

Abstract

According to the education development policy of the Higher Education Commission of the Ministry of Education to promote learning in the form of life skills, social skills, basic competency which cannot get from learning in the classroom. This research brings about an idea of Ray Oldenburg, the Characteristics of the Third Place, together with the observation results from questionnaires by the university students, as a guideline to develop the social arena in Thammasat University (Rangsit Campus). This research studied an agreement between the characteristics of activity areas in Thammasat University (Rangsit Campus) and the characteristics of Third Place as well as the community physical characteristics which help promotion of Third Place from the answers through questionnaires.

The assessment of the agreement of the characteristics of activity areas and the Third Place from six sample areas appears that 84.01 percentages are in harmony, by which conversation activity and convenient accessibility are in highly agreement counting for 93.75 percentages while the lowest is the regulars numbering at 63.20 percentages.

The exploration of physical characteristics of community preferred for the area of the Third Place from 389 samples appears that community is in agreement with the development of Third Place in the University numbering at 96.90 percentages while development of Learning Center or a building situated on the central area of the University and near main sidewalk is the goal. The building should be open for services 24 hours and provide tables with attached benches for conversation activities. It should have an area for students separated from lecturers and university personnel. There should be foods for sale and internet service. The interior should be decorated with natural color woods, warm and bright color tones, and transparent glass wall.