ABSTRACT

Incidental landscapes that are perceived on the movement from one destination to other, referred as ‘traversed landscape’ (Collin Price, 1978) on a designated path or a ‘vista; have significance to the total landscape experiences. These traversed landscapes observed along a vista are preferred and valued by all, as travellers in some point of time. These values are derived and measured either from the inherent physical component or the perceptual components of the total landscape on the one side or measured as a composite components presented in certain way in the landscape that defines its ‘landscape character type’, the other side. Thus the preferences of the landscape component, and the composite characteristic landscape type, by the road travelers, form the essential basis of the current study.

This study constitutes three parts, one the road travellers includes tourists and commuters as observers of the landscape, two the observed landscape as components and character types, and three, the rating and ranking as responses to the observed landscape. To examine the above six landscape vistas are identified, within a tourist circuit, as a case. It is situated in 3 highways (NH 4, SH 58 and ECR) liking six important urban and tourist centres (Chennai city centre, Porur, Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Mamallapuram.) in Chennai Region of Tamil Nadu, a southern State of India located at 13.04°N 80.17°E and they are referred as
Vista 1, Vista 2 up to Vista 6 respectively. Chennai, is the fourth largest city in India, an urban center with the tourism importance, Porur and Sriperumbudur are the centers of historical and religious significance, Kancheepuram: a popular temple town and an important urban center as well, Chengalpattu town is significant for trade activities, and Mamallapuram is one of the 28 Indian world heritage site listed under UNESCO. So, the roads linking these six centers forms the six landscape vistas for study.

The conceptual framework inspired in line with the transactional concept (Zube 1987) and ‘component approach’ to landscape assessment and ‘Characterization’ of vista landscapes on the basis of few criteria stipulated by earlier research. In this study, ‘characterization’ of the vistas are decided by presence or absence of any of the four universally acclaimed physical landscape components (such vegetation, landform, water and builtform). The above four and two more perceptual components (Civic and spatial) constituted landscape components at primary level and referred as ‘primary landscape component’. In the secondary level site specific locally observed component referred as ‘secondary landscape component’ are derived from the existing landuse and Field recognizance survey. Further, the landscape components are examined on the basis of its composition as percentage area, frequency and perimeter of individual components within each landscape vista as well.

Respondents are road travellers, who are selected applying simple random sampling technique with photo-questionnaire consisting of questionnaire and two pre-sorted scene samples (photographs) collected from
visual inventory of the study vista, one for the four physical components identified from all vistas and other for individual vistas description. Responses as simple rank order and five point Likert scales rating for the landscape items and socio-demographic profile such as gender, age, education etc. and its associated factors like ‘familiarity’, ‘long time place associated’, any ‘prior knowledge about landscape’ are collected as well. The response data are analysed applying Descriptive and Correlation statistical methods using SPSS. The total travellers respondents (\( \Sigma N=330 \)) are majorly Indian tourist part of them from other regions/state and rest from within Tamilnadu region. Day-to-day travellers are daily commuters who travel to the other destination (within the study corridor) for work, study or for business purpose. 2/3\(^{rd} \) are male (70\%) and 1/3\(^{rd} \) female respondents (30\%), Half of the tourist belong to the age group between 19-34 yrs (A2, A3) and rest of them belong to other age groups (A1, A4, A5, A6) in the range of 9-17% Majority of the Respondents are from the first two categories (Travelers’ within Tamil Nadu Region, Travelers’ from other regions/states)

The number of interviewed travelers increasing up to monthly household income of Rs.30,000 to Rs. 40,000, and then it is decreasing along with increase in monthly income. About three-fifth (57.40 percent) of the total travelers are married, and the rest of them are unmarried. Of the total national tourists, about one-tenth (8.80 percent) belong to village about one-third (30.40 percent) belong to town and about three-fifth (60.80 per cent) belong to city, where as the foreign tourists observed the reverse trend of the total foreign tourists majority of the (7.5 percent) belong to city and the rest of
them belong to town (15.0 percent) and village (10.0 percent) respectively. So traveler’s types are considered as major category and the sub categories are examined further. The observed Landscape and Responses of the six vistas selected and its component parts in two levels, primary and secondary, are described and analyzed.

The result at primary component level, demonstrate preferences for water and vegetation components with civic facilities at one stage and landform at second stage and other builtform and spatial components as least preferred at the third stage. The secondary components that have direct context to the site are ranked as well. Further the likes and dislike (by 5point Likert scale) of vistas for a use preferential decision of such vistas to reside, recreate, just pass through and scenic beauty are compared by two-way ANOVA and found mutually influencing. Summation of scores indicates vista 1 is liked for residence and for passing through where as the vista 5 and vista 6 are liked for recreation.

So and henceforth significance of traversed landscape studies with broad recommendations are discussed for protection, management and enhancement of the traversed road landscapes. To cite few, landscape enhancement by design in introducing natural components like vegetation water and landform in the urban landscape vista I, that can be executed by CMDA and managed by City Corporation or nagar panchayat. Whereas, the vista III and IV can come under the Regional development authorities and Panchayat Raj system of maintained by gram Panchayat as a employment generation program.