Urban Built Environment and The Emergence of Working Women Alienation in Sudirman Central Business District, Jakarta

Lathiyfah S. Purnamasari[1]

[1]Architecture Department, University of Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia
lathiyfah.shanti11@ui.ac.id

Abstract

This paper examines the phenomenon of alienation among working women in urban spaces, focusing on Jakarta's Sudirman Central Business District (SCBD). The study aims to enhance understanding of how the built environment contributes to the alienation of working women and provides insights for urban design to create more human-friendly spaces. The commodification of urban spaces prioritizes economic interests, leading to environments that marginalize and alienate minority groups, including working women. The paper seeks to answer how the urban built environment in SCBD contributes to the alienation of working women. This paper explores the intersection of urban design and the social experiences of working women, an area that needs to be more researched in architectural studies. While previous studies have focused on social and literary approaches, this paper integrates architectural perspectives with social analysis to provide new insights. This qualitative study employs a theory-driven case study method. Data collection involves field observations and documentation of SCBD's built environment. Descriptive and exploratory analyses evaluate the built environment's physical characteristics contributing to alienation. The study identifies several factors contributing to alienation, including the intimidating scale of buildings, lack of public spaces, objectifying advertisements, and high-density conditions. Some design strategies to mitigate alienation include creating street furniture at a human scale and adding active security measures such as CCTV and lighting. The findings suggest that urban design must prioritize human needs over economic interests to reduce alienation. Further research, including interviews with working women, is meant to deepen understanding of the connection between psychological experiences and the built environment.

1. INTRODUCTION

With the expansion of capital and the advent of steam engine technology that sparked the Industrial Revolution, the city's role underwent a significant transformation. Originally intended to meet human needs, urban centers began to prioritize economic interests. This shift resulted in the creation of uniform and repetitive urban spaces [1]. These spaces were designed based on a paradigm that homogenizes the urban inhabitants, neglecting minorities, including working women. The city's economic function spurred urbanization, drawing people to work in urban areas. Previously confined to the domestic sphere, women entered the workforce and began to occupy public spaces in the city.

Lefebvre's theory of space analyzes its historical evolution and the capitalist transformation of urban space from "use value" to "exchange value," turning cities into commodified objects for profit. This dynamic prioritizes economic logic over human needs, excluding citizens from decision-making processes and highlighting space as a critical arena for power dynamics [2]. Cities that fail to consider human interests, particularly those of minority groups newly engaged in public roles, have led to the alienation of these groups. One such group that has been marginalized in urban development is women.

The role of women in urban spaces is a phenomenon that has been around for a while. Although the development of capitalism catalyzed the rise of the women workforce in urban areas, women have long utilized urban spaces in their daily lives, primarily for domestic tasks such as shopping, child-rearing, and fulfilling other household needs. Their presence in public spaces became more pronounced as they assumed public roles by joining the workforce. Despite this, women's roles in urban spaces remain primarily ignored, especially in urban planning policy-making [3].

The commodification of space leads to the alienation of human labor, transforming it into objectified, estranged activity that disrupts communal relationships and results in an individualized existence detached from its natural and social essence [4]. The urban built environment is designed efficiently to achieve productivity, as measured by economic growth and its contribution to the city's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As one of the cities with the most significant economic growth in Southeast Asia and the economic hub of Indonesia, Jakarta's urban spaces are constructed with a focus on capital interests, resulting in uniform and repetitive urban areas.

This paper contributes to the study of the alienation of working women in urban spaces. This paper aims to enhance understanding of the phenomenon of alienation among working women in urban spaces, providing not only scientific contributions but also valuable insights for policymakers in planning and designing urban spaces

that consider the human elements of its inhabitants, thereby preventing alienation. The urban inhabitants, who have contributed significantly to building the city's economy, deserve a city that acknowledges and humanizes them.

Alienation is a concept that has evolved alongside the development of capitalism [5] and has been extensively studied. Previous research has established a foundational knowledge base, indicating that alienation encompasses subjective feelings of powerlessness, meaninglessness, isolation, self-estrangement, and normlessness [6]. The causes of alienation are subjective and objectively influenced by material conditions [7]. The development of urban spaces, driven by economic objectives, inevitably leads to environments that alienate their inhabitants. This alienation can cause women to withdraw from society [8].

