Department of Transport and Supply Chain Management

URBAN MOBILITY IN EMERGING MARKETS

Urban Mobility and Well–being (Area 2)

The area /subtopic "Urban Mobility and Well-being" is part of the research being undertaken under area 2 of the newly established research group "Urban Mobility in Emerging Markets" based in the Department of Transport and Supply Chain Management at the University of Johannesburg.

The interdisciplinary aspects of well-being, including physical and mental health as well as physical activity, are not well researched in many emerging markets such as South Africa. The present thesis/ dissertation will investigate the relationship between perceived walkability of urban environments and walking behaviour of older people with their physical activity, subjective well-being, and loneliness. The research questions that are to be answered are: (1) Are there any significant associations between perceived walkability and physical activity, subjective well-being, and loneliness of the elderly? (2) Are there any significant association between walkability of the urban environment and physical activity, subjective well-being, and loneliness of the elderly? and (3) Are there any differences between the levels of physical activity, subjective well-being, and loneliness of the elderly in compact, central, and walkable districts of Johannesburg and the sprawled and less walkable districts of the periphery of the city? To answer the above questions, a survey will be undertaken in two districts of Johannesburg with the above-mentioned characteristics. The overall sample consists of 600 subjects (respondents) almost equally divided in the two areas. The data collection is based on a standard questionnaire, which is distributed in a curtain point like a grocery store or a school, where a person like a shopkeeper asks people of more than 65 years of age to fill out the forms. The researcher can also be present and guide in collecting the data. The completed questionnaires will be collected occasionally and the survey is ended after the necessary number of questionnaires has been collected. The questions include personal and family traits, socioeconomics, perceptions about walkability of the neighbourhood, perceived health and loneliness, physical activity, sense of belonging to the neighbourhood, and the like. The data analysis will include hypothesis testing methods like Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Kruskal-Wallis Test, Chi-square test, and Proportional Reduction in Error (PRE) methods will be used to analyse the validated data. The analysis results will be compared with those of the high-income countries that have relatively similar research designs and methods. The results of the analysis and discussions will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

The Future Reimagined