



## Strengthening Social-Resilience in Settlements; Creating A Resilient Model Village Brunei

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### ABSTRACT

This research proposal aims to investigate and develop a comprehensive strategy for enhancing **social resilience** within settlements, with a specific focus on creating a resilient model village in Brunei. The study will employ a multidisciplinary approach, blending qualitative and quantitative methodologies, to understand the socio-cultural dynamics, community networks, and adaptive capacities within Brunei's settlements. Through extensive community engagement and participatory research methods, the project will identify both the vulnerabilities and strengths of local social structures and traditions, emphasizing the incorporation of indigenous knowledge systems. By examining the impact of external stressors on social cohesion and employing a community-driven approach, this research seeks to develop a framework that integrates traditional practices with contemporary resilience-building strategies. Through partnerships with local stakeholders, including community leaders, governmental bodies, and non-governmental organizations, the study aims to co-create solutions that foster community cohesion, strengthen social networks, and enhance adaptive capacities. Additionally, the research will focus on evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing a resilient model village concept as a means to highlight practical strategies for bolstering social resilience within Brunei's settlements. This will help in the development of a replicable model that integrates local wisdom with modern approaches, providing valuable insights and actionable recommendations for policymakers, community leaders, and practitioners involved in fostering resilient settlements not only in Brunei but also in similar socio-cultural contexts globally.

## 1. Introduction

In our recent world of high population increase, the rural-urban migration rate increases day by day (UN-Habitat, 2017), which causes the concept of human settlement to face big challenges

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troubling the well-being of urban people. On the other hand, in the urban design concept, human settlement is of great importance (UN-Habitat:, 2020). Jan Gehl explains this concept by saying that “it is of great importance to design cities/urban centres that prioritize the people, promoting their well-being and needs”. Nevertheless, to promote the well-being and needs of people dwelling in the cities, life, space, and buildings have to be well utilized/spread within the settlements (Jan Gehl, 2010). As mentioned by Norris in his journal “Community Resilience as a Metaphor”, settlements are not isolated entities but integral components of our daily lives. Therefore, due to the forces of globalization and urban development, understanding and enhancing community resilience becomes paramount (Norris, 2008).

However, in understanding and enhancing community resilience concept, social resilience plays a crucial role in ensuring the well-being and sustainability of communities, particularly in settlements with multidisciplinary (Qikang Zhong, 2023). Due to improper/lack of comprehensive and contextual strategies for enhancing social resilience within settlements, the study of **strengthening social resilience** in settlements is held as a means to enlighten the hidden futures that enhance social resilience within the settlements. In addition, recently there has been a growth in recognition of the importance of social resilience as a means to enhance community cohesion, empower residents, and foster sustainable development (Qikang Zhong, 2023). This is a good start to a journey of strengthening social resilience in the settlements.

### *1.1. Brief of Study,*

The term Resilient in the meantime has risen to become a key element of popular scientific publications (Vogt-Schilb, 2015). Resilience is a contentious concept that possibly delivers empowering answers for dealing successfully with the threatening processes of change in any adversity (Thomas, 2016). Therefore, a resilient model village is a concept that involves the implementation of a set of interventions that can improve the physical, social, economic, and environmental aspects within the settlement, and serve as a showcase and inspiration for other settlements.

In fostering social resilience in settlements, Strengthening Social Bonds is the key element. This can be strengthened by encouraging community engagements and interactions within the settlements (Norris, 2008) through regular gatherings, cultural events, and neighbourhood activities that help to build stronger social ties among residents within the settlements.

#### *1.1.1. Study Area;*

This study will be held in Kampong Rimba settlement located in the capital city of Brunei Darussalam. Kampong Rimba is a village on the outskirts of Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei. It is one of the villages that comprise multidisciplinary people and has passed through several generations. It is subdivided under Mukim Gadong ‘A’, a mukim in the Brunei-Muara District. The total percentage of the population consisting of Malays is 96% equal to 6,002 people followed by Chinese 2.40% totaling 150 people and Indians 1.60% totaling 100 people (Statistics, 2021). In contrast, the total number of families living in this village is 893 families with a total population of 6,266 people consisting of 3,817 aged under 18 years and 18-59 years as many as 2,306, and 143 those over 60 years old (Statistics, 2021).

Kampong Rimba Housing Scheme Kampong Rimba involves 2000 units of terrace houses. Kampong Rimba National Housing Scheme is a public housing area in Brunei-Muara District, Brunei, on the northern outskirts of the capital Bandar Seri Begawan.

### *1.1.2. Brunei's Settlements in General;*

Brunei is a small Southeast Asian nation with a diverse and rapidly urbanizing population where 80% of its population lives in the city (Worldometer, 2024). Brunei's settlements are characterized by a mix of traditional and modern lifestyles, as well as a strong influence of Islamic values and culture. Brunei's settlements are well designed with good road networks, access to fresh water, electricity, proper drainage systems (Kitani, 2015). However, Brunei's settlements also need to strengthen social resilience, through integrating community engagement activities, and public spaces within housing projects. This will boost social interactions among the residents enhancing social resiliency in the settlements. Therefore, there is a need to develop a framework that can integrate the local wisdom and practices of Brunei's communities with contemporary resilience-building approaches and to demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of such a framework through a practical application.

### *1.1.3. Resilient model village;*

A resilient model village is a concept that involves the implementation of a set of interventions that maintain and improve the resilient aspects (*physical, social, economic, and environmental*) of a settlement, and serve as a showcase and inspiration for other settlements. It employs a multidisciplinary and participatory approach, involving extensive community engagement and understanding of the sociocultural dynamics, community networks, and adaptive capacities within settlements.

In addition, a resilient model village is a community designed and built to withstand and adapt to the effects of resilient aspects. These villages prioritize sustainability, environmental consciousness, and the well-being of their residents. *Examples:*

#### *a) Kaniga Climate-Resilient Model Village (Rwanda);*

- Located in the Kaniga sector of Gicumbi District, Rwanda, this model village was inaugurated on November 20, 2023.
- It accommodates 60 households that were relocated from high-risk zones prone to climate hazards such as flooding and landslides.
- The village was constructed as part of the Green Gicumbi project with support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

(cfeditoren. (2023, November 22). Inside Gicumbi's Rwf3bn climate-resilient model village - Rwanda. Rwanda. <https://www.africa-press.net/rwanda/photo/inside-gicumbis-rwf3bn-climate-resilient-model-village>)

#### *b) Affordable Housing Model (Village Model)*

- This model focuses on resident-owned housing that ensures long-term affordability, community wealth, and reduced environmental impact.
- It eases displacement pressures and promotes sustainable living.

(The village model. (n.d.). The Village Model. <https://www.villagemodel.org/overview>)

#### *c) Punjab's Climate-Resilient Model Villages:*

- The Government of Punjab is currently constructing 22 model villages in flood-affected areas.
- These villages aim to enhance resilience and provide safe housing for vulnerable communities

(Climate resilient model villages. (n.d.). Climate & Development Knowledge Network. <https://cdkn.org/story/climate-resilient-model-villages>)

## 1.2. Aims and Objectives;

The creation of a resilient model village in Brunei is to help nurture the social fabric and contribute to the foundation of social resilience in settlements. *The objective involves the proposal of spatial design strategies such as the use of pedestrian streets, front yards, courtyards, and communal spaces* as the set of framework and guidelines through design policies and proposing an architectural layout (Woonerf Concept, 1970s). This concept *aims to enhance social interaction, community empowerment, and cultural values in the settlement* and can be integrated into Brunei's settlements to strengthen their social resiliency.

Proposing a resilient model village in Brunei is an initiative that serves as a blueprint for enhancing social resilience in settlements. This endeavour aims to improve the social interactions within communities in Brunei. By implementing innovative strategies and incorporating community participation (Lavell, 2017), the resilient model village in Brunei seeks to create a sustainable settlement and inclusive environment that can withstand and recover from various shocks and stresses.

