and innovation.

Central to Vision 2030 is the active engagement of young people in the urban development process. This approach aligns with global trends in participatory urban planning, which advocate incorporating the needs and perspectives of various demographic groups, including youth, into urban development policies. Moreover, there is a concerted effort to forge economic opportunities for young people within urban areas. Initiatives are being rolled out to boost employment and entrepreneurship among the youth, effectively integrating them into the economic fabric of urban centers.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a multi-dimensional methodology, integrating diverse approaches to provide a holistic view of transforming Jeddah into a youth-friendly city. The critical components of this methodology are shown in Figure 1 and elaborated below.

Figure 1 - Research Methodology

Literature Review: This thorough examination of existing research on youth-friendly cities and urban development emphasizes global perspectives and Saudi Arabia's specific context. This review forms the foundation of the research, providing insights into best practices, theoretical frameworks, and the current state of youth-centric urban development.

Theoretical Framework: The study is grounded in various urban planning theories relevant to youth engagement and development. These theories guide the analysis and provide a structured approach to assessing city youth friendliness.

Case Studies Analysis: Detailed analysis of global examples of cities successfully incorporating youth-friendly urban policies. This component involves extracting key lessons and best practices from cities like Amsterdam, Seoul, and Tokyo and considering their applicability to Jeddah.

Policy Analysis: This is an in-depth evaluation of Jeddah's existing urban development policies. It focuses on assessing whether these policies align with the needs and aspirations of the youth population.

Vision and Strategic Framework Development: Synthesis of findings to formulate a comprehensive vision and strategic framework for Jeddah. This includes proposing fundamental principles, urban design recommendations, and policy strategies to transform Jeddah into a youth-friendly city.

Challenges and Risk Assessment: Identify potential challenges and risks in implementing the proposed strategies, followed by developing mitigation strategies.

This methodology ensures a comprehensive and multifaceted approach, combining theoretical knowledge with practical insights to propose a feasible and effective framework for making Jeddah a more youth-friendly city.

4. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The progression from traditional urban planning approaches, which often overlooked specific demographic groups such as youth, to more inclusive and participatory models reflects a broader societal shift. Early urban planning often focused on efficiency and economic development, sometimes at the expense of social equity and inclusiveness. The gradual integration of social equity and participatory planning theories marked a pivotal shift towards recognizing the diverse needs of urban populations, including youth (Checkoway, 2012).

This evolution mirrors societal movements towards greater inclusivity and democracy in decision-making processes. Hence, the theoretical framework for discussing youth engagement and development in the context of urban planning, as well as assessing youth friendliness in cities, is grounded in several critical urban planning theories and concepts. This framework not only guides the planning and development processes but also provides a lens through which the effectiveness of these initiatives can be evaluated.

4.1. Urban Planning Theories Relevant to Youth Engagement and Development

The evolution of urban planning theories over time reflects societies' shifting values and priorities. In the context of youth engagement and development, these theories have increasingly recognized the importance of integrating the needs and aspirations of younger generations into urban design and policy. Several theories stand out for their relevance to this area.

Social Equity Theory advocates for an equitable distribution of urban resources and opportunities across all societal segments, including the often-overlooked youth demographic. It underscores the necessity for inclusive urban planning to accommodate the diverse needs of young people from various backgrounds, ensuring that urban development does not disproportionately benefit one group (Cunha & Silva, 2023). This approach involves considering factors such as accessibility to educational facilities, recreational areas, and employment opportunities and ensuring that these are equitably available to all youth, regardless of socio-economic status.
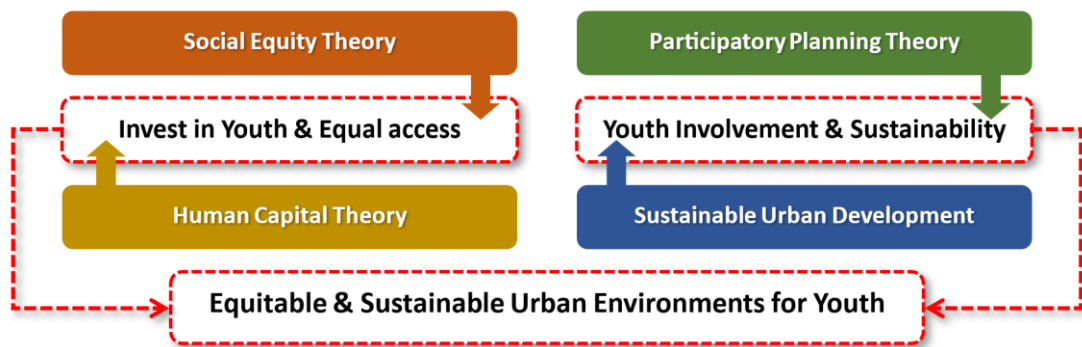
On the other hand, the Human Capital Theory believes that investing in human resources – through education, healthcare, and other essential services – directly contributes to enhanced productivity and overall well-being (Slaus & Jacobs, 2011). Applying this theory to urban planning means creating environments that foster the growth and development of young people. This involves ensuring access to quality education, providing health services tailored to the needs of the youth, and designing spaces that encourage creative and intellectual pursuits. By investing in the human capital of its youth, a city enhances its prospects and boosts its collective economic and social prospects.

Furthermore, the Participatory Planning Theory highlights the critical role of citizen involvement in the planning process, advocating for a more democratic and inclusive approach to urban development (Bond & Thampson-Faweett, 2007). Involving youth in urban planning is about listening to their views and actively incorporating their ideas and solutions into the development process. This participatory approach can take various forms, from youth advisory councils and public forums to involving young people in actual design and planning projects. The theory suggests that urban spaces are more effective, relevant, and vibrant when the people who use them, including the younger generation, play a role in shaping them.