The existing literature demonstrates that alienation has been thoroughly explored, particularly within urban contexts. Design, technology, and housing access considerations have emerged as distinct issues in the architectural field. This paper will focus on urban spaces at a regional scale, examining how individuals interact directly with their built environment. The focus on women is chosen because previous studies on women's alienation in urban environments have predominantly utilized social and literary approaches. In contrast, architectural approaches that consider the social aspects of urban communities, mainly working women and their interactions with urban spaces, still need improvement. Therefore, it is necessary to explore this phenomenon within the architectural and urban design context, particularly in the context of major cities in Indonesia, to contribute new insights to architectural knowledge more sensitive to social and humanitarian issues.

In this study, I will evaluate the Sudirman Central Business District (SCBD) using qualitative criteria for the built environment that may enforce alienation for those who engage in activities within it. It is important to note that the scope of this study is to evaluate the physical characteristics of the environment. This study is expected to provide input for relevant stakeholders to consider the development of areas that can create a more human-friendly built environment.

## 2.	LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1	ALIENATION

Kinship Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel and Karl Marx are two crucial figures in philosophy whose ideas about alienation had a significant influence. However, they had fundamental differences in their philosophical framework and ultimate goals. Hegel's [9] perspective is rooted in German Idealism, which emphasizes the development of self-awareness and the disclosure of the Spirit (Geist) through history. Hegel saw alienation in two opposing meanings: first, as an adverse condition in which the individual feels alienated from his environment, and second, as a necessary stage in self-creation and discovery. According to Hegel, this alienation can be overcome by consciously releasing the desire to join the community to achieve a higher goal, namely unity with the social substance. In Hegel's view, history is a rational process in which the soul comes to know itself through dialectical movement and resolves contradictions. It reaches a higher level of self-awareness and freedom.

In contrast, although influenced by Hegel, Karl Marx rejected his idealism and adopted historical materialism. Marx focused on the material conditions of life and socio-economic structures that shape human existence. According to Marx, alienation is caused by forced labor under modes of production based on private property [10], which translates into urban contexts as the exploitation of workers in

city environments where labor is commodified and workers are detached from the products of their labor. In cities, this alienation manifests in the physical and social structures, where individuals often feel disconnected from the community and their work, contributing to the broader sense of isolation and disenfranchisement in urban life.

Marx identified four types of alienation: from the work product, from the work process, from others, and from oneself [11]. This alienation is a direct consequence of the capitalist mode of production in which workers are separated from the fruits of their labor and their human potential. For Marx, overcoming alienation required a revolutionary transformation in society. He advocated the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of a classless society in which humans could fully realize their potential and achieve true freedom.

### 2.2	ALIENATION AND URBAN BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Contemporary capitalism directly intervenes in the constitution of urban life, as fundamental institutions such as housing, transportation, food, and recreation have been thoroughly commodified and even financialized. Urban space becomes a domain for the duality of capitalism, encompassing both universality and homogeneity [12]. Urban space is closely linked to the production of economic value, functioning as a tool of production, an object of consumption, and a political instrument through which the state consolidates political control and social class hierarchies. This space also exhibits fragmentation through the hierarchy between the center and the periphery in the organization of urban areas. The centralization of control within "landscapes of power" coincides with the displacement of marginalized social classes to peripheral "ghettos," leading to segregation and disintegration within the urban social order. Furthermore, urban space is rationalized, homogenized, and planned to serve economic enterprises, coordinate commodity circuits, and compel people to live separated and alienated daily lives.

The improvement of urban infrastructure conditions often correlates linearly with skyrocketing land prices. The availability of good infrastructure is expected to increase land value in targeted areas [13]. This condition makes it difficult for most people to access land ownership in city centers, increasing landlessness and alienation among urban residents [14].

Other non-physical aspects, such as social and political conditions, exacerbate economic conditions that alienate urban residents. The nature of social relationships in large cities, characterized by competition, individualism, and market-oriented values [15][16], fosters interpersonal distance and consequently leads to alienation. This social estrangement emerges as a self-defense mechanism against competitive urban life and for functional reasons [17].