## 1.3. Literature Review:

The review that was done from various sources related to resilience, socialization, and housing design, shows that human settlement, housing design, and quality of life from 2000 to the present, have been focusing on economic and environmental aspects and little on social aspects. This is due to urban development, and land management policies (Choi, 2015). On the other hand, human settlement/housing design and its quality affect various aspects of human life most especially, social behaviour, culture, health, and well-being (Lavell, 2017), leading to the absence of social resilience in settlements.

However, before 2010, most research on housing considered the concept of social resilience where they enhance and inherit community traditions and cultural values and how to protect them. This brings the understanding that Architecture is not only about bringing new ideas that take away the traditional norms but also about bringing ideas that protect and respect the cultural values of the community (Doonan, 2002). Doonan in his article (Domestic Architecture and Settlement Planning) talks about how innovations in architecture, such as the use of exterior household spaces and careful planning of shared public places, emerge to facilitate interactions of residents in the community. In addition, Jan Gehl, "Cities for People" 2010 talked about "Life, Space, and Buildings – in that Order" to prioritize the quality of life and space over the quantity and size of buildings. From Gahl's perspective, life should be well integrated into the space and into the building to enhance the social resilience in the settlements. This is an interesting concept, which can be integrated into the villages/settlements of Brunei to enhance social resilience.

Also, after 2011, due to environmental changes and the Industrial Revolution, research on housing turned away from the community norms to focus on the Economic and more environmental aspects, whereby most considered affordability and climate-resilient. For example, Tran Tuan Anh did research on "Community consultation for long-term climate-resilient housing" to address the challenge of floods and pave the way forward for affordable housing in Malaysia. This faded away the community cohesion and the idea of inheriting community traditions and values, which damaged the social resilience in the settlements. Being more economical took away the concept of life, space, and building (Jan Gehl, 2010). However, settlements are not isolated entities but integral components of our daily lives (Norris, 2008). Amidst the forces of globalization, understanding, and enhancing community, resilience becomes paramount.

In addition, to understand the concept of social resilience and its significance in settlement development, it is essential to examine existing literature and research on the study. Studies on social resilience highlight the importance of community engagement, social networks, and adaptive capacity in building social resilience. For example, the work of Cutter et al. (2008) emphasizes the role of social

capital in enhancing community resilience, while Norris et al. (2008) highlight the significance of social networks in facilitating effective disaster response and recovery.

Furthermore, successful case studies from other countries provide valuable insights and lessons for developing a resilient model village in Brunei. For instance, the “10 Principles for Building Resilient Cities” by the Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities initiative offers a framework that can be adapted and applied to Brunei’s context.

## 2. Methodology

Under the theoretical framework, the study employs *Social Ecological Theory*. Social ecology theory as proposed by Urie Bronfenbrenner emphasizes the interconnectedness between individuals and their social environments. It considers the impact of various systems (micro, meso, exo, and macro) on human development and behaviour, which could be relevant for understanding how social resilience is influenced by different layers of the environment within settlements (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). Therefore, this study will examine the activeness, accessibility, safety, species, and maintenance of the area especially in the main aspects of the study (pedestrian streets, front yard) as common/public spaces within the Rimba settlement. This will help to understand human behaviour towards the sense of socialization in the settlement and how to promote and support social resilience.

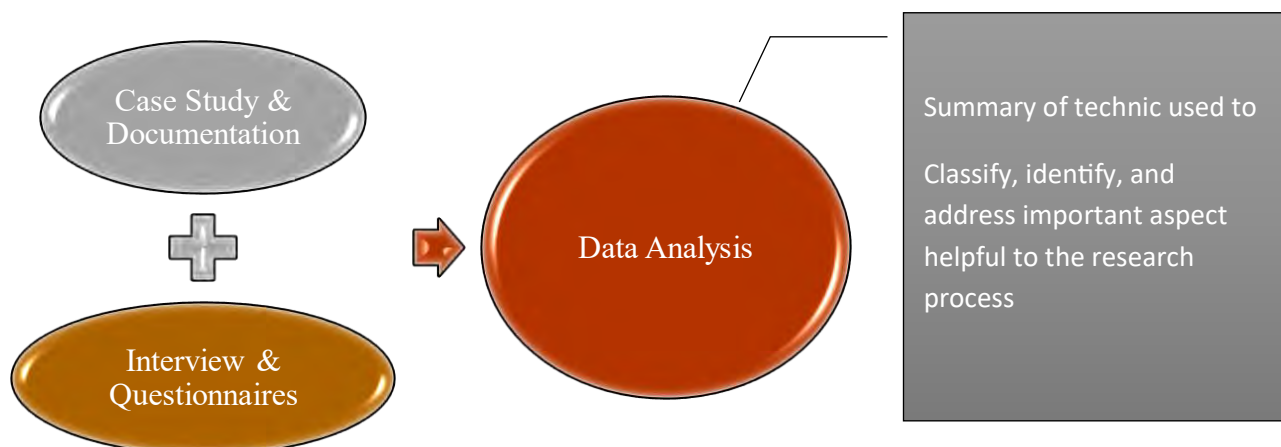
To understand how pedestrian streets, and front yards as communal spaces strengthen social resilience in settlements, the study applied a mixed-methods approach (Creswell, 2009). This approach combines both quantitative and qualitative research methods to capture a holistic view of the factors influencing social resilience in these spaces. The quantitative facet includes the distribution of structured surveys among the target group utilizing closed-ended questions (Creswell J. W., 2017) and Likert scales to quantify the collected data. This can be adopted in the Kampong Rimba settlement to acquire valid data on the frequency of social activities, perceived safety, community cohesion, and satisfaction with the design and accessibility of these spaces.

Concurrently, the qualitative dimension encompasses in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with a subgroup of residents who live in points of interest (the cul-de-sac point and those who live on linear), aiming to explore the intricacies and context of residents’ experiences, perceptions, and suggestions regarding the level of connectedness among these different layouts. Thematic analysis will be applied to the qualitative data to identify patterns and emergent themes. (Patton, 2002)



Fig. 1. Map for the study area

Combining both quantitative and qualitative methods will ensure a holistic understanding of the social resilience factors within Brunei's settlements, offering insights that can inform urban planning and community development strategies tailored to the unique sociocultural context of Brunei enhancing social resilience in settlements.

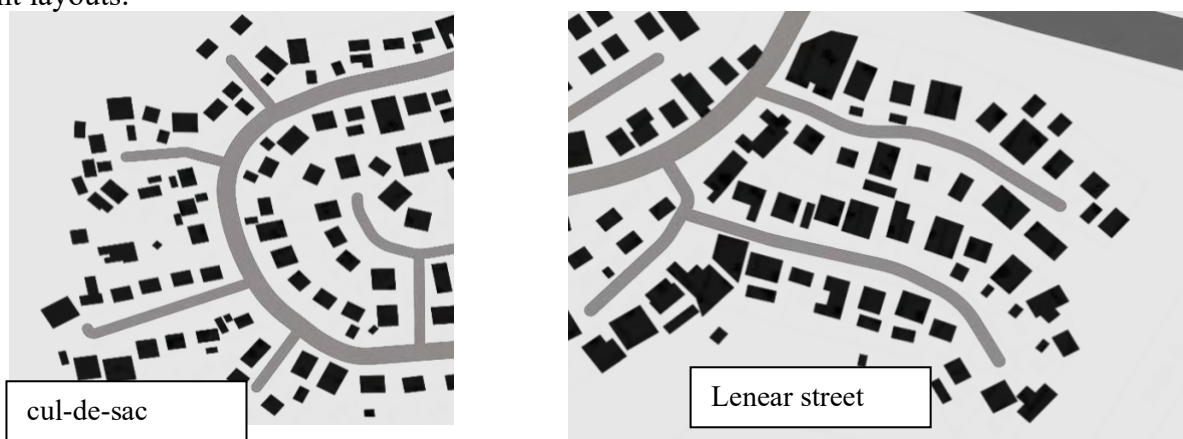


**Fig. 2.** Shows the techniques used for data analysis

## 2.1. Sampling Strategy

For the methodology on social resilience in settlements for the use of pedestrian streets, front yards, courtyards, and communal spaces in Brunei, a suitable sampling strategy could involve a combination of stratified random sampling and purposive sampling (Bryman, 2015).