Finally, the Sustainable Urban Development Theory focuses on developing environmentally sustainable, economically viable, and socially inclusive urban

environments (Dempsey et al., 2011). For youth, this translates into creating cities that prioritize green and eco-friendly spaces and are vibrant, culturally rich, and economically dynamic. Sustainable urban development means planning cities to serve the current population and future generations, ensuring that development is environmentally responsible, socially equitable, and economically beneficial. For young people, this includes access to clean and safe public spaces, cultural and artistic expression opportunities, and economic opportunities that do not compromise sustainability.

Figure 2 - Theories Influencing Youth Engagement in Urban Development

The interplay between Social Equity Theory and Human Capital Theory is particularly relevant in the context of youth engagement (Figure 2). The former emphasizes equal access to urban resources, while the latter focuses on the investment in youth as a valuable resource for the future of cities. Together, these theories advocate for an urban environment that provides equitable access to resources for youth and actively invests in their development through education, health, and cultural initiatives.

Additionally, the convergence of Participatory Planning Theory and Sustainable Urban Development Theory is critical in addressing the needs and aspirations of the youth. Young people are beneficiaries of sustainable urban environments and critical stakeholders in shaping these environments. Their involvement in planning processes ensures that urban development is not only environmentally sustainable but also resonates with the aspirations and values of younger generations. This aligns with global movements towards sustainable development goals, where youth engagement is increasingly pivotal.

These urban planning theories collectively emphasize a holistic approach to urban development – one that is equitable, participatory, and sustainable and acknowledges the central role of youth as both beneficiaries and contributors to the urban landscape. Nonetheless, these theories must also be understood in diverse geographical and

cultural contexts. The challenges and opportunities for youth engagement in urban planning vary significantly across different cities and regions. This necessitates a flexible approach to applying these theories, considering local socio-economic, cultural, and political factors. In summary, aligning urban planning practices with these theories can create environments that are conducive to the current needs of young people and adaptable and resilient to meet future challenges.

4.2. Frameworks for Assessing Youth Friendliness in a City

Evaluating the youth-friendliness of a city is a multifaceted process that can benefit significantly from applying various established frameworks. These frameworks offer diverse perspectives and criteria for assessing how well a city meets the needs and aspirations of its younger population:

UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities Initiative Framework: Originally conceived to assess how child-friendly cities are, the principles of this framework are equally pertinent for evaluating youth-friendliness (Wridt et al., 2023). Key aspects of this framework include ensuring that young people have opportunities to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives, safeguarding them from exploitation and violence, and providing equitable access to essential services like education and healthcare. This holistic approach ensures that the voices of young people are heard and their rights are protected while also addressing their basic needs and well-being (Jansson et al., 2022).

Livability Indexes: Tools such as the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Livability Index offer a comprehensive assessment of city livability based on various factors. When adapting these indexes to evaluate youth-friendliness, particular emphasis can be placed on aspects that directly impact young people's lives (Feng et al., 2023). This includes the quality and accessibility of educational facilities, the availability of cultural and recreational amenities, and the presence of viable employment opportunities. These factors collectively show how conducive a city is to its youth's healthy development, education, and employment (Gage et al., 2017).

Youth Engagement and Empowerment Frameworks: These frameworks focus on how cities engage with and empower their youth. Indicators under this category include the existence and effectiveness of youth councils, youth-oriented urban policies, and the availability of opportunities for young people to engage in civic and community activities. These frameworks evaluate how well a city listens to its young population,

integrates their perspectives into urban policies, and provides avenues for active participation and empowerment (Iwasaki, 2016; OECD, 2018).

Innovation and Opportunity Indices: Indices like the Innovation Cities Index assess cities based on their innovation ecosystems, an aspect critically crucial for young entrepreneurs and professionals. These indices consider factors such as the availability of technological infrastructure, the support for start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures, and the breadth of economic opportunities available (Chamchong & Boosabong, 2021). They provide insights into how a city fosters an environment conducive to innovation and economic engagement for young people, which is crucial for their professional development and economic success (Wang & Gong, 2017).

Each framework offers a unique perspective on what makes a city conducive for young people, but there are also overlapping elements and notable differences. The table below showcases how these frameworks stack together. The results exhibit that all frameworks emphasize the importance of education, healthcare, and the overall well-being of youth, though from different angles.

However, there are differences among them; for instance, the UNICEF's framework is more rights-based and holistic, focusing on protection and participation, while the Livability Indexes offer a broad, city-wide assessment applicable to all ages but adaptable for youth. Equally, the Youth Engagement Frameworks concentrate solely on civic participation and empowerment, while the Innovation and Opportunity Indices are unique in focusing on economic and professional development.

Table 1 presents a comparative analysis of different frameworks that cities can adopt to become more youth-friendly. Each framework is analyzed based on its focus, key aspects, and distinctive features.

Applying these varied frameworks to a city like Jeddah offers a comprehensive method to analyze its current status and potential to become more youth-friendly. Each framework contributes a unique perspective, allowing for a well-rounded evaluation of the city's efforts to cater to its younger residents. This multi-dimensional analysis can help identify areas of strength, gaps that need addressing, and potential strategies for making Jeddah a city where youth can thrive and actively contribute to its vibrancy and growth.

Table 1 - Comparison of various youth-friendly city frameworks.