Politically, the top-down production of space tends to generate alienation, in stark contrast to the organic production of space initiated by the community from their daily lives, which is not driven by marketization, privatization, and commercialization [18]. Both the physical and non-physical aspects of the city are inherently public. These aspects of the city, which constitute the public domain, demonstrate that every facet within the public domain in urban spaces is not immune to alienation and awkwardness [19].

### 2.3	WORKING WOMEN AND ALIENATION

Contemporary capitalism directly intervenes in the constitution Women's participation in public spaces is essential in political, social, and cultural contexts; it is vital for individual and societal

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growth [20]. The current condition of the built environment in urban spaces also contributes to the alienation of working women in urban spaces. Urban spaces filled with incentives for women to look more sexy, beautiful, and obedient in commercial advertising are one factor that encourages this. In addition, the massive size and number of buildings in the urban space, unfriendly building shapes and lighting, and reflective and hard building surfaces collide with round, vulnerable, and smooth human forms. The isolation of humans from nature and each other and the conditions of urban space that encourage competition instead of building community also contribute to alienation in urban space [21].

The impression that the public sphere is the domain of men while women are identified with the domestic sphere also contributes to this, not to mention the fear of women in public spaces in the form of dark corners, hidden rooms, limited access to exits, to signs of neglect, and the lack of social control that is still felt today [22]. Women are disproportionately burdened by domestic and childrearing responsibilities even when [23]. The need for safety, security, children's playground, and comfort are essential things that must be considered in designing public spaces for women [24].

Several other studies explain how women are more likely to change their behavior in public spaces than men to avoid crime risk. This phenomenon directly impacts their activities in public spaces, such as leaving early, not going out alone at night, or choosing crowded places with bright lighting. Women are more aware of several crimes and locations, including public transportation [25]. This fear, coupled with other factors such as dark roads, unsafe environments, and areas with dense vegetation that obstruct the view, are the main contributory factors that influence how women perceive and use urban space [24].
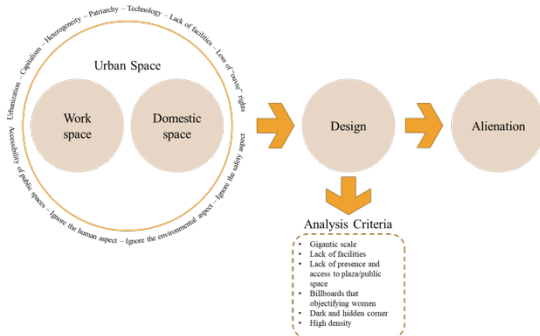

Fig. 1 The result of literature review
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

3. METHOD

The research paradigm adopted in this paper is constructivism, which posits knowledge as a socially constructed entity formed through continuous interactions and exchanges between individuals and their environments. Constructivism emphasizes the importance of social discourse in understanding worldviews, subjective meanings, and individual perspectives within specific social contexts [26]. This qualitative research, grounded in constructivism, constructs knowledge by employing the lens of urban design and aims to contribute to this field by synthesizing insights gathered from literature studies with findings derived from real-world case studies.

In this context, case studies serve as a critical tool for enriching the literature review with empirical observations. The specific case study approach used in this research is a theory-driven case study. This method is characterized by its focus on testing, developing, or exploring theoretical frameworks through the detailed examination

and analysis of processes within a particular case [27]. A theory-driven case study aims to validate existing theories, scrutinize their underlying assumptions, or generate novel theoretical insights that advance the field. This approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of urban design concepts as they manifest in real-world settings, ultimately enhancing the depth and applicability of the theoretical knowledge developed in this study.

3.1 DATA COLLECTION

This research employs the SCBD as a case study due to its prominence as a significant economic hub in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia. As one of Jakarta's most developed business districts, SCBD offers a highly relevant context for examining urban design issues and working women's experiences. The selection of this area is expected to yield valuable insights that contribute meaningfully to the study's objectives.

The data collection methods used in this study encompass field observation and documentation, aiming to juxtapose findings from the literature with empirical data from the case study. The field observations focus on various elements of the urban environment, such as pathways, edges, districts, nodes, and landmarks, following established urban design frameworks [28]. These elements are observed to understand how they influence the spatial experiences of individuals, mainly working women, in the SCBD area.