The stratified random sampling consists of intentionally selecting the area within the study area (Bryman, 2015). This implies the two areas within the settlement, the linear street and the cul-de-sac street. This will employ in-depth interviews with residents who live alongside these two points of interest (the linear street and the cul-de-sac street), aiming to explore the intricacies and context of residents' experiences, perceptions, and suggestions regarding the level of connectedness among these different layouts.



**Fig. 3.** Map for sampling strategies for data from the cul-de-sac street and live on linear street

By dividing the settlements into strata based on identified criteria. Within each stratum, randomly select participants to ensure representation from various segments of the community (Bryman, 2015).

## 2.2. Sample size

A common rule of thumb for survey research suggests a sample size of at least 100 to 200 participants for a moderate-sized population, with larger samples providing more robust results (Krejcie, 1970). However, in mixed-methods research, the sample size for the qualitative component should be sufficient to provide depth and context, while the quantitative component adheres to guidelines based on statistical power and precision (Creswell J. W., 2017). Therefore, in the context of the Rimba settlement, since the study employs the mixed method through in-depth interviews with residents, age will be considered especially in the selected portion of the settlement. This includes most especially the age between 15-35 years, as considered more effective for future generations. Concerning the utilization and safety of the area, parents and leaders of the area will be contacted to understand more.

In addition, experts in housing like; architects, urban planners, and even the housing schemes department office will help to understand more about the plan for the area. This will help to strengthen the resilience of the settlement. Therefore, the sample size will consist of all people in the position of helping to strengthen the social resilience of the settlement.

## 2.3. Criteria;

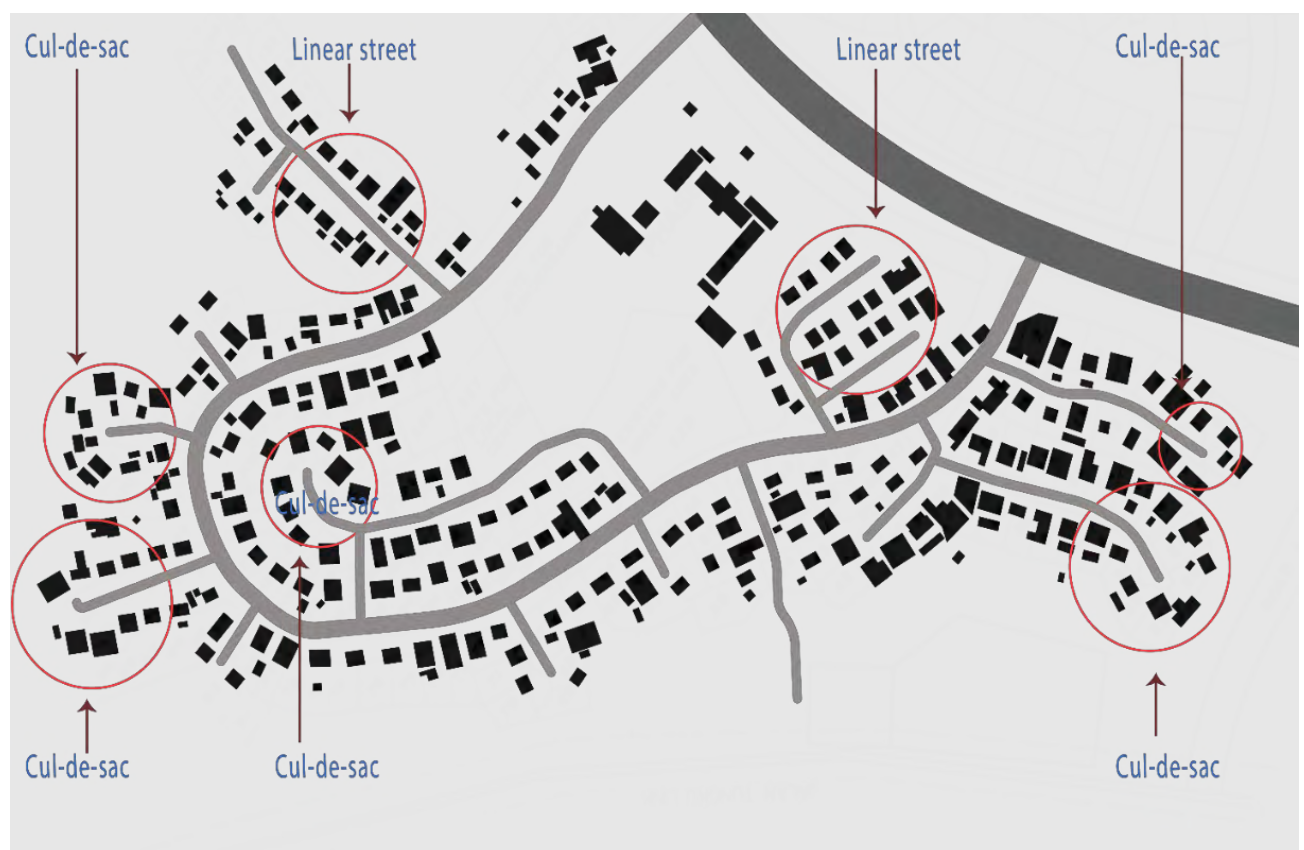
**Tab. 1.** The table shows the criteria used in collecting data from the study area

Criteria	Indicators	Measurable	Examples
<b>Users</b>	Gender	Male, Female	
	Age	Young, old	
	Time	Daily, Weekly	
<b>Accessibility</b>	Walkways, Zebra-crossing	colour, signposts, and material	Privacy Number of niches around people Flexibility
	Roads, Bicycle ride-ways		
	Parking		
<b>Activities</b>	Outdoor and Indoor	Active, passive recreation	Eating, Running
	Games/Cultural		
	Exercises		
<b>Control</b>	Privacy Flexibility	1. Number of niches 2. Number of people around	Number of choices Benches and chairs
<b>Safety</b>	Public and Openness	Vibrant, calm areas	Rate of movement per day
	Material	Slippery, rough, and smooth	Number of children who fall
<b>Topography</b>	Slope	Steep, Gentle,	Use of staircases, Lamps

#### 2.4. Data collection;

According to the research design (under methodology), this study combines both secondary and primary data (Creswell J. W., 2017). On secondary data, the study employs data from documents, and on primary data, the researcher interviewed different groups of people to collect and examine data from residents with various experiences and knowledge on the use of pedestrian streets, front yards, and courtyards as communal spaces. For this study, the interview was most appropriate and helpful because it gave necessary information directly from the users (residents) to the researcher allowing the exposure of their points of view and perceptions through different structured manners and adding important discoveries and understandings to the study.

Therefore, the interview as a qualitative method of this research was a source of deep perceptions and attitudes of the respondents and was done with the help of 10 residents from each selected place (the linear street and the cul-de-sac street) within the study area.



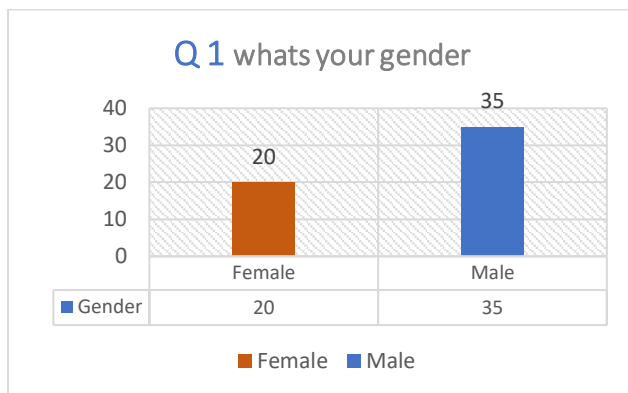
**Fig. 4.** shows the area where the data was collected from

These selected places will act as samples for all related places in the settlements and the same form of questions has to be asked to obtain the qualitative data based on the experience.