Framework	Focus	Key Aspects	Distinctive Feature
UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities Initiative	Rights and well-being of children and young people	Participation, protection, access to essential services	Holistic development, ensuring the voices and rights of young people are heard and protected
Livability Indexes	General livability based on various factors, adaptable for youth	Quality of education, amenities, employment opportunities	A broad assessment of the city's infrastructure and services impacting the overall quality of life
Youth Engagement and Empowerment Frameworks	Engagement and empowerment of young people in urban settings	Youth councils, youth-oriented policies, community activities	Integration of young people's perspectives, provision of active participation avenues
Innovation and Opportunity Indices	The city's innovation ecosystem and economic opportunities for young entrepreneurs and professionals	Technological infrastructure, startup support, economic opportunities	Focus on professional development and economic success, emphasizing innovation and private enterprise

In summary, the progression from traditional urban planning approaches to more inclusive and participatory models reflects a broader societal shift towards inclusivity and democracy in decision-making processes. Recognizing the diverse needs of urban populations, especially youth, several critical urban planning theories such as Social Equity Theory, Human Capital Theory, Participatory Planning Theory, and Sustainable Urban Development Theory emphasize the importance of integrating the perspectives of younger generations. These theories advocate for equitable access to resources, active youth involvement in planning, and sustainable, vibrant urban

environments. Furthermore, applying various frameworks like UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities Initiative, Livability Indexes, Youth Engagement and Empowerment Frameworks, and Innovation and Opportunity Indices provides a comprehensive method to assess and enhance youth-friendliness in cities. By aligning urban planning practices with these theories and frameworks, cities can create environments that meet the current needs of young people and adapt to future challenges, ensuring sustainable and inclusive urban development.

5. Case Studies of Successful Youth-Friendly Urban Transformations

This section will analyze various global examples of youth-friendly urban transformations, extracting key lessons and best practices that could be adapted and applied to the context of Jeddah. The cities of Amsterdam, Seoul, and Tokyo were selected based on the following criteria:

- Reputation for Innovation and Inclusivity: These cities are renowned for their innovative approaches to urban planning and their commitment to inclusivity.
- Diverse Geographical and Cultural Contexts: Each city represents a different geographical region and cultural context, providing a broad perspective on youth-friendly urban transformations.
- Demonstrated Success in Youth Engagement: These cities have implemented successful programs and policies specifically aimed at engaging and empowering youth.
- Recognition by International Organizations: Each city has been recognized by international organizations and indexes for their livability, innovation, and youth-friendliness.

5.1. Analysis of Global Examples of Youth-Friendly Urban Transformations

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Amsterdam's approach to urban development is a prime example of a city that has successfully integrated youth needs into its urban fabric. The city's strategy focuses on public spaces, recreation, cultural development, and youth empowerment and participation.

Public Spaces and Recreation: Amsterdam has focused on creating and enhancing public spaces that are safe, accessible, and appealing to young people. This includes

the development of parks, sports facilities, and cultural venues that are not only youth-friendly but also foster intergenerational interaction (CoF; URANET).

Cultural Development: The city invests in cultural programs and events that resonate with the youth. This ranges from music festivals and art exhibitions to youth-centric workshops and forums. Such initiatives provide platforms for young talents and promote cultural diversity (Gokmen, 2022).

Youth Empowerment and Participation: One of Amsterdam's standout features is its commitment to including youth in decision-making. The city has established youth councils and forums where young people can actively participate in urban planning and policy formulation, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are addressed (Millard, 2015).

Seoul, South Korea

Seoul's transformation into a youth-friendly city is primarily attributed to its innovative use of technology. Seoul's strategy includes digital engagement platforms, youth councils, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

Digital Engagement Platforms: Seoul has leveraged technology to create digital platforms where young people can engage in civic matters. These platforms allow youth to provide feedback on urban policies, participate in surveys, and engage in community projects (Smith, 2018).

Youth Councils: Beyond digital engagement, Seoul has established youth councils that play a significant role in local governance. These councils provide a structured avenue for youth to contribute to policy development, particularly in areas directly impacting their lives, such as education, employment, and entertainment (Smith, 2018).

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: The city supports youth innovation and entrepreneurship through various initiatives, including establishing incubation centers, tech hubs, and funding programs. These efforts empower young entrepreneurs and contribute to the city's economic dynamism (Shrestha, 2019; UNDP, 2023).

Tokyo, Japan

Tokyo's model is centered around educational excellence, youth entrepreneurship, and cultural vibrancy. Critical components of Tokyo's approach include educational excellence, youth entrepreneurship, and cultural and recreational activities.

Educational Excellence: Tokyo is home to some of the world's leading educational institutions. The city's focus on high-quality education, research opportunities, and student-friendly policies make it an attractive destination for young learners and professionals (Gainey & Andressen, 2022).

Youth Entrepreneurship: Tokyo encourages youth entrepreneurship through mentoring, funding, and networking programs. This not only aids in job creation but also fosters a culture of innovation among the youth (Shimaoka et al., 2021).

Cultural and Recreational Activities: The city offers diverse cultural and recreational activities catering to young people. From anime and gaming culture to traditional arts and sports, Tokyo provides a vibrant landscape for youth to explore and engage with their interests (Shimpo, 2022).

5.2. Lessons Learned and Best Practices Applicable to Jeddah

The analysis of youth-friendly urban transformations in Amsterdam, Seoul, and Tokyo offers valuable lessons that can be applied to the context of Saudi Arabia. In addition, Amsterdam's approach, focusing on public spaces, cultural development, and youth empowerment, illustrates the importance of creating environments that encourage youth interaction and cultural diversity. The city's commitment to involving youth in decision-making ensures that their needs and perspectives are considered.

Additionally, Seoul's strategy emphasizes the innovative use of technology to engage young people in civic matters. Digital platforms for youth participation in urban policies, youth councils, and support for innovation and entrepreneurship showcase a model where technology and youth inclusion drive urban development. Finally, Tokyo, with its emphasis on educational excellence, youth entrepreneurship, and cultural vibrancy, demonstrates how focusing on high-quality education and supporting young entrepreneurs can foster a culture of innovation and economic dynamism.

