

## **Linking Forestry and People in an Urban Landscape, a Participatory Approach - Case Studies from West London**

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The role of high quality green spaces has won a significant place in the London sustainable development agenda as to ensure all Londoners are within the walking distance of a quality nature. To achieve the goal of sustainable living, each and every part of the society needs to be aware about their role, rights and responsibilities and come forward to take partnership with an increased sense of ownership in the development and enhancement of urban-green space. That also includes the involvement of ethnic minorities, poor and disadvantaged groups. However, ensuring environmental participation of a range of social group including ethnic minorities into the use and enhancement of green space is always challenging to fulfil. The importance of ethnic minorities' participation to acquire a quality of life has long since been forgotten and neglected. The main goal of the research is to explore issues related with Urban Forestry (UF) in all the parts of local life including environment, economic & social issues in LB of Hounslow (LBH). The study also aims to examine the inequality issues that may be deeply embedded in the society in the use of urban green space. It also addresses ethnic minorities' environmental participation with regards to their involvement in the use and enhancement of urban green space exploring new challenge and demand using participatory approach. Both qualitative such as focus group discussion (FGD), key informants surveys (KIS) & direct observation (DO); and quantitative research methods including GIS interpretation tools will be used to identify any gaps and to recommend for the future UF strategy with an achievable and quantifiable programs to the benefit of all kind of residents

in LBH. This will then form a basis for examining and improving upon existing policy and identifying key area to develop a just and sustainable UF models in the future. The paper is an attempt to present an overview of participatory action research (PAR) which is on-going at this stage.

### **References**

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