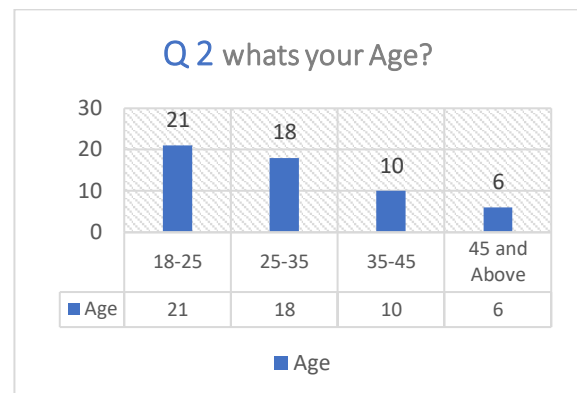
### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Results Summarized

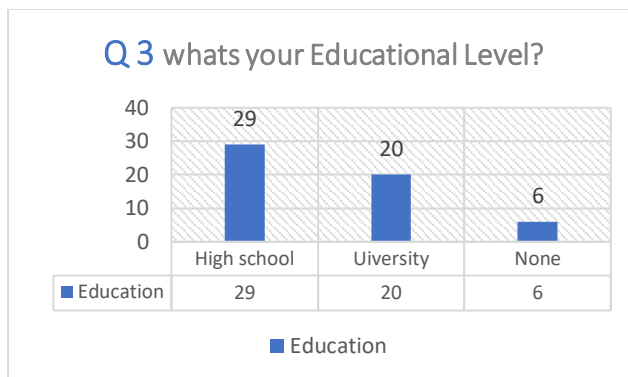
##### 3.1.1. General Information



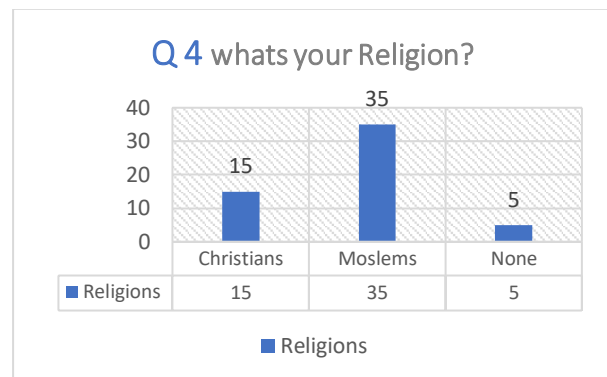
**Fig. 5.** Shows the gender



**Fig. 6.** Shows the age of conducted residents



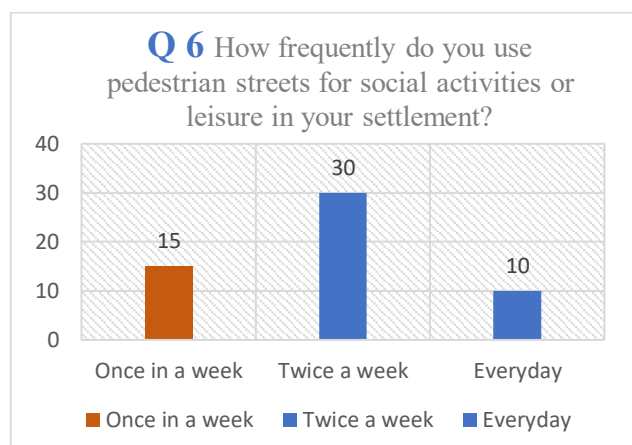
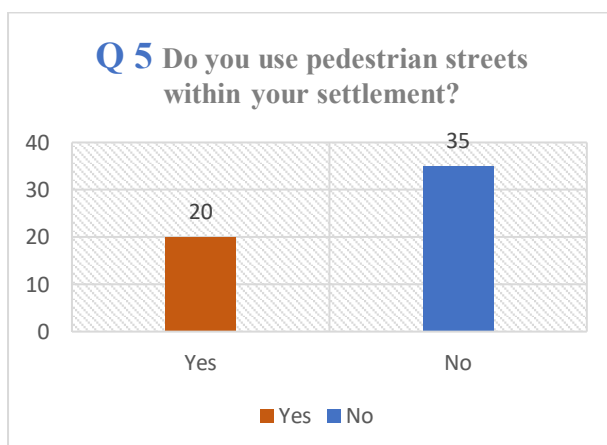
**Fig. 7.** Shows the level of education of the most asked residents

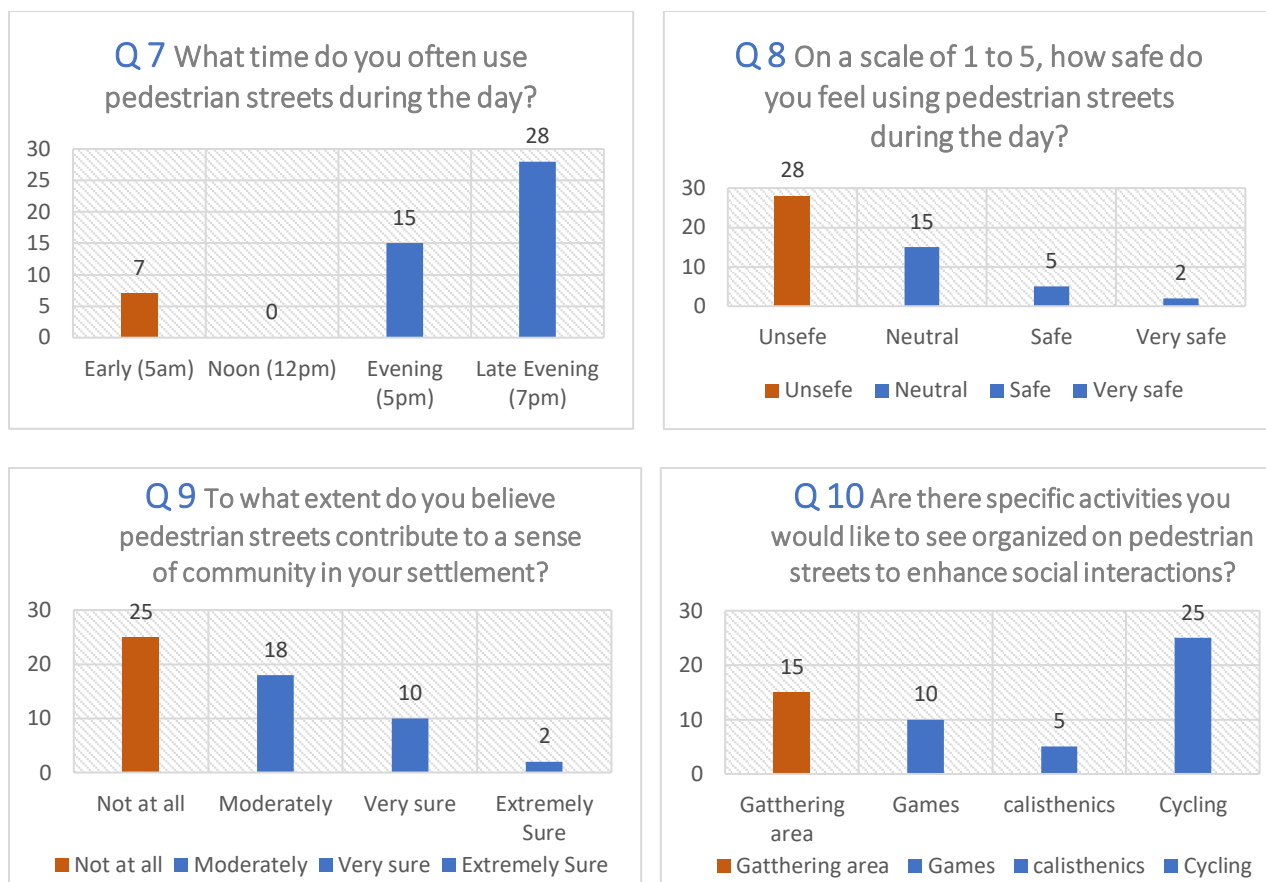


**Fig. 8.** Shows the religion of the most asked residents

The above general information results were collected from the residents who were engaged in the evening sports of jogging and riding around the study area. This information will help to understand the relationship between socialization and age which help to know the kind of activities to be integrated into the settlements with respect to age, gender, and religion.