In Saudi Arabia, these lessons can be integrated through three tiers of arrangement. Table 2 outlines strategies and critical activities within various domains to enhance urban environments for youth. It emphasizes creating inclusive, accessible, and engaging urban spaces and systems. Each domain is detailed with key activities, a description of the initiatives, and the possible stakeholders involved.

Table 2 - Framework for Youth-Friendly Urban Development in Jeddah

Domain	Key Activities	Description	Possible Stakeholders
Urban Infrastructure and Accessibility	Inclusive Public Spaces	Create safe, accessible public spaces that cater to diverse youth interests, such as sports facilities, cultural venues, and green spaces to promote social interaction and physical activity.	Local government, urban planners, community organizations, NGOs, private sector (construction and development companies), and youth advocacy groups.
	Sustainable and Accessible Transportation	Invest in eco-friendly transport options, like expanding public transit, bike-sharing programs, and pedestrian-friendly pathways, to enhance navigability and appeal to environmentally conscious youth.	Local government, public transport authorities, environmental groups, urban planners, private transportation companies.
Youth Engagement and Empowerment	Youth Participation in Urban Planning	Establish forums and councils where young people can contribute to city planning, ensuring their needs and preferences are integrated into urban development decisions.	Local government, educational institutions, youth councils, non-profit organizations focused on youth, and urban planning departments.
	Leveraging Technology for Engagement	Utilize digital platforms to engage youth in governance and civic issues, including online portals for feedback on city projects, apps for accessing services, and digital hubs for innovation.	Technology companies, local government, educational institutions, youth groups, startups, digital communication firms.
Cultural and Educational Development	Cultural and Educational Investments	Support cultural diversity and educational opportunities through initiatives like cultural festivals, art exhibitions, and partnerships with educational institutions to create an enriching environment for young people.	Educational institutions, cultural organizations, local government, arts and culture NGOs, and private sector sponsors.
	Adaptation to Local Context	Adapt these strategies to fit Jeddah's unique cultural, social, and economic context, respecting local traditions, values, and specific youth needs.	Local government, cultural institutions, community leaders, religious organizations, local businesses.

Implementing these lessons and best practices in Jeddah would require a tailored approach, considering the city's specific characteristics and challenges, especially when dealing with relevant stakeholders involved in its governance, as exhibited in the fourth column of the above table. By learning from global examples, Jeddah can develop a comprehensive strategy to transform into a city that accommodates and actively supports and nurtures its young population.

The analysis of Amsterdam, Seoul, and Tokyo provides valuable insights into creating youth-friendly urban environments. Amsterdam's focus on public spaces, cultural development, and youth empowerment underscores the importance of fostering inclusive, engaging, and culturally diverse urban areas. Seoul's innovative use of technology for youth engagement highlights the potential of digital platforms and youth councils in urban governance and entrepreneurship. Tokyo's emphasis on educational excellence and youth entrepreneurship demonstrates how high-quality education and support for young innovators can drive economic dynamism and cultural vibrancy. These best practices can be adapted to the context of Jeddah by developing inclusive public spaces, leveraging technology for youth participation, and promoting cultural and educational investments tailored to local traditions and values. By integrating these strategies, Jeddah can transform into a city that actively supports and nurtures its young population, ensuring their voices and needs are central to urban development.

6. The State of Youth and Youth Facilities in Jeddah

This section will provide an in-depth analysis of Jeddah's urban landscape, focusing on the facilities, services, and spaces available for youth and assessing the level of youth participation in urban development processes.

6.1. Analysis of the Current Urban Landscape of Jeddah

Analyzing Jeddah's current urban landscape reveals a fascinating interplay of traditional and modern urban elements. As Saudi Arabia's second-largest city, Jeddah is renowned as a central commercial hub and the gateway to the Islamic holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Its diverse and dynamic nature characterizes it.

Jeddah has experienced rapid urban growth in recent decades, a development well-documented in urban planning literature. This growth has manifested both vertically, with the construction of high-rise buildings, and horizontally, as the city has expanded into the outskirts. This expansion has transformed Jeddah's skyline and extended its

urban boundaries, reflecting the city's growing economic and demographic stature (Hegazy et al., 2021). However, with a young population and a high rate of urbanization, affordable housing is scarce, particularly for young, low-income earners. According to recent data, approximately 60% of young residents find it challenging to secure affordable housing, exacerbating socio-economic disparities and hindering the ability of youth to live independently and contribute effectively to urban economies.

In terms of infrastructure and transportation, Jeddah has seen significant investments. Key projects such as the Jeddah Metro and the expansion of the King Abdulaziz International Airport exemplify the city's commitment to enhancing its infrastructure. However, despite these advancements, challenges persist, particularly in addressing traffic congestion and expanding public transportation options. For example, only 25% of the city's public transportation needs are currently met, highlighting the need for continued focus on developing efficient and accessible transportation systems for Jeddah's growing population (Shawly, 2022). These challenges are further aggravated by the lack of inclusive, youth-friendly public spaces supporting socializing, sports, and cultural activities.

Culturally, Jeddah is a city rich in history and tradition. The historical district of Al-Balad, with its traditional architecture and the city's picturesque coastline along the Red Sea, is a testament to its cultural wealth. These areas offer a unique blend of historical significance and recreational spaces, contributing to Jeddah's distinctive character (Imam et al., 2023). The preservation and integration of these cultural and historical sites into the broader urban fabric are vital in maintaining the city's unique identity amidst rapid modernization.

6.2. Existing Facilities, Services, and Spaces for Youth

In discussing the existing facilities, services, and spaces for youth in Jeddah, it is evident that while the city offers a range of amenities targeted at younger demographics, there are still several areas where enhancements could be beneficial, as discussed below.