3.2 DATA ANALYSIS

This research uses both descriptive and exploratory data analysis techniques. The descriptive analysis provides a comprehensive and detailed examination of the built environment phenomena that possess physical characteristics that contribute to the potential alienation of working women in the SCBD. It systematically categorizes field observations based on features of the built environment identified as alienating in the literature review.

Each category is then analyzed by simulating user behavior within the site to understand better how these physical characteristics impact the experiences of individuals in the area. This approach allows for a nuanced understanding of how built environment features can contribute to feelings of alienation. In addition to descriptive analysis, exploratory analysis is applied to investigate and identify issues that may be relevant for further research [29]. This method enables the study to delve into emerging patterns and potential areas of concern, thereby contributing to the development of future research agendas and expanding the theoretical understanding of the relationship between urban design and the experiences of working women.
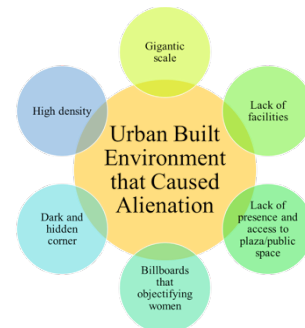

Fig. 2 Analysis Category
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

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This research focuses on Jakarta's Special Capital Region (DKI), specifically its business centers, where many working women are actively engaged in professional activities. The case study is located in the city's core, dominated by trade and service sectors that drive Jakarta's economic growth. The selected site, the Sudirman Central Business District (SCBD), has undergone significant transformation since its establishment in 1987. Originally a slum area, it was later developed into an integrated commercial zone. The master plan preparation occurred from 1987 to 1992, with infrastructure development between 1992 and 1993. The Artha Graha building, completed in 1995, was the first office building constructed in SCBD. It was followed by the development of other vital structures, such as the Indonesia Stock Exchange Building and the Kusuma Chandra Apartment, which was completed in 1998.

The SCBD was chosen as the locus of this study due to its status as a significant business area featuring a mixed-use, integrated development concept situated within Jakarta's "golden triangle," the city's primary economic hub. Covering an area of 45 hectares, the SCBD comprises 25 lots, with approximately 13 hectares (28%) allocated for roads and landscapes [30]. Despite its well-planned infrastructure and modern skyscrapers, the SCBD continues to face challenges that impact the alienation experienced by working women, particularly regarding providing comfortable facilities and access to open spaces [31].

4.1. GIGANTIC SCALE

The SCBD is characterized by high-rise and long-span buildings, as depicted in Figure 3, resulting in a stark contrast between the human scale and the surrounding built environment. This contrast often leads to disconnection and alienation, particularly for individuals who navigate this space daily. The scale of human experiences within this area can be understood through several categories:
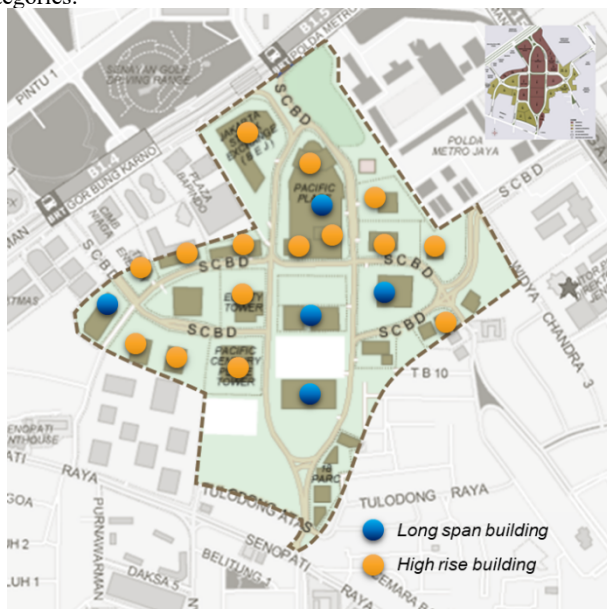

Fig. 4 High Rise and Long Span Buildings
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

Fig. 4 Contrast of human and high rise buildings
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

1) Pedestrians Experiencing Extreme Contrast with Surrounding Buildings

Pedestrians walking along pathways that lack direct access to buildings often experience the full impact of the contrast between themselves and the towering structures around them. This overwhelming juxtaposition creates a psychological experience in which individuals feel diminished by the sheer scale of their environment. For workers, especially women, this experience can be intensified by the pressure of their professional responsibilities, and the feeling of being dwarfed by their surroundings can evoke a sense of insignificance or powerlessness.