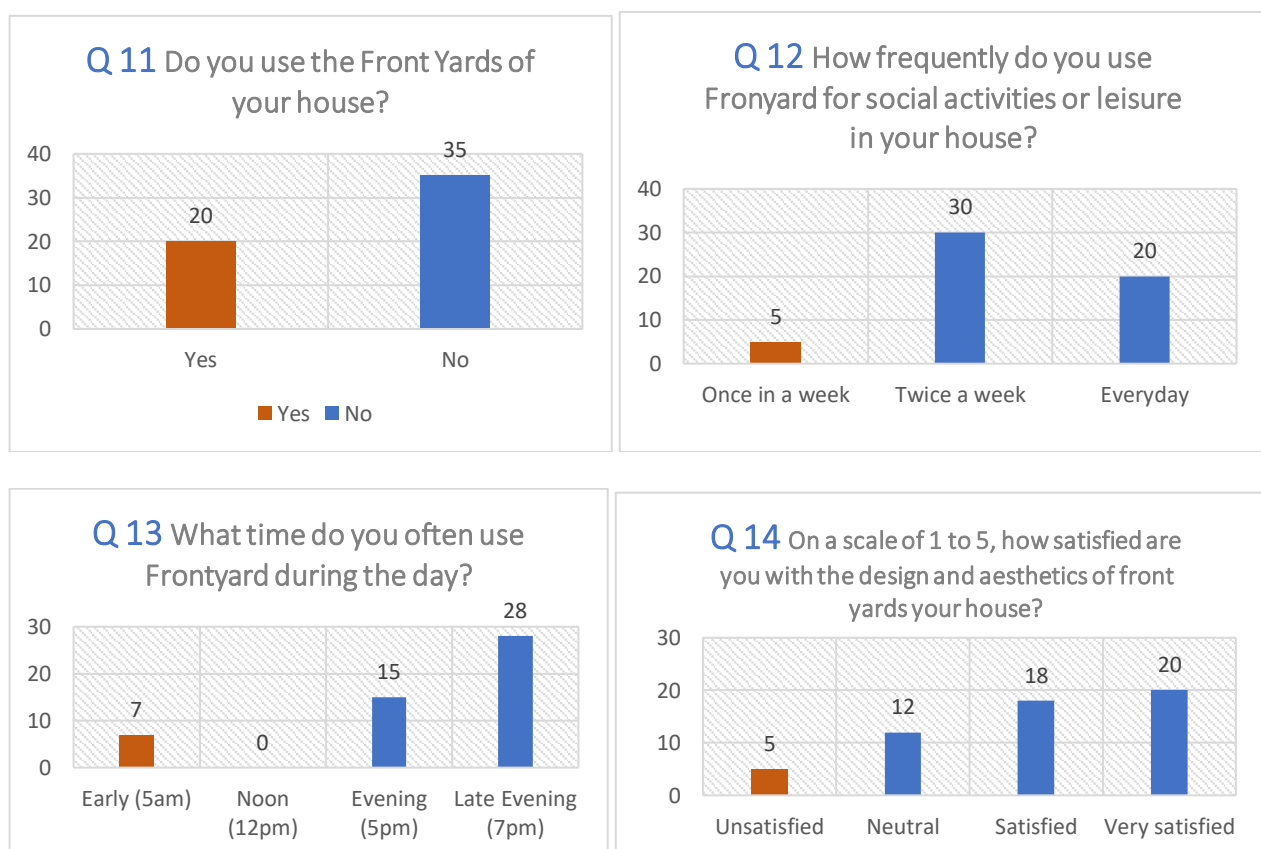
##### 3.1.2. Pedestrian Street

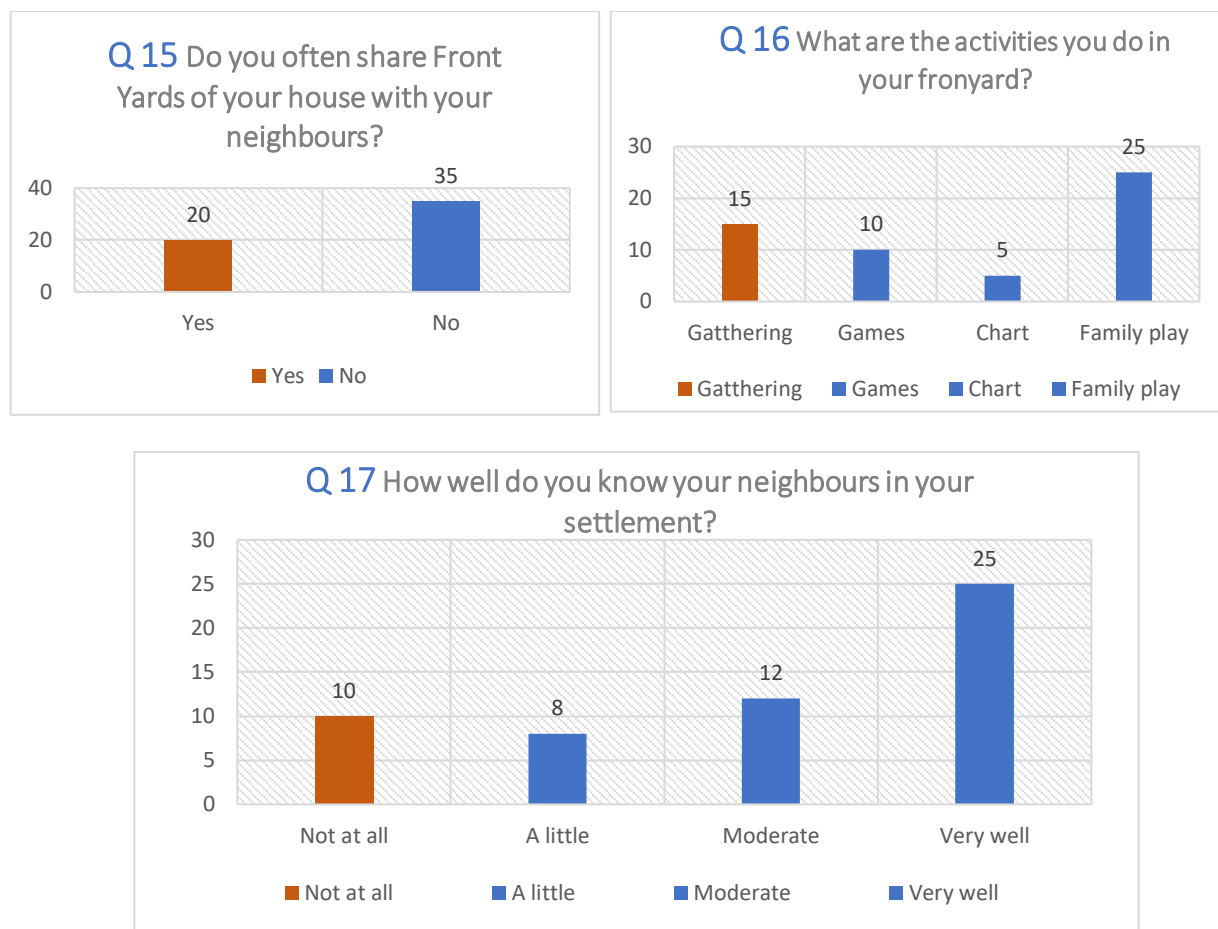




**Fig. 9.** The bar graphs above show pedestrian street results from the study area.

### 3.1.3. Front yard





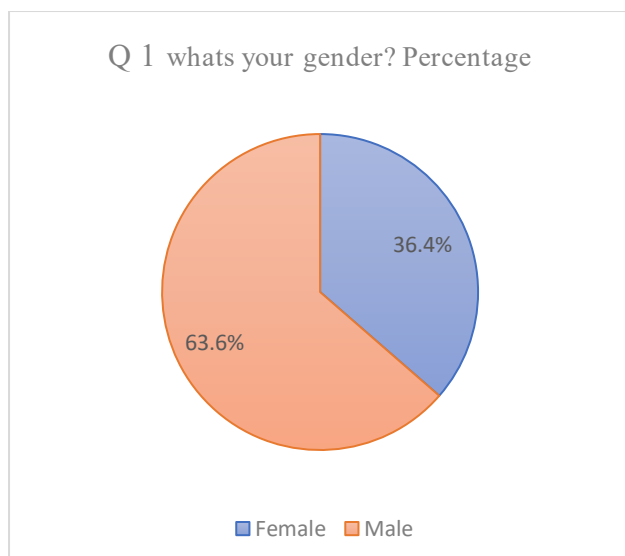
**Fig. 10.** The bar graphs above show front yard results from the study area.