While Jeddah is home to numerous universities and colleges, there is a noted demand for more vocational training and skill development centers. Currently, only 40% of youth have access to vocational training that aligns with job market demands. Initiatives such as the Nitaqat program and Hafiz have positively impacted youth employment by promoting private-sector participation and assisting job seekers (Hildebrandt, 2016).

Programs like those offered by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) in partnership with organizations like the King Khalid Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, and Glowork, which aim at enhancing employability through life and technical skills training, demonstrate a concerted effort towards meeting this demand.

Regarding recreational and cultural spaces, Jeddah offers malls, cafes, and entertainment venues alongside cultural initiatives like the Jeddah Season Festival. Despite these offerings, there is a clear need for more inclusive public spaces such as parks, sports facilities, and cultural centers that are accessible and affordable to all youth, irrespective of their socio-economic background. The existence of specialized football academies, such as the LFC International Academy and Juventus Academy Saudi Arabia, reflects a growing investment in sports facilities and training for young people, indicating a move towards more diversified recreational options. However, only 30% of youth report having adequate access to recreational facilities.

The city also has healthcare facilities catering to youth, including specialized services. However, accessibility varies, and there is a particular gap in mental health and counseling services geared towards young people. Enhancing mental health services is crucial for addressing the comprehensive health needs of the youth and ensuring access to support systems for their physical and mental well-being. Currently, 25% of young people report unmet mental health needs, highlighting the importance of expanding these services.

Young Saudis prefer public sector employment due to perceived job security and benefits. However, there is also an interest in entrepreneurship and nonconventional careers, hindered by social stigma and the scarcity of training facilities. This highlights the need for more support in entrepreneurship and diverse career paths, including the arts, entertainment, sports, and volunteer work. Only 20% of youth currently participate in entrepreneurship programs, suggesting a significant opportunity for growth.

While social media plays a significant role in social engagement among Saudi youth, there is a desire for more diverse entertainment options and social outlets that facilitate in-person interactions. The decline in traditional media consumption favoring newer social media platforms suggests a shift in how young people in Jeddah connect and share experiences. Currently, 70% of youth engage primarily through social media, indicating a need for more varied social and entertainment options.

6.3. Assessment of Youth Participation in Urban Development Processes

The assessment of youth participation in the urban development processes in Jeddah, especially within Saudi Vision 2030, reveals a multi-dimensional approach to empower young Saudis to play a significant role in transforming their urban environment. Vision 2030 is not merely an economic diversification plan but a comprehensive societal and cultural transformation strategy, with youth empowerment as a central tenet. This initiative has introduced a series of reforms to foster an inclusive, forward-looking society where creativity and expression among the youth are encouraged. These reforms range from social changes, such as allowing women to drive and limiting the powers of the "moral police," to economic initiatives to create a vibrant economy with diverse career paths for the youth (GBO, 2023).

To address urban development and sustainability challenges, Vision 2030 encompasses the establishment of smart cities, including Jeddah, which aims to tackle urban challenges through enhanced public participation and the integration of sustainable practices. There is an acknowledged need for greater public participation in urban planning to ensure sustainable development, highlighting the crucial role of youth in shaping their communities (Bouregh, 2022). Despite these efforts, only 15% of youth report being involved in urban planning initiatives, indicating a need for greater engagement.

Furthermore, the Kingdom has launched programs to enhance its youth's employability and leadership capabilities, such as the Hadaf Academy for Leadership and various employment support programs like Jadarat and Freelancing. These initiatives align with Vision 2030's goals of qualitative localization of leaders and creating job opportunities across sectors. However, the effectiveness of these programs varies, with only 50% of participants reporting significant career advancement post-training.

Despite these efforts, there remain challenges in fully realizing the potential of youth participation in urban development. These include the need for more significant and structured opportunities for young people to influence policy and planning decisions and concerns about whether the vision will deliver fundamental necessities like jobs, particularly in sectors targeted for growth (AGSIW, 2022).

The approach to public participation in urban planning in Saudi Arabia has traditionally been top-down, with limited involvement from the local population in shaping their communities. However, there is a growing recognition of the importance

of involving Saudi citizens, particularly youth, in planning to achieve sustainable urban development. A proposed framework for public participation aims to integrate Saudi people in shaping their physical environment, thereby addressing urban challenges more effectively (GBO, 2023).

Finally, while strides have been made towards involving youth in Jeddah's urban development through Vision 2030 initiatives and other programs, there is an explicit acknowledgment of the need for further enhancements in public participation mechanisms. These efforts are crucial for ensuring that urban development aligns with the needs and aspirations of the younger population, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to sustainable urban growth.

6.4. Potential Gaps in Current Urban Planning Concerning Youth

Examining the urban planning landscape in Jeddah within the broader context of global urban trends highlights several critical gaps and challenges, particularly concerning youth involvement in the city's development. These areas of concern underscore the need for more inclusive and youth-centric urban planning strategies.

Despite Vision 2030's focus on youth empowerment, there remains a significant gap in involving young people directly in policy-making and urban planning decisions (MHRSD, 2022). A prevalent issue in urban planning across many cities is the limited involvement of youth in the planning processes. This situation also applies to Jeddah, where young people's perspectives might not be adequately represented. This lack of involvement can lead to urban developments that do not fully address or even consider the specific needs and preferences of the younger population. Ensuring that youth have a voice in these processes is crucial for creating urban environments that are responsive and relevant to their lifestyles and aspirations.

Opportunities for youth to participate in community service and civic activities exist but are often limited in scope and reach. Expanding these opportunities is crucial for fostering a sense of ownership and civic responsibility among young residents, enhancing their connection and commitment to their urban environment (AGSIW, 2022). While Jeddah offers a variety of facilities, there might be notable gaps concerning the accessibility and affordability of these amenities for all youth demographics. Public spaces and services are essential for the well-being and development of young people, and any limitations in access can significantly affect their quality of life (Beck, 2009). It is essential for urban planning to prioritize the creation of spaces and services that are inclusive and cater to the diverse needs of the

city's youth. For instance, only 40% of youth report having easy access to safe public spaces.

