Selection of Extracurricular Education Facilities and Organizational Performance Analysis of Meg-city Spatial System

Chen Zhang, Wei Yaping

Abstract—With the rapid expansion of city scale and the excessive concentration of population, achieving relative equality of extracurricular education resources and improving spatial service performance of relevant facilities become necessary arduous tasks. In urban space, extracurricular education facilities should offer better service to its targeted area and promote the equality and efficiency of education, which is accomplished by the allocation of facilities. Based on questionnaire and survey for local students in Hangzhou City in 2009, this study classifies extracurricular education facilities in meg-city and defines the equalization of these facilities. Then it is suggested to establish extracurricular education facilities system according to the development level of city and demands of local students, and to introduce a spatial analysis method into urban planning through the aspects of spatial distribution, travel cost and spatial service scope. Finally, the practice of nine sub-districts of Hangzhou is studied.

Keywords—extracurricular education facilities, equalization, spatial service performance, meg-city

I. INTRODUCTION

EXTRACURRICULAR education is a series of meaningful, planned and organized educational activities, which are beyond students’ study plans and course standards during their spare time[1]-[3]. With the development of primary education, the selection of extracurricular education is a common phenomenon for kindergarten children and elementary school children [4], [5]. Many scholars, observing the phenomenon [3], [6]-[9], have focused on concepts, features, functions, patterns and management of extracurricular education (including foreign experiences) in recent years [10]-[15]. Overall, however, problems of urban space caused by extracurricular education activities haven’t received a lot of publicity in related documents.

With the rapid expansion of city scale and the excessive concentration of population, once extracurricular education has developed into a normal family activity, space allocation of related facilities and resources becomes a planning problem needed to be studied. Not only does it involve matters of spatial arrangement, but also organizational performance of meg-city’s spatial system and related social costs and social equality. Based on the study of nine sub-districts of Hangzhou City, the main steps of analysis are drawn as follows: 1) investigation to selection of extracurricular education; 2) analysis on spatial factors of extracurricular education facilities and realization patterns of travel; 3) further discussion on spatial planning and policy recommendations of extracurricular education facilities.

II. CASE AND DATA

A. Case area

Hangzhou City with a population of 5,000,000 has covered 3068km². Many extracurricular education facilities gather in the area. Increase in selection rate of extracurricular education facilities makes higher spatial service costs in meg-city.

Nine sub-districts of Hangzhou are chosen for study on selection of extracurricular education facilities and spatial organizational performance of met-city. According to urban spatial development and the administrative boundary, the case area is divided into four districts: new urban district, old urban district, inner suburban district and outer suburban district (Fig.1). And extracurricular education facilities are mainly in urban districts. Meanwhile they are less in suburbs.

Fig. 1 Extracurricular education facilities in four districts
B. Data

Data which is from survey on extracurricular education facilities in nine sub-districts of Hangzhou City in 2009, is provided by 16 kindergartens and 16 primary schools. 1860 questionnaires are sent out and 1667 available questionnaires are retrieved (Table I).

### Table I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Questionnaires</th>
<th>Available questionnaire</th>
<th>Responds rate</th>
<th>Sample number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kindergarden</td>
<td>Overall 734</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old urban district 105</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New urban district 279</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inner suburban district 210</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outer suburban district 140</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>Overall 956</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old urban district 87</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New urban district 460</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inner suburban district 266</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outer suburban district 143</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Individual property

Survey figures show that the mean age of the respondents is between 31 and 40 years old. 43% of them receive higher education degree. And more than 80% of them are in-service employees, such as normal employees, middle level administrators and SOHO. They work eight hours a day (Table II).

#### Family property

Survey figures show that the group is dominated by nuclear family. Overall level of family income stays higher. And the proportion of families which have 100,000 yearly income is at least 50%. 59.7% of respondents have their own cars (Table II).

III. SELECTION OF EXTRACURRICULAR EDUCATION FACILITIES AND SPATIAL ORGANIZATION FORM

A. Selection of extracurricular education facilities

The selection of extracurricular education becomes a common phenomenon, and related facilities centered in urban areas. The results indicate that: the grade difference of selection rate is significant in the extreme, the trend is the rate increased with grade, 40% for kindergarten children, more than 60% for primary school students (Fig.2.). However, lack of extracurricular education facilities and imbalance among space disposition of related resources become an issue.

### Table II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Car ownership (vehicle)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master degree</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The selection rate of extracurricular education facilities is significantly different between different districts, and the rate of old urban district is the highest (Fig.3.). The situation that limited extracurricular education resources concentrate in a single area is affected by urban form and traffic modes [16]. That is to say, extracurricular education facilities are welcomed in urban districts because of high-grade facilities, perfect deployment of educational resources and high cost performance, such as public library and specialized Young Activities Center. With the development of service industry, accessibility of transportation and well-equipped facilities, similar facilities gather together in urban districts, such as training classes.

Public library and Young Activities Center are often used to be extracurricular education facilities by both kindergarten and primary school children. Due to the lack of related facilities and users’ negative attitude towards extracurricular education of school, 75% of extracurricular education service is from facilities outside the school. According to types of extracurricular education facilities, the rate of associated community facilities and public libraries is rather low. The ratio of facilities type, specialized Young Activities Center/community facilities and public libraries is 6:3:1.
B. Spatial organization form of extracurricular education facilities

In general, most extracurricular education facilities center in urban districts, while respondents who choose these facilities are in both urban and suburban districts. This situation causes low effect of commute and high costs in both specialized point and urban space.

- **Use frequency**

  Use frequency of extracurricular education facilities is higher than that in primary school. Specifically, use frequency is from one to twice a week, and using time is on the weekend and holidays. But the regular use leads to heavy traffic in different time periods, especially in the class interval and the rush hour. That is to say, it creates the bottleneck in specialized urban space.

- **Traffic mode**

  Based on the survey, two types of travel characteristics exhibit mixed traffic mode with the automotive vehicle as the dominant factor. It has the following features:

  Feature 1: Due to parents’ dropping off and picking up children, the use frequency of walking, bike, EV (electric vehicle), bus and car (private car and taxi included) occupy 8.3%, 10.4%, 22.0%, 15.5%, 43.2%, respectively. Overall, main traffic mode includes: car, bus and electric vehicles, which accounts for 80.8% (Fig. 4).

  Feature 2: Due to children’s walking to and from school alone, the use frequency of walking, bike, electric vehicle, bus, car (private car and taxi included) and others occupy 31.2%, 12.8%, 12.0%, 38.6% and 5.4%. The result shows that walking and bus are the main traffic mode, which accounts for 69.8% (Fig. 4).

**IV. THE CLASSIFYING METHOD OF EXTRACURRICULAR EDUCATION FACILITIES AND ANALYSIS**

According to types of facilities, one is specialized Young Activities Center, the other is public library, another is community facilities (Table 4). Now Young Activities Center and public library which depend on public investment can form scale economy and professional services as listed below:

| Table IV: Different facilities in Xihu District, Hangzhou |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Name             | Floor area (m²) | Building area (m²) | Labor power (P) | Classrooms quantity |
| Young Activities Centre | Children’s Palace | Xihu Children’s Palace Branch | Hangzhou Young Activities Centre | Zhejiang Library | Hangzhou Juvenile Library |
| Xihu Children’s Palace | 2335 | 7665 | 14 | 26 |
| Xihu Children’s Palace Branch | 8004 | 8807 | 9 | 22 |
| Hangzhou Young Activities Centre | 36630 | 41200 | - | - |
| Zhejiang Library | 49000 | 207 | 42 |
| Hangzhou Juvenile Library | 5482 | 38 | 20 |

A. Specialized Young Activities Centre

Xihu Children’s Palace and Hangzhou Young Activities Centre are the main choices. Level of related facilities is the key factor as well as variety of service, cost of service and transport facilities. These facilities are open besides Young Activities Centre.
Center’s holiday. There exists the phenomenon that suburban students go too far away to receive extracurricular education because of the spatial scope of services.

**B. Public library**

Community library and nearby bookstore are the top choice. The use frequency of public library is within 6 times a week, and using time is flexible. Though quality public library is limited in resources and concentrated in space, respondents prefer nearby facilities which is different from specialized Young Activities Center.

**C. Community facilities**

Some respondents choose community facilities, with training classes as the main kind of facilities from. They often take classes from Monday to Friday. In space, these facilities are large in number and close in positioning, and gain advantages in accessibility and convenience.

**V. CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

In short, with the development of Hangzhou City, extracurricular education facilities are unbalanced in distribution, low-quality in convenience and high in the commuter costs. Both the spatial quality of extracurricular education facilities and bottle-neck in urban space influence the equality of the education. Based on the conclusion, the policy recommendations are as follows:

- Coordination of sustainability for urban development and the distribution of resources

Particular way is to improve the conditions of distribution of facilities in suburban districts, which needs to get beyond the restriction of traditional ideas and old allocation patterns of benefits. And then it is to achieve balanced development among extracurricular education facilities and road construction by urban planning management.

- Most optimum distribution of extracurricular education facilities

Considering the actuality and the situation, it is important to increase cooperation between schools, community facilities and public facilities. Realization of educational resources sharing is through schools and the society.

- Optimize the traffic system with the expansion of service scope

In the context of extracurricular education facilities network, we should set up the new school bus link and improve public bicycle system to avoid the low efficiency in suburban districts. For spatial service scope of extracurricular education facilities is large, it is necessary to improve the convenience and safety.

**REFERENCES**