### 3.2. Discussion

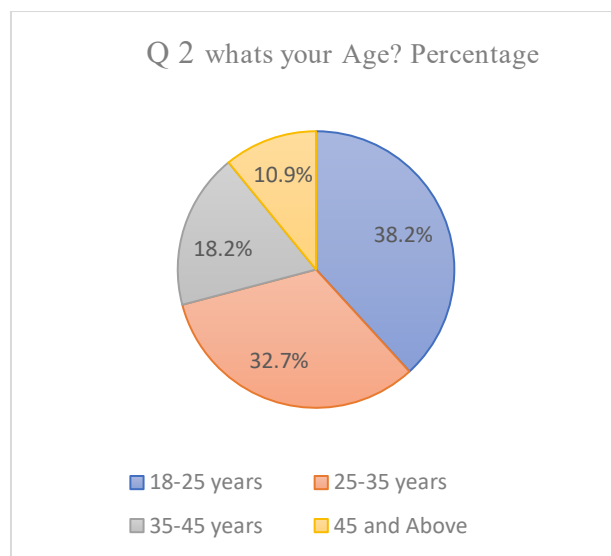
#### 3.2.1. General Information.

During the data collection as shown in **figure 11** below, there were more male respondents (63.6%) than female respondents (36.4%). In understanding social resilience, gender dynamics play a crucial role which social networks, and decision-making power within the community. It is a sensitive matter to be considered in strengthening social resilience in settlements.

During the data collection as shown in **figure 12**, the majority of respondents within the study area were in the younger age groups, with 38.2% falling in the range of 18-25 years and 32.7% falling in the 25-35 years category. This demographic skew towards the younger generation (18-35 years) at about 52% which shows that there is a great opportunity in the area to strengthen the community's social resilience.



**Fig. 11.** shows the percentage of the results from the gender



**Fig. 12.** Shows the percentage of results from different age ranges

Therefore, from the demographic data of the Rimba settlement concerning strengthening social resilience, gender dynamics play a crucial role in social networks, and decision-making power within the community. However, this demographic is skewed towards the younger generation (18-35 years) at about 72% which shows that there is a great opportunity in the area to strengthen the community's social resilience. With the help of architectural spaces like public spaces, pedestrian streets can strengthen social resilience within the community. Therefore, the creation of these spaces not only strengthens social resilience in Rimba village but also in other settlements in different parts of the world.

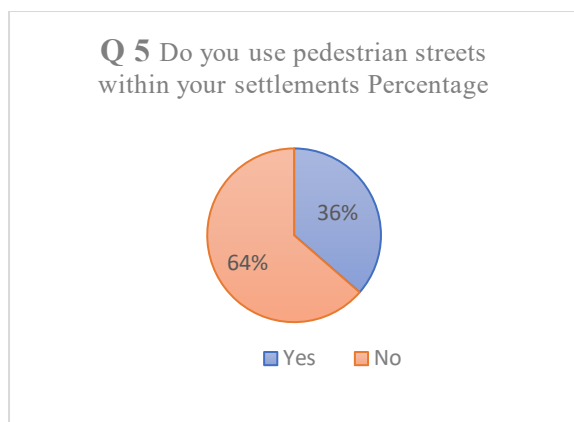
### 3.2.2. Pedestrian Street

As presented in **Figure 13** below, the majority of respondents (64%) reported not using pedestrian streets within the settlement. This could influence social resilience but at the same time, the 36% can boost socialization especially when we develop pedestrian streets as they contribute to communal spaces for interaction and fostering a sense of community.

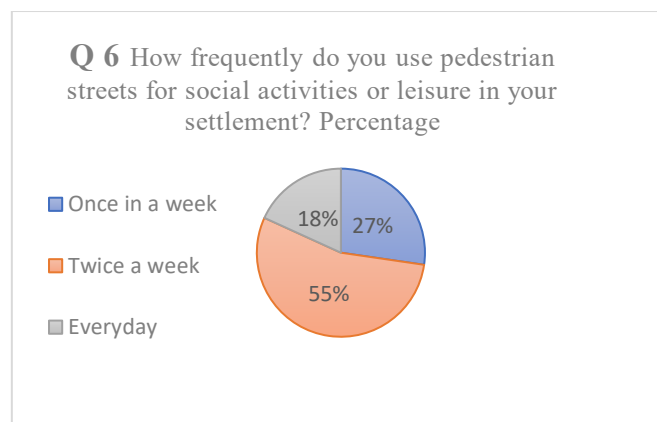
As in **Figure 14** below, the data shows that within 36% of pedestrian users, 55% use pedestrian streets twice a week for sports or leisure/social activities, this indicates that there is some level of engagement within such spaces despite the overall low usage. This shows that there is an opportunity especially when fully developed and introduced more other social activities, social resiliency in a settlement will be strengthened.

Referring to **Figure 15** below, Late evening (6 pm) was the most common time for using pedestrian streets, with 51% of respondents. This indicates that to strengthen social resilience in settlements, climate should also be considered. Therefore, the use of street lights/enough lighting alongside pedestrian streets is crucial to enhance social activities during the cooler evening hours.

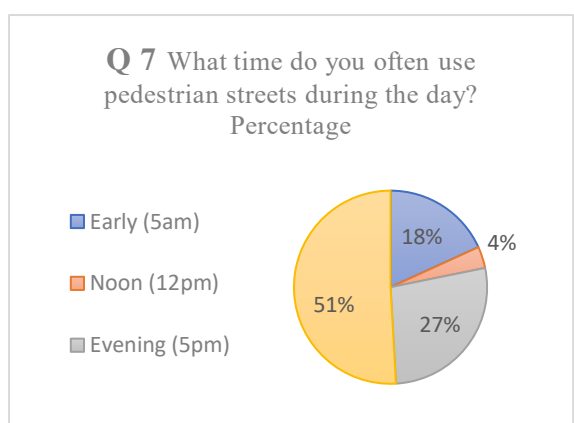
From the data collected as in **Figure 16** below, nearly half of the respondents (54%) felt that pedestrian streets contribute to a sense of community. This highlights a potential connection between the design or utilization of pedestrian streets which can be improved to strengthen socialization enhancing greater impact on community cohesion.



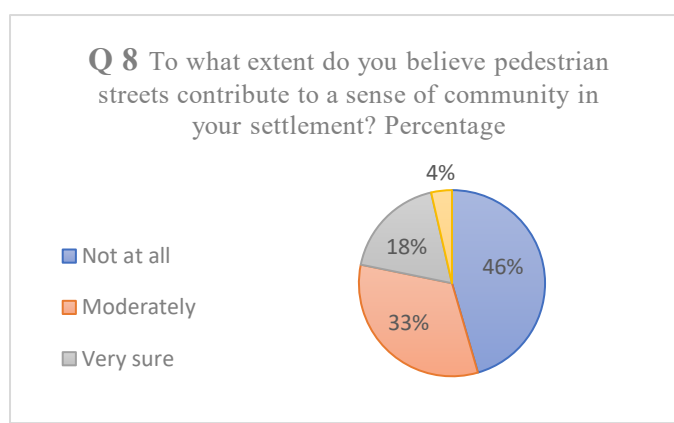
**Fig. 13.** Shows the percentage of the results from using pedestrian streets