2) Urban Design Solutions Addressing Human Scale in Pedestrian Pathways

Despite the predominance of high-rise buildings, aspects of the SCBD have been thoughtfully designed to incorporate more human-scale elements, particularly in areas such as bus stops or pedestrian pathways. In these locations, urban design strategies aim to minimize direct visual interaction between pedestrians and the larger built environment, helping to reduce the overwhelming impact of the high-rise structures.

One effective method is integrating street furniture, which breaks up visual access to the expansive architectural forms. These elements include natural canopies, trees, and artificial structures, providing shelter and creating a more proportionate sense of pedestrian space. These features encourage individuals to focus on elements at their eye level rather than being overwhelmed by the towering heights of the surrounding buildings.

Additionally, constructing walls, fences, and planters designed to align with human dimensions is crucial in enhancing the pedestrian experience. These features act as visual and physical buffers, softening the contrast between individuals and the large-scale architectural environment. This approach creates a more inviting, comfortable, and inclusive pedestrian environment, reducing feelings of detachment and alienation.

By implementing such human-scale design principles, urban planners foster a sense of belonging and connectivity within the SCBD. This approach underscores the importance of considering the psychological and emotional well-being of individuals who work and move within this densely built office district. By mitigating the impact of the area's intimidating scale, these design interventions help to create a more balanced and harmonious urban experience, enhancing the overall quality of life for working women and others who navigate these spaces.

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Fig. 7 Pedestrian ways that has been designed to experience a more human scale
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

The SCBD represents a complex interplay between urban design, economic growth, and working women's experiences. The contrast between the human scale and the built environment, coupled with the challenges of a patriarchal work culture, contributes to feelings of alienation among women in this business district. However, by incorporating thoughtful design elements that prioritize human scale, there is potential to create more inclusive, supportive, and engaging spaces that promote a sense of belonging and reduce the alienation experienced by working women in this high-density urban area.

4.2 LACK OF FACILITIES

SCBD offers a comprehensive range of facilities to support the diverse needs of its workers. The pedestrian walkways, for example, are equipped with surveillance cameras, which significantly enhance the sense of security for pedestrians, particularly for women who may need to work late into the evening. These cameras serve as a deterrent against potential criminal activities, fostering a sense of safety for women returning home at night. Such surveillance reduces the potential for alienation, as it creates an environment where individuals feel protected and less vulnerable to harm, mitigating the risks associated with walking alone in urban spaces after dark.

As more women enter the formal workforce, including those employed in the SCBD, the demand for facilities that cater to their specific needs becomes increasingly apparent. One such essential facility is daycare, which is crucial for working mothers with young children. Despite holding similar professional responsibilities as their male counterparts, women often bear a disproportionate share of childcare duties, making access to reliable daycare services imperative for balancing work and family obligations.

Four daycare centers are available within the SCBD area, providing a valuable resource for women who have established their careers and earn sufficient income to afford these services. However, for women who are in the early stages of their careers and receive lower wages, the cost of daycare becomes a significant barrier, making it less accessible. This disparity highlights the ongoing challenges faced by women in achieving work-life balance and underscores the need for more affordable childcare options.

The availability of daycare facilities is not just a matter of convenience but a critical factor in supporting the participation of women in the formal workforce. Without accessible and affordable childcare, women often choose between their professional aspirations and familial responsibilities. Therefore, while the existing facilities in the SCBD represent a step toward accommodating the needs of working women, there remains a pressing need for more inclusive and economically accessible solutions. Addressing this gap would not only support gender equity in the workplace but also contribute to

reducing the alienation experienced by working mothers, allowing them to engage more fully in their professional and personal lives.