Another potential gap in Jeddah's urban planning could be the underrepresentation of its youth's diverse cultural and social needs. This includes providing adequate platforms for cultural expression and social interaction that align with young people's evolving interests and identities. Urban planning should encompass creating culturally sensitive and socially inclusive spaces that reflect and celebrate the diversity of the youth population (GBO, 2023).

There is a possibility that the current economic policies and programs in Jeddah may not fully align with the aspirations and skills of the city's youth. To address this gap, there could be a need for more targeted economic initiatives that specifically cater to young people. This includes creating opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development aligned with the emerging trends and demands of the modern economy and resonates with the ambitions of the younger generation (AGSIW, 2022).

Addressing these gaps is essential for Jeddah to evolve into a city that accommodates and actively supports and nurtures its young residents. Urban planning that is attentive to these aspects will create a more inclusive, dynamic, and youth-friendly city.

In summary, the analysis of Jeddah's urban landscape reveals both significant advancements and notable gaps in addressing the needs of its youth. While the city has made strides in infrastructure, educational investments, and cultural preservation, there remains a critical need for more inclusive and youth-centric planning. The scarcity of affordable housing, limited mental health services, and insufficient inclusive public spaces highlight the ongoing challenges. Furthermore, despite the efforts of Vision 2030 to empower youth and involve them in urban development, there is still a significant gap in their direct participation in policy-making and planning processes. Addressing these gaps through targeted economic initiatives, enhanced public participation mechanisms, and the creation of culturally sensitive and inclusive spaces is essential for transforming Jeddah into a vibrant, youth-friendly city that meets the diverse needs and aspirations of its younger population.

7. Vision for a Youth-Friendly Jeddah

Drawing upon a synthesis of urban planning best practices, Jeddah's unique cultural and social fabric, and the needs of its youth, a vision for transforming Jeddah into a

youth-friendly city can be conceptualized. This vision encompasses key principles, strategies, urban design proposals, and the integration of technology and innovation.

7.1. Key Strategies for Making Jeddah Youth-Friendly

The urban landscape of Jeddah, with its rich cultural heritage and diverse population, stands at a critical juncture in its developmental trajectory. The previous sections have underscored the necessity of adopting a youth-centric approach to urban planning. This realization has led to the proposition of four key strategies that are aimed at transforming Jeddah into a more youth-friendly city. The cornerstone of this principle lies in its focus on inclusivity, enhanced youth participation in governance, commitment to sustainable development, and respect for cultural diversity. These elements are not merely theoretical constructs; they are practical tools designed to bring about tangible changes in the urban fabric of Jeddah.

First, inclusivity and accessibility are paramount, ensuring that all urban spaces and services are accessible to youth from every socio-economic background. This principle is about more than just physical accessibility; it encompasses creating public spaces that are welcoming, safe, and cater to the diverse needs of young people (Jabbar et al., 2021). For instance, current statistics show that only 40% of public spaces in Jeddah are accessible to young people from low-income families, indicating a significant need for improvement.

Secondly, a crucial strategy is to enhance youth participation in governance. By establishing mechanisms such as youth councils or advisory boards, young people can actively contribute their voices and perspectives to urban planning and decision-making processes. These platforms can facilitate direct interaction between the youth and city planners or policymakers, thereby ensuring that the needs and ideas of the younger generation are considered in the development of the city (Nissen et al., 2020). Recent data indicates that youth participation in local governance programs has increased by 20% over the past five years, yet there is still room for greater involvement.

Thirdly, sustainable development is another cornerstone principle. The aim here is to align the creation of youth-friendly spaces with environmental sustainability goals. This strategy involves not only the promotion of green spaces but also the encouragement of sustainable transportation options and eco-friendly urban practices (Nissen et al., 2020). For example, only 15% of Jeddah's transportation infrastructure currently supports eco-friendly options like bike lanes and electric public transport.

Lastly, cultural sensitivity and diversity must be recognized and celebrated. Jeddah, with its rich cultural tapestry, should create spaces and programs that reflect and respect this diversity. Embracing cultural differences and providing platforms for various cultural expressions can enrich the city's social fabric, making it a more vibrant and inclusive place for its youth (Nissen et al., 2020). This dimension also means fostering a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship among young people and facilitating their access to digital technologies and platforms.

The outlined strategies are not only pertinent but also align seamlessly with the nation's evolving urban development ethos. These strategies embody the principles of inclusivity and accessibility, crucial underpinnings in modern urban development and resonant with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 for a vibrant, inclusive society. The emphasis on youth participation in governance reflects a global trend towards integrating younger generations in decision-making, a vital step for a country with a significant youth demographic. Furthermore, the focus on sustainable development and cultural sensitivity dovetails with the national agenda towards environmental stewardship and cultural preservation. Collectively, these strategies offer a comprehensive approach to urban development in Jeddah, harmonizing the aspirations of its youth with the broader objectives of Saudi Arabia's urban future, thereby underscoring the city's potential to emerge as a paradigm of youth-centric, forward-looking urbanism.

7.2. Youth-Centric Urban Design and Infrastructure Proposals

In crafting urban design, infrastructure, and services that cater specifically to the needs of youth, a comprehensive approach is required that encompasses various facets of city living as presented below.

The urban design should focus on the development of multipurpose public spaces. These spaces should be versatile enough to accommodate a range of activities, including sports, recreation, cultural events, and social gatherings (Dietrich, 2018). Enhancing pedestrian and bicycle pathways is crucial to promoting healthy, active lifestyles among young residents, facilitating easier and safer movement around the city. Current urban planning data reveals that only 25% of Jeddah's public spaces are designed for multipurpose use, highlighting a significant opportunity for development.

Investing in educational and vocational infrastructure is paramount. This includes not just the development of educational facilities equipped with modern technology and

resources but also the establishment of vocational training centers (Chipfakacha, 2019). These centers should focus on emerging industries and sectors that are particularly relevant to the aspirations and skillsets of the youth, providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary for future success. For example, youth unemployment rates in Jeddah stand at 13%, indicating a pressing need for vocational training programs that align with market demands.

Healthcare and well-being must also be prioritized, with the development of accessible healthcare services that include mental health support tailored specifically to young people. Moreover, creating wellness centers that offer comprehensive programs focusing on physical health, mental well-being, and lifestyle education can play a significant role in nurturing a healthier youth population (Kruk et al., 2018). Statistics indicate that 30% of Jeddah's youth report unmet mental health needs, emphasizing the importance of enhancing mental health services.

Finally, the construction and support of cultural and entertainment venues are essential. These venues, such as cultural centers, art galleries, and performance spaces, should be not only places where young people can consume culture but also spaces where they can actively participate and contribute to the cultural landscape (Grodach, 2011). Encouraging and hosting events and festivals that align with the interests and talents of the youth can further enrich their cultural and social experiences in the city. Currently, only 20% of cultural events in Jeddah specifically target youth participation, suggesting a gap that can be addressed.

By implementing these proposals, the urban environment can become more conducive to meeting the diverse needs of its young residents, fostering an atmosphere where they can learn, grow, and thrive.

7.3. Integration of Technology and Innovation

Integrating technology and innovation into urban spaces is essential for enhancing youth engagement in cities like Jeddah. This integration can take various forms, each contributing to a more interactive and connected urban experience for young people.

Implementing smart city initiatives is a key strategy. These initiatives could include establishing free Wi-Fi zones across the city, setting up interactive digital kiosks that provide information and services, and developing mobile apps tailored to various city services. Such technological enhancements not only improve the overall quality of urban living but also foster greater engagement and interaction among the youth with

their city (Cortesi, at al., 2021). Currently, only 35% of public areas in Jeddah have free Wi-Fi access, pointing to an area for technological enhancement.

The establishment of youth innovation hubs is another vital component. These hubs, encompassing innovation labs and coworking spaces, can serve as dynamic venues where young entrepreneurs and creatives come together to collaborate, share ideas, and access valuable resources and mentorship (Augustino, at al., 2023). Such environments are crucial for nurturing innovation, fostering entrepreneurial skills, and encouraging creative collaborations among the youth. Presently, Jeddah has only a handful of such innovation hubs, highlighting the need for expansion.

Developing e-governance platforms specifically for youth engagement is also important. These online platforms can facilitate the participation of young people in civic discussions, enabling them to contribute ideas and provide feedback on various urban development projects. Such platforms not only empower young residents by giving them a voice in city governance but also make the decision-making process more inclusive and representative of the younger demographic (Swist, & Collin, 2021). The current participation rate of youth in e-governance platforms in Jeddah is below 10%, showing substantial room for improvement.

Finally, enhancing educational experiences through technology is crucial. This involves incorporating advanced e-learning platforms, virtual reality experiences, and interactive learning tools into educational institutions (Bhat, 2023). Such technological integration in education can significantly enhance learning experiences, making education more engaging, interactive, and aligned with the technological proficiencies of today's youth. Only 40% of educational institutions in Jeddah currently utilize advanced e-learning platforms, indicating potential for broader implementation.

Incorporating these technological and innovative elements into urban planning and development can dramatically transform how young people interact with and experience their city, making it a more engaging, responsive, and youth-friendly environment.

By embracing these principles, strategies, and specific proposals, Jeddah can evolve into a city that not only meets the current needs of its youth but also empowers and inspires them to be active participants in its ongoing development. This vision for a youth-friendly Jeddah places the city at the forefront of modern urban development, characterized by inclusivity, sustainability, and innovation.

In conclusion, transforming Jeddah into a youth-friendly city requires a holistic and multifaceted approach that integrates best practices from global urban planning with the unique cultural and social fabric of the city. Key strategies include promoting inclusivity and accessibility, enhancing youth participation in governance, committing to sustainable development, and respecting cultural diversity. Implementing youth-centric urban design and infrastructure proposals, such as multipurpose public spaces, educational and vocational training centers, accessible healthcare services, and cultural and entertainment venues, is essential. Additionally, leveraging technology and innovation through smart city initiatives, youth innovation hubs, e-governance platforms, and advanced educational tools can significantly enhance youth engagement and participation. By adopting these comprehensive strategies and proposals, Jeddah can become a vibrant, dynamic city that not only meets the diverse needs of its young residents but also empowers them to contribute actively to its development and future.

8. Challenges and Risks

Navigating Jeddah's transformation into a youth-friendly city presents a complex array of challenges and risks. From respecting cultural norms to overcoming administrative hurdles and economic constraints, each aspect requires thoughtful consideration and strategic planning. This section explores these challenges in depth, offering targeted mitigation strategies aimed at fostering inclusivity, sustainability, and technological integration while ensuring equitable opportunities for all youth in Jeddah's evolving urban landscape (see Table 3).

Table 3 - Strategies for overcoming challenges in creating youth-friendly urban environments in Jeddah.

Challenge/Risk	Specific Challenge/Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Cultural and Social Norms	The challenge lies in creating a city that appeals to the youth while still respecting and adhering to the deep-rooted cultural and social norms that define the traditional fabric of Saudi society. Youth-friendly initiatives must navigate complex social expectations and conservative values that have been long-established.	Develop policies in consultation with cultural experts, community leaders, and youth representatives to ensure cultural congruence; foster community engagement through public forums and social media; create cultural awareness programs that align with youth development.
Political and Administrative Hurdles	The existing bureaucratic system may be resistant to the changes required to create a youth-friendly environment, posing administrative hurdles. This resistance can come from entrenched interests within the	Advocate for policy reforms that streamline bureaucratic processes to be more youth-centric; facilitate stakeholder workshops to establish clear communication and accountability; introduce digital tools

	current structures that are averse to the disruption that such changes might bring.	for transparency and stakeholder engagement.
Economic Constraints	Economic challenges include limited budgets for new projects, coupled with economic volatility that can affect funding and priorities. These constraints can hinder the progress of initiatives aimed at urban development and youth engagement.	Identify and secure diverse funding sources, including public-private partnerships, international grants, and private investments; create financial models that support sustainable youth initiatives; encourage investment in youth-centric urban development projects.
Technological Integration	The rapid pace of technological advancement necessitates a city's infrastructure to integrate new technologies seamlessly. However, there is a challenge in ensuring that this integration is equitable and benefits all segments of the youth population, regardless of their economic status.	Design and implement a city-wide digital infrastructure plan that ensures technology is accessible to all youth; provide digital literacy programs and training; set up public internet access points and tech hubs in underserved areas; promote STEM education among youth.
Environmental Sustainability	The urbanization process must balance development with environmental sustainability. The challenge is to implement growth without depleting natural resources or causing irreversible environmental damage, ensuring that development is sustainable for future generations.	Adopt green building codes and urban design standards; enforce environmental regulations and conduct thorough impact assessments for new projects; promote the use of renewable energy and sustainable transport options; protect and enhance green spaces and public parks.
Social Equity and Inclusion	A significant risk is creating a youth-friendly environment that inadvertently marginalizes segments of the youth population due to socio-economic disparities. It's essential to create inclusive urban spaces that offer equal opportunities for all youth.	Craft and execute policies that address the specific needs of underserved youth populations; develop programs that provide equal access to quality education, safe recreational facilities, and job training; foster partnerships with organizations focusing on youth development.
Risk Mitigation Strategy	Identifying and managing the risks associated with implementing large-scale urban development projects can be challenging. It requires continuous monitoring and the ability to adapt strategies in response to emerging challenges and feedback.	Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the effectiveness of youth-friendly initiatives; regularly update strategies based on feedback and changing dynamics; employ data analytics to predict future trends and challenges in urban development.

By identifying these challenges and implementing effective mitigation strategies, Jeddah can navigate the complexities of urban transformation in a way that aligns with the needs and aspirations of its youth while respecting its unique cultural and social fabric.

Conclusion

This research article has investigated the complex endeavor of transforming Jeddah into a city that fulfills the necessities of its youth and actively involves and empowers them. The principal discoveries of this study are multifaceted and interconnected.

Firstly, Jeddah's urban landscape, which is rapidly evolving, necessitates the creation of more inclusive and accessible spaces specifically tailored to the youth. Such spaces should be conducive to recreation, cultural expression, and social interaction, catering to the young population's vibrant energy and diverse needs.

A critical aspect identified is the significant gap in youth participation in Jeddah's urban planning processes. The current framework shows a limited active engagement of youth in decision-making. It is essential to empower young residents by integrating them into governance through structured and meaningful involvement. This step is beneficial and crucial for developing a city that truly reflects the aspirations of its younger generations.

Furthermore, the role of technology in this transformation cannot be overstated. The integration and innovation of technology in civic engagement are pivotal. This includes the implementation of digital governance platforms, advancing smart city initiatives, and fostering support for youth entrepreneurship. These technological avenues offer novel ways for young people to engage with and contribute to their city's development.

Another key finding is balancing modern urban development with Jeddah's rich cultural heritage and social norms. Urban initiatives must strike a harmonious balance, resonating with local values while advocating for progressive and inclusive policies. This balance ensures that development is forward-looking and deeply rooted in the city's unique cultural identity.

Lastly, the research underscores the importance of policy recommendations and strategic frameworks. These proposals aim to establish a sustainable, inclusive, and dynamic urban environment in Jeddah. The emphasis is on a comprehensive approach that includes immediate and long-term actions, covering various aspects of urban development, from infrastructure enhancements to the implementation of social programs. This strategic outlook is essential for crafting a future that is both innovative and reflective of the needs and aspirations of Jeddah's youth.

While this study provides a comprehensive framework for transforming Jeddah into a youth-friendly city, it has certain limitations. The research relies heavily on qualitative data and case studies from global examples, which might not fully capture the unique socio-cultural dynamics of Jeddah. Additionally, the proposed strategies and recommendations are based on existing literature and theoretical models, which may require further empirical validation through pilot projects and longitudinal studies. The scope of the study also does not extensively cover the potential economic and political challenges that could arise during implementation, which are critical for the practical application of the proposed framework. Future research should aim to address these limitations by incorporating more quantitative data, conducting localized studies, and exploring the economic and political feasibility of the proposed initiatives.

Looking to the future, Jeddah has the potential to emerge as a leading example of a youth-friendly city. With its vibrant youth population, cultural richness, and economic potential, Jeddah is well-positioned to implement transformative changes. The successful realization of this vision will require a collaborative approach involving government bodies, private sector entities, community groups, and most importantly, the youth themselves.

The journey towards making Jeddah a youth-friendly city is not without its challenges, but the opportunities it presents are immense. It can lead to a more livable city for its younger population and more vibrant, innovative, and resilient in the face of future challenges. This transformation, while complex, is both achievable and essential for the long-term sustainability and prosperity of Jeddah. The hope is that this research contributes to this transformative journey, inspiring actionable steps and fostering a shared vision for a youth-centric urban future.

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