**Fig. 14.** Shows the percentage of how frequently pedestrian streets are used

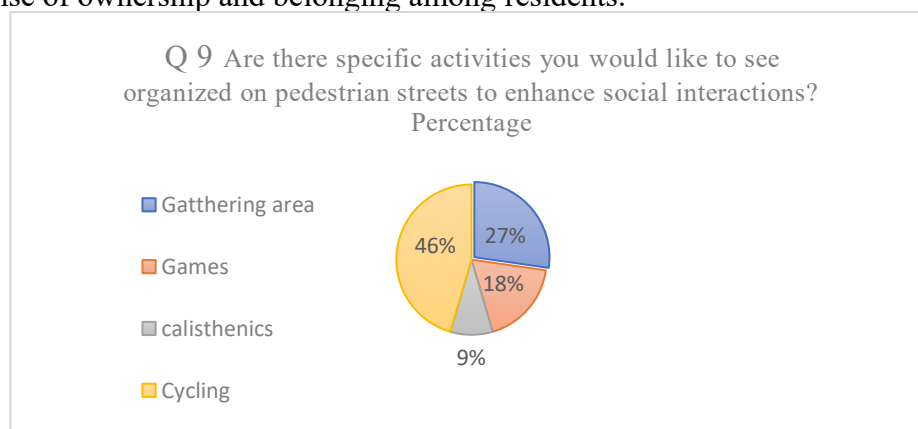


**Fig. 15.** Shows the percentage of time pedestrian streets are often used during the day



**Fig. 16.** Shows the contribution of the pedestrian streets

Therefore, from **Figure 17** below, the most desired activity on pedestrian streets was cycling, with 46% of respondents indicating interest. Gathering areas were also popular, suggesting a desire for communal spaces conducive to social interaction. Through all data on pedestrian streets, the result shows that there is a potential opportunity to enhance social resilience in the Rimba settlement by reimagining and activating pedestrian streets as communal spaces for social interaction and community building. This could involve initiatives such as organizing activities, improving safety measures, and fostering a sense of ownership and belonging among residents.



**Fig. 17.** Shows specific activities to be on pedestrian streets

### 3.2.3. Front yard

Front yards play a crucial role in shaping the architectural character of a neighbourhood and fostering social connections among residents. This was supported by data in **Figure 18** where the majority of respondents (64%) responded that they highly use their front yards for activities shown in **Figure 17** above. This shows that front yards are actively utilized within the community, which has the potential to encourage neighbourly interaction, support community events, and increase safety through the visibility and connectivity of neighbourhoods. By promoting inclusive design and environmental benefits, front yards play a crucial role in strengthening the social fabric and aesthetic quality of neighbourhoods.

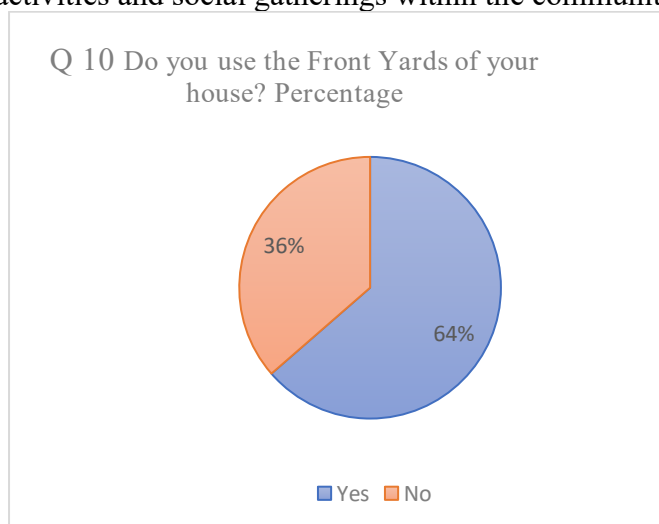
Relating to **Figure 19** as shown below, among those who use their front yards, the majority (51%) use them every day for social activities or leisure, while 40% use them twice a week for their social activities, like babysitting, and chatting. This indicates that front yards are frequently utilized for personal activities which does not include neighbours. This is an opportunity to develop a sense of neighbourhood through integrating services that bring the residents together like games, and common activities. Through these activities, social resilience will be strengthened in the settlements of Brunei.

However, as shown below in **figure 20**, late evening (6 pm) is the most common time for using front yards, with 51% of respondents. This preference for late evening usage shows that climate has to be considered in strengthening social resilience. Providing trees for shade and enough light during late hours is crucial in strengthening social activities.

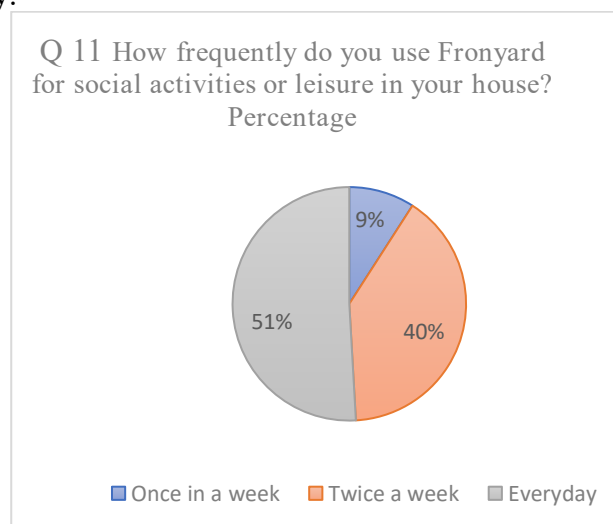
Relating to **Figure 21** below, the majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the design and aesthetics of their front yards, with 69% reporting being satisfied. This indicates that the physical aspects of front yards are generally appealing to residents. This brings a good picture of the whole neighbourhood as it increases the level of responsibility and sense of ownership which strengthens the togetherness fostering social connections among residents.

A significant portion of respondents as shown in **Figure 22** below, 36% reported sharing their front yards with neighbours. This sharing of communal spaces is an opportunity to contribute to neighbourly interactions and a sense of community within the settlement. Maintaining this will foster social connection among the residents enhancing social resilience within the settlements.

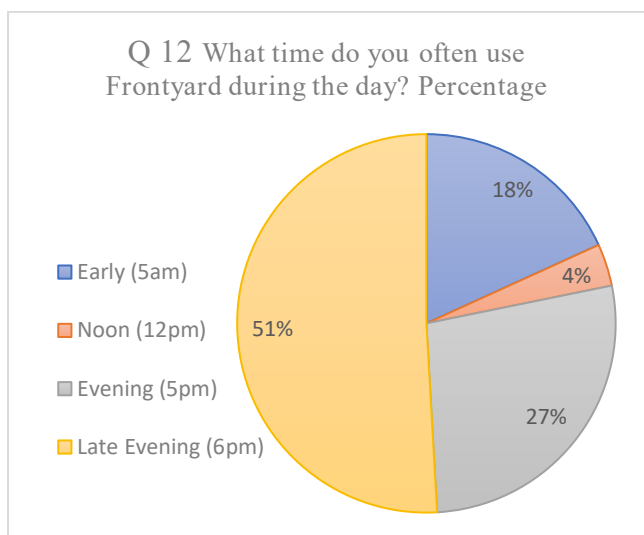
Referring to **Figure 23** below, Family play with 46% was the most common activity in front yards, followed by gatherings (27%). This suggests that front yards serve as spaces for family-oriented activities and social gatherings within the community.