4.3 LACK OF PRESENCE AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACE

Human comfort levels are essential to maintain, significantly to reduce the potential of alienation for women workers. One thing is to make people spend more time outside, which can lead to mental well-being [34]. This principle still needs to be found in the area due to the need for more public space outside the building blocks that the public can access.

The open space available in the area is in blocks within the scope of each lot, so it can only be enjoyed by people who work on the building lot. Public space that the public can access is located in the ASHTA District 8 building block, which is a shopping center. It is Stanley & Barnwell's [21] view that the city, including the streetscape, is designed to be a place for buying and selling; even when it is not, humans are the commodity. The provision of public space that only exists in shopping centers encourages public space users to enter shopping centers and consume goods that are not needed but are made and encouraged to be desired.

An urban design that encourages consumerism like this can provide purpose for some people, especially among women who became the main target of ads to shop as part of self-actualization. However, on the other hand, it also eliminates the side of human individuality because these consumerist impulses make a heterogeneous society into a heterogeneous society. They have similar desires and ways of self-actualization.

As a result, pedestrian ways are used as places for gathering, smoking, and sitting. This smoking activity, which men generally carry out, can discourage women who are generally more resistant to cigarette smoke from entering the building than from being active in open public spaces. Figure 8 shows that the space in pedestrian ways is mainly occupied by men, with only one woman present, without interacting with other people.

The limited availability of open spaces conducive to socialization for workers in the SCBD has led to increased use of pedestrian pathways as alternative sites for interaction outside formal workspaces. These pedestrian ways, characterized by their linear structure, shape the patterns of interaction among workers in specific ways.
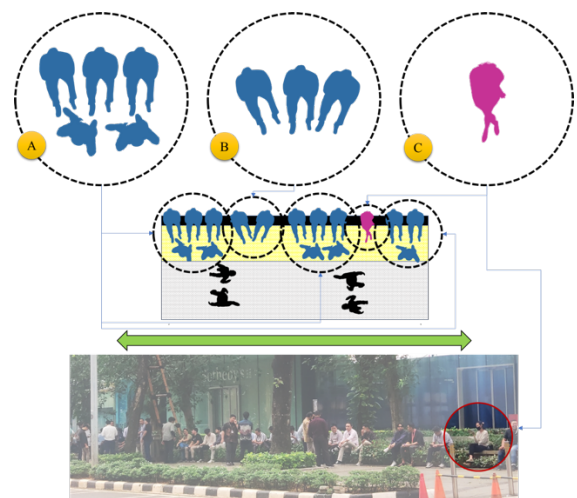

Fig. 8 The Pedestrian Ways, Occupied by Workers
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

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Many workers utilize the pedestrian boundaries—spaces not initially designed for seating—as makeshift areas for social engagement. The interaction patterns formed in these spaces can be categorized into three distinct types, as illustrated in Figure 8. Pattern A occurs when the number of individuals is relatively large. Due to the limited space and linear arrangement, people are often compelled to stand and face each other to facilitate interaction. This positioning is necessary because a strictly linear arrangement would hinder effective communication, making it difficult to hear clearly and observe non-verbal cues such as gestures.

Pattern B is observed when fewer people are present. In such instances, individuals can sit closer together, often at slight angles, allowing for more transparent communication and more direct interaction. This arrangement facilitates both verbal and nonverbal exchanges more effectively. Finally, Pattern C typically involves an individual sitting alone, not engaging with others around them. This pattern is most commonly observed among working women, suggesting gender-specific dynamics in how these spaces are utilized for socialization.

These interaction patterns reveal the complexities of how workers adapt to urban spaces' limitations and the gendered nuances present in these adaptations. The findings highlight the need for more thoughtfully designed urban spaces that accommodate the social needs of workers in high-density business districts.

SCBD, as a prominent office area, needs more design considerations to facilitate social interactions in public spaces. This limitation is evident in the experiences of working women who are often left with no appropriate seating options, as illustrated in Figure 9. In the figure, a woman is seen standing while conversing. At the same time, her colleagues resort to sitting on road barriers or squatting along the pedestrian pathway, adjusting to the available conditions.

Fig. 9 A Woman Stands at the Pedestrian Ways to Chat with Her Coworkers
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

This lack of comfort and accessibility often discourages women from engaging in public interactions, contributing to the rarity of women conversing in open spaces. Although many women are visible on the streets during lunch breaks, their use of these public spaces is mainly limited to passing through on their way to lunch. They rarely linger or engage in social activities, which underscores how the environment fails to support their social needs.

Consequently, the primary function of pedestrian pathways within the SCBD is reduced to merely serving as transit routes, facilitating workers' movement to and from offices, and ultimately supporting economic productivity. It emphasizes the need for more inclusive urban planning that considers the social dimensions of public spaces, ensuring they cater to the diverse needs of all workers, including women.

4.4 BILLBOARDS THAT OBJECTIFYING WOMEN

In the SCBD, videotrons display footage that, while not explicitly objectifying women, features a significantly higher number of female models compared to male models. These women are portrayed with striking uniformity in body shape, skin color, clothing, and makeup, establishing a narrowly defined standard of beauty. This visual uniformity often leads women who encounter these images to internalize these representations as the ideal beauty standard they must strive to achieve.

The majority of the models showcased are not representative of Indonesia's ethnic diversity; they are predominantly white or East Asian, such as Korean women, perpetuating the dominance of fair skin as the prevailing beauty ideal. This trend disregards the fact that most Indonesians have naturally brown skin, reinforcing unrealistic and exclusionary beauty norms.

Such standards profoundly impact women's self-perception, often resulting in a loss of individuality and a sense of disconnection from their authentic selves. This phenomenon reflects Marx's concept of "alienation," where individuals become estranged from their true nature due to external pressures and expectations. The continuous reinforcement of unattainable beauty ideals through these videos trans not only undermines women's self-worth but also drives them to consume products that promise to help them conform to these standards.

Fig. 10 Videotrons That Echoing Impossible Beauty Standards
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

This dynamic highlights how the videotron's visual space functions as a commercial platform, compelling women to participate in consumer culture to meet these arbitrary ideals. It exemplifies how capitalism occupies public spaces, transforming them into commercial zones geared towards economic growth. This convergence of capitalism and patriarchy exploits women's insecurities and perpetuates internalized beauty standards, ultimately benefiting from the commodification of female bodies. It underscores how these systems work together to sustain economic interests at the expense of women's autonomy and individuality.

4.5 DARK AND HIDDEN CORNER

Street lighting distribution along pedestrian pathways in the SCBD could be more balanced, with some areas receiving adequate illumination. In contrast, others, especially those less frequented, still

need to be better lit. In certain sections, the lighting primarily comes from adjacent buildings, which must be improved to ensure pedestrian safety, particularly for those on foot. Adequate lighting is generally found along major roads, commercial zones, and parks. At the same time, the pedestrian area on the north side of the SCBD, especially the underground access route leading to the SCBD buildings, needs more lighting, as illustrated in the accompanying image.

Adequate lighting is critical in enhancing safety for women who walk alone at night. Well-lit areas increase visibility, allowing women to be seen by others from a greater distance, which in turn deters potential criminal activity. Enhanced visibility also means that women can more easily attract attention and seek assistance in any danger, reducing the risk of harm.

Moreover, during certain hours that are not too late, when pedestrian traffic is still relatively high, women tend to feel more secure walking along these pathways, even if the lighting is insufficient. The presence of other people provides a sense of shared safety and mitigates the fear of walking in less illuminated areas.
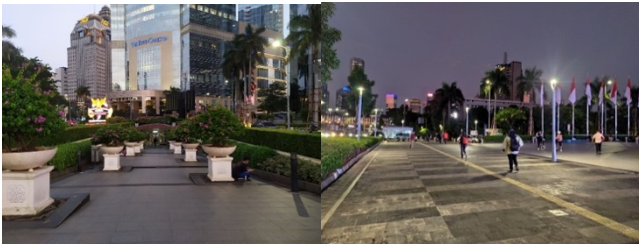

Fig. 11 Lighting in the Area at Night
Source: Purnamasari, 2024

The correlation between lighting and women's safety in urban spaces is well-documented [35], with adequate lighting being a fundamental aspect of urban design that fosters a sense of security and autonomy. Inadequate lighting, on the other hand, often contributes to feelings of vulnerability and restricts women's freedom to move freely within the city, particularly during nighttime. Therefore, the lighting conditions in the SCBD's pedestrian pathways impact the practical aspects of safety and have broader implications for women's ability to fully access and engage with urban spaces. Ensuring sufficient and evenly distributed lighting is essential for creating an inclusive urban environment that supports the safety and mobility of all individuals, especially working women.

4.6 HIGH DENSITY

The SCBD is characterized by a high density of buildings, a direct result of its strategic location in Jakarta's city center and the substantial economic value of the land. Most structures within this area are high-rise buildings to maximize the return on investment. Despite the density, there are still regulated spaces between buildings, adhering to strict urban planning guidelines. These regulations ensure that aspects such as lighting, ventilation, and overall building health are maintained, preventing the potential negative impacts of overcrowded construction.

However, this density also translates into a high concentration of individuals working and commuting within the area. During peak hours, mainly when workers arrive in the morning and depart in the evening, the roads become severely congested. This congestion is not limited to vehicular traffic. However, it extends to public transportation stops, where workers must queue for extended periods before securing a place on public transportation. This daily

experience can be incredibly challenging for residents far from the SCBD, resulting in long, uncomfortable commutes.

The repeated exposure to such high-density conditions has profound implications for workers, contributing to a sense of alienation and detachment. Drawing from Marx's theory of alienation, this experience of commuting in densely packed, often chaotic environments can exacerbate feelings of powerlessness and frustration. Workers become disconnected from their sense of well-being as they endure prolonged periods in transit, subject to conditions that are largely beyond their control. This daily struggle not only leads to physical fatigue but also contributes to psychological exhaustion, reducing the overall quality of life and job satisfaction.

Moreover, the high density within office districts like the SCBD intensifies the pressure to maintain productivity and efficiency, often at the expense of workers' mental and physical health. Constantly exposing crowded spaces can diminish individuality, fostering an environment where people feel like mere cogs in an economic machine. It can exacerbate isolation and alienation, as workers cannot decompress, reflect, or engage meaningfully with their surroundings

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the field data obtained from the six categories used to analyze the built environment conditions in the Sudirman Central Business District (SCBD), there is evident potential for alienation among working women, which often manifests in subtle and less visible aspects of the environment. Due to its understated nature, this potential for alienation tends to be lower in intensity. It is significantly influenced by work-related pressures that can be projected into feelings of powerlessness when interacting with the built environment. The process of alienation experienced by workers in the SCBD is likely to occur gradually over time, resulting from the cumulative interactions between working women and the built environment in which they operate.

The SCBD management has implemented several strategies that indirectly address the potential for worker alienation. These include creating pedestrian pathways designed on a more human scale, providing adequate lighting to reduce fear and a sense of powerlessness among working women who navigate the area at night, and offering facilities such as daycare to support working mothers. These efforts contribute to making the built environment more accommodating and responsive to the needs of working women.

However, despite these interventions, the overriding interests of capital continue to take precedence in the area's development. It is evident in constructing large-scale, high-density buildings to maximize land value and the limited access to open public spaces. It leads to isolation and encourages workers to socialize primarily in commercial areas. Furthermore, advertisements within the SCBD often promote unattainable beauty standards, perpetuating consumerist ideals that further alienate women. These elements highlight how economic imperatives often overshadow the social and psychological well-being of the individuals who inhabit these spaces. The relationship between the built environment's physical elements and urban communities' economic and social dimensions is intrinsically linked [36]. Spaces driven by capitalist values, which inherently encourage consumerism, are fundamentally intertwined with the alienation experienced by working women. While efforts have been made to design areas that consider user convenience, it is

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clear that when user needs conflict with the demands of capital, the latter invariably takes precedence.

Future research should delve deeper into working women's lived experiences within the SCBD to gain a more comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon. It can be achieved by conducting interviews to explore their social and psychological relationships with the built environment, thereby providing richer insights into how these spaces influence their sense of identity, empowerment, and alienation. By examining these nuanced interactions, researchers can better understand how urban design and economic imperatives intersect to shape the experiences of working women in dense, capital-driven environments like the SCBD.

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