

Assessing the Age Friendliness of Waterfront Open Spaces: The Case of Kwun Tong Promenade

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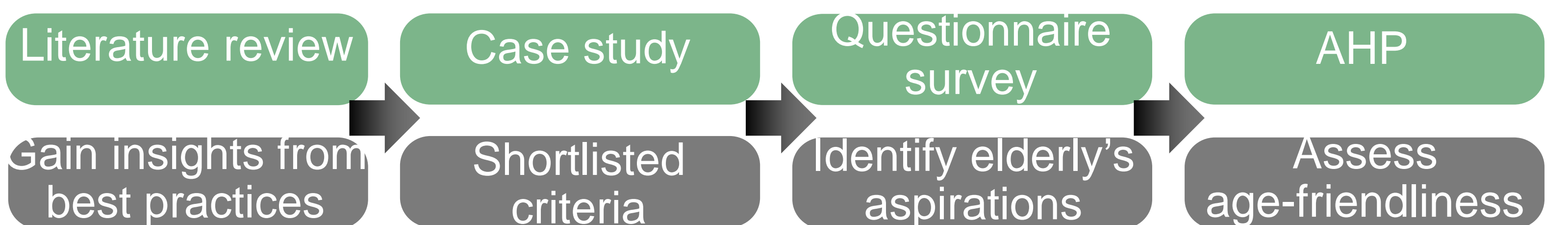
Introduction

- The ageing population of Hong Kong is projected to reach 36% by 2046. It highlights the importance of creating an age-friendly environment.
- While Hong Kong 2030+ proposes incorporating the WHO's age-friendly guidelines, it fails to address essential elements e.g. social networks.
- Existing initiatives mainly target residential developments, neglecting social needs and the impact of urbanization on open spaces.
- Despite research on green spaces, age friendliness of waterfront open space (WOS) remains overlooked.
- It endeavours to assess if age friendliness of WOS meets the social needs of the elderly in active ageing.

Objectives

- The objectives of this study are:
- To review the criteria for planning and designing age-friendly WOS in Hong Kong;
 - To analyse the planning and design criteria through identifying the key attributes to construct a hierarchy;
 - To apply the analytic hierarchy process (AHP) for examining the age friendliness of elderly experiencing the Kwun Tong Promenade.

Research Methodology



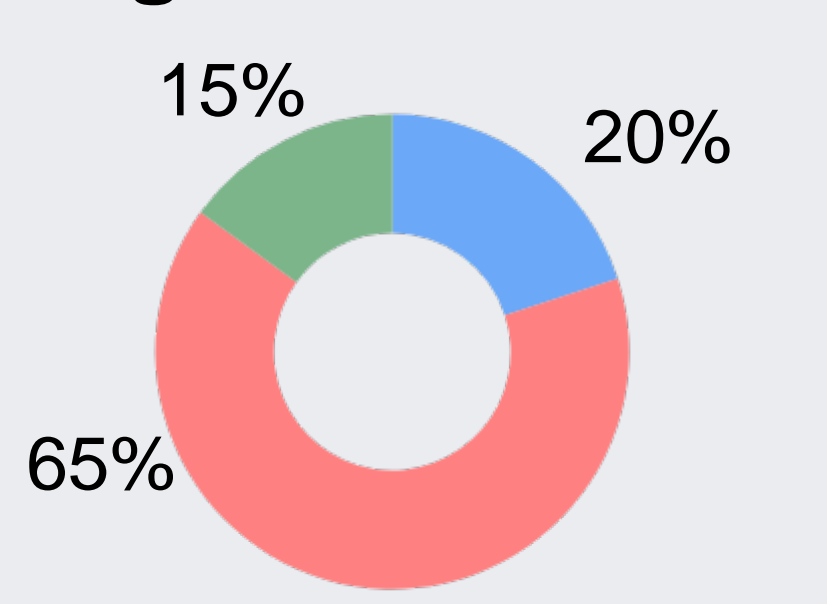
Findings and Discussions

On-site questionnaire survey

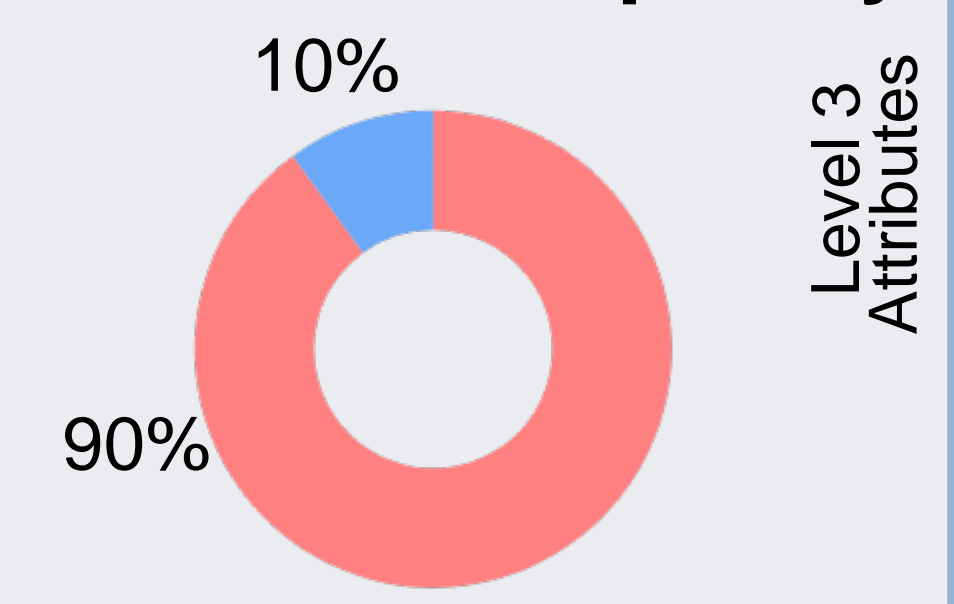
Demographic characteristics

	7/3/2024	19/3/2024	Total
Gender			
Male	7 (58%)	3 (38%)	10 (50%)
Female	5 (42%)	5 (62%)	10 (50%)
Age (Years)			
65-69 (Y-O)	3 (25%)	1 (12%)	4 (20%)
70-79 (M-O)	6 (50%)	7 (88%)	13 (65%)
≥ 80 (O-O)	3 (25%)	0 (0%)	3 (15%)
Education level			
Primary	2 (17%)	5 (62%)	7 (35%)
Secondary	9 (75%)	3 (38%)	12 (60%)
Post-secondary	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	1 (5%)
Total participants	12	8	20

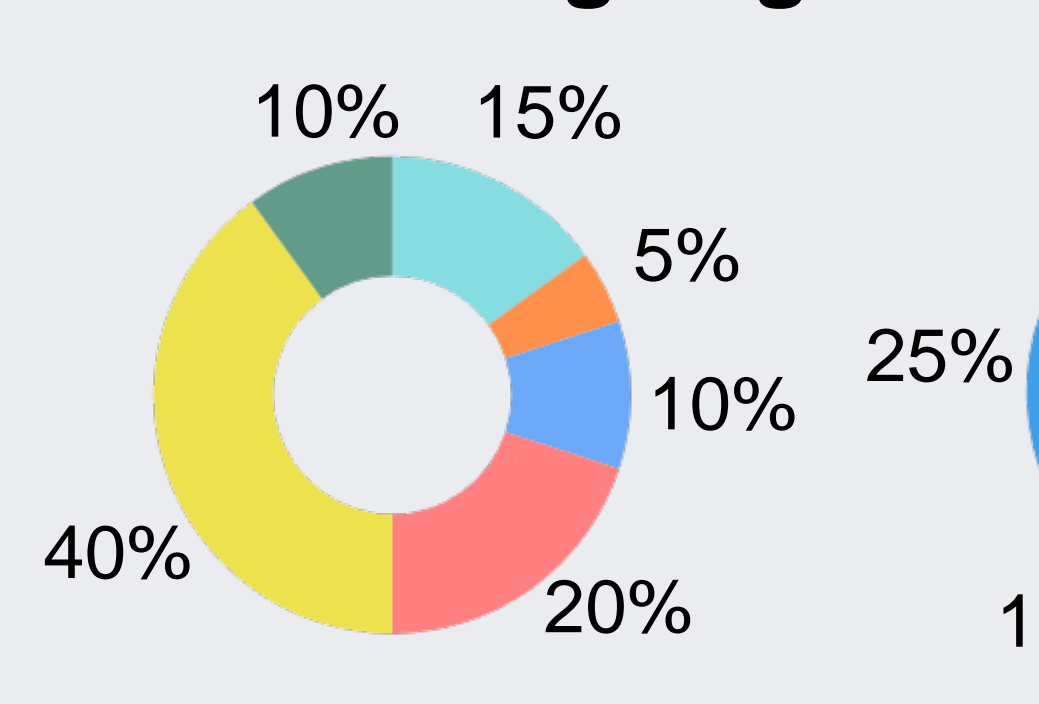
Age distribution



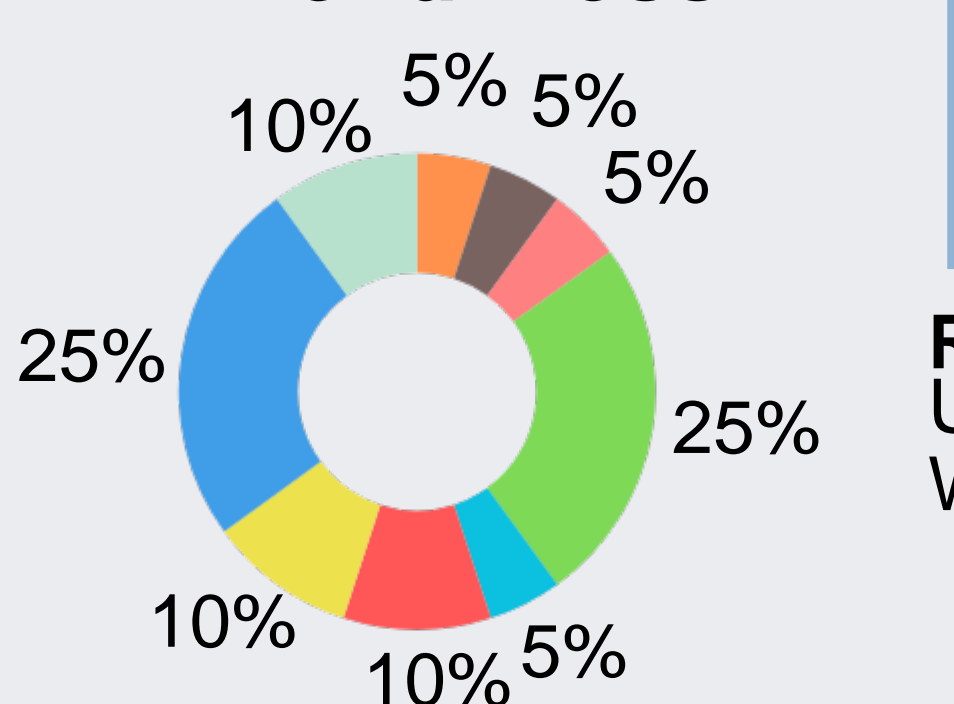
% of visit frequency



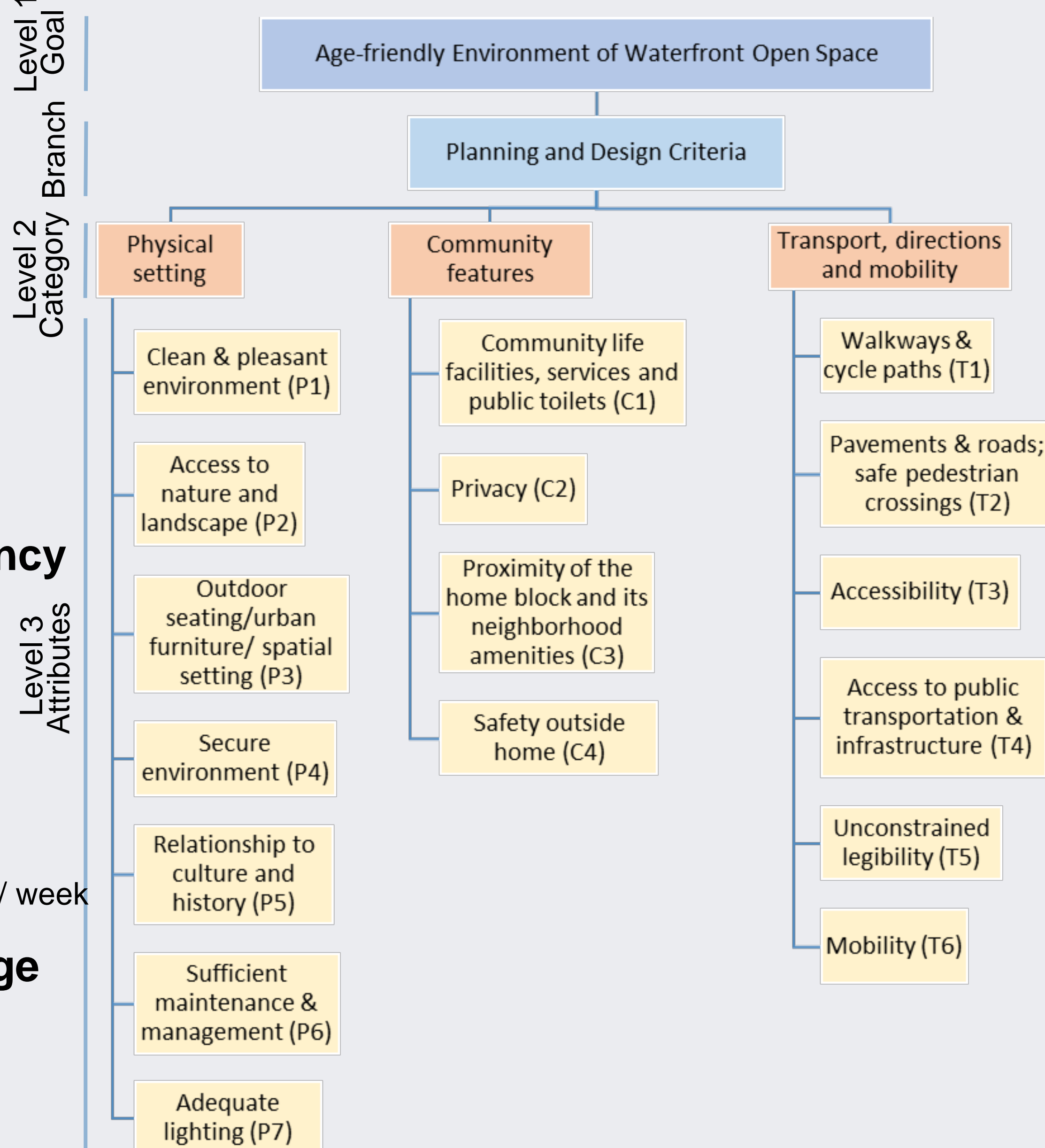
Major social needs for active ageing



Perception to age friendliness



Shortlisted attributes from literature