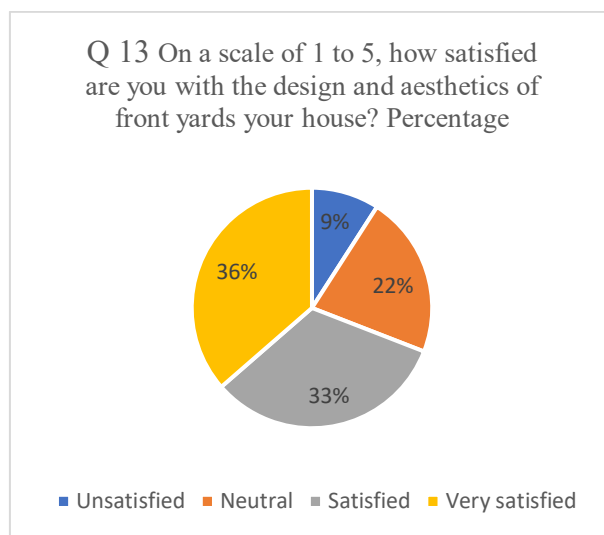
**Fig. 18.** Shows the percentage use of front yard



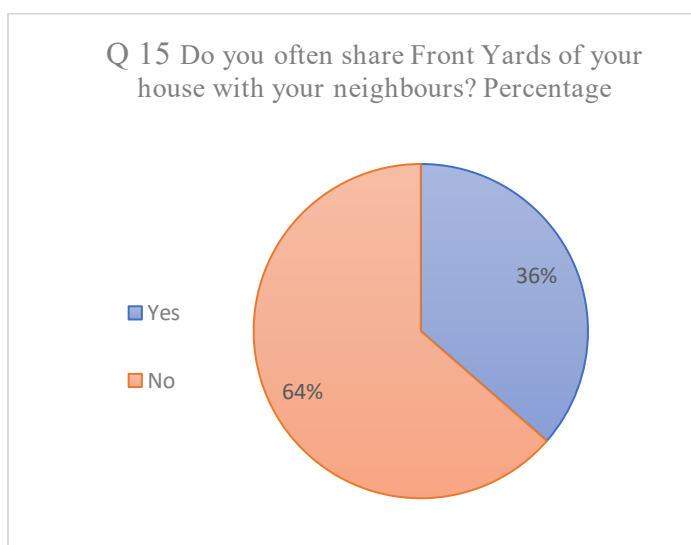
**Fig. 19.** Shows the percentage of how frequently front yards are used



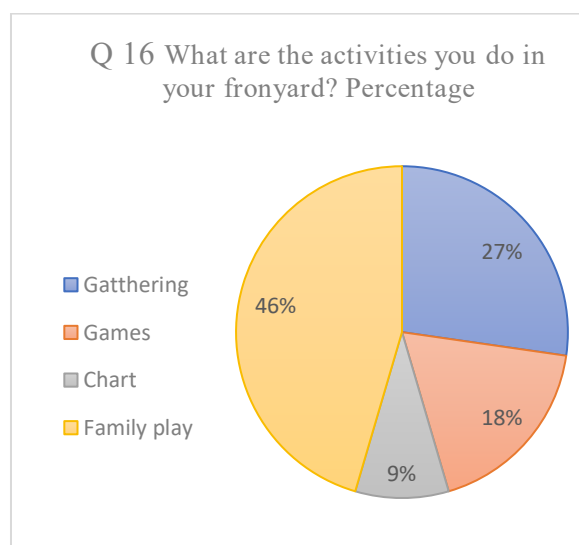
**Fig. 20.** Shows the percentage of time front yards are often being used within the day



**Fig. 21.** Shows the percentage of satisfaction of residents with the design and aesthetics of front yards



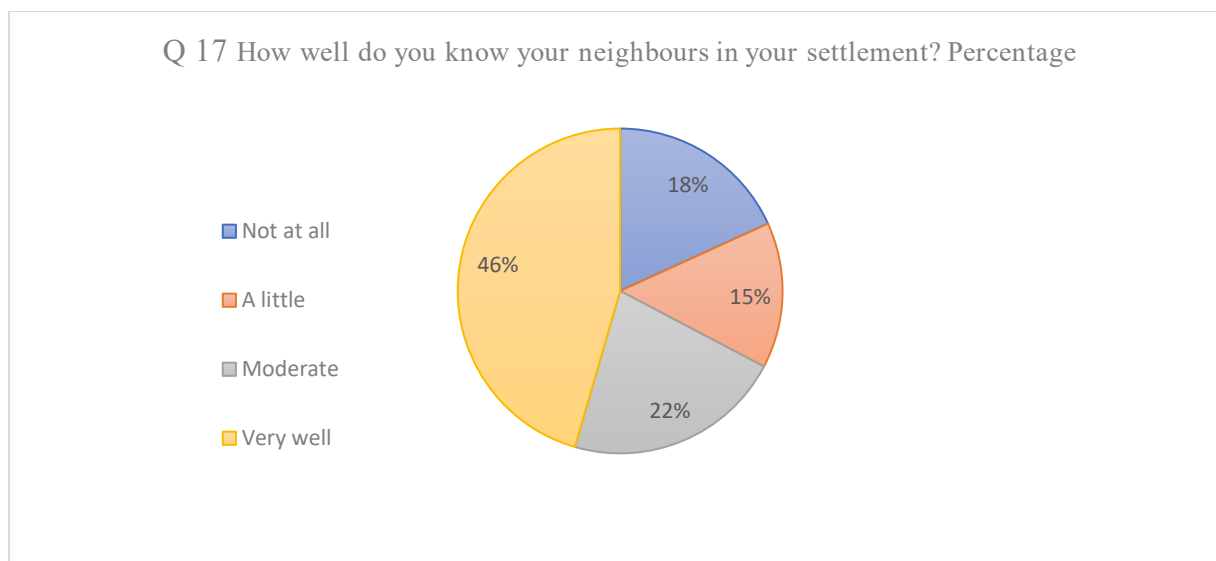
**Fig. 22.** Shows the percentage of how often share Front Yards with neighbours



**Fig. 23.** Shows the percentage of activities done in the front yard

As in **Figure 24** below, the majority of respondents (46%) reported knowing their neighbours very well, indicating a strong sense of community and social cohesion within the settlement. This could be facilitated by improving and providing more activities that foster interactions in communal spaces such as front yards. And this indicates that front yards play a significant role in fostering social resilience within the settlements. Through frequently used for social activities, often shared with neighbours contributes to a sense of community togetherness among residents.

Therefore, enhancing and maintaining these communal spaces strengthens social ties and resilience within the settlement.



**Fig. 24.** Shows the percentage of how well they know their neighbours

## 4. Conclusions

The demographic analysis of the Rimba settlement reveals a significant gender disparity, with a predominance of male respondents (63.6%) compared to female respondents (36.4%). This gender dynamic is crucial in understanding and enhancing social resilience, as it influences social networks and decision-making power within the community. However, the skew towards a younger population (52% aged 18-35) presents an opportunity to foster social resilience through targeted community engagement and development initiatives. Leveraging architectural spaces, such as public spaces and pedestrian streets, can further strengthen social cohesion and resilience within the community.

Pedestrian streets within the settlement are underutilized, with only 36% of respondents reporting regular use. Despite this, those who do use these spaces primarily engage in activities like sports or leisure, indicating a potential to foster social networks and engagements if these streets are developed and enhanced. The data that shows a high preference for using pedestrian streets during cooler evening hours highlights the importance of climate considerations, such as providing shade through planting more trees with adequate lighting alongside pedestrian streets, and safety measures to encourage usage. Therefore, reimagining and activating pedestrian streets as communal spaces in the community can foster social interaction and a sense of belonging, thereby enhancing social resilience within the settlements in Brunei or other areas with the same character.

In addition, Front yards play a pivotal role in shaping the neighbourhood's architectural character and fostering social connections. With 64% of respondents actively using their front yards, shows that front yards are integral to neighbourly interactions and events, contributing to safety through increased visibility. Satisfaction with the design and aesthetics of front yards, coupled with a high level of neighbourly interactions, underscores their potential to strengthen social ties and resilience within the settlement. By enhancing these communal spaces and promoting shared activities, the community can build stronger social connections and resilience.

### 4.1. Recommendations:

1. Develop targeted interventions based on demographic data: for better community development initiatives to meet the specific needs, strengths, and vulnerabilities, respective organs should consider differences in demographic groups within the settlement. However, one group can influence another in fostering social resilience.

2. Reimagine and activate pedestrian streets: Utilize pedestrian streets as communal spaces for social interaction and community building through organized community activities, improve safety measures, and foster a sense of ownership among residents to enhance social resilience.
3. Enhance front yards as communal spaces: Recognize the importance of front yards in fostering social cohesion and community engagement. Implement initiatives to enhance and maintain these spaces, facilitating social activities and interactions among neighbours. This can be done by providing policies that govern the developers.
4. Encourage community participation: Involve residents in decision-making processes regarding the development and maintenance of communal spaces. This fosters a sense of ownership and belonging among residents and helps to strengthen social ties and resilience within the settlements.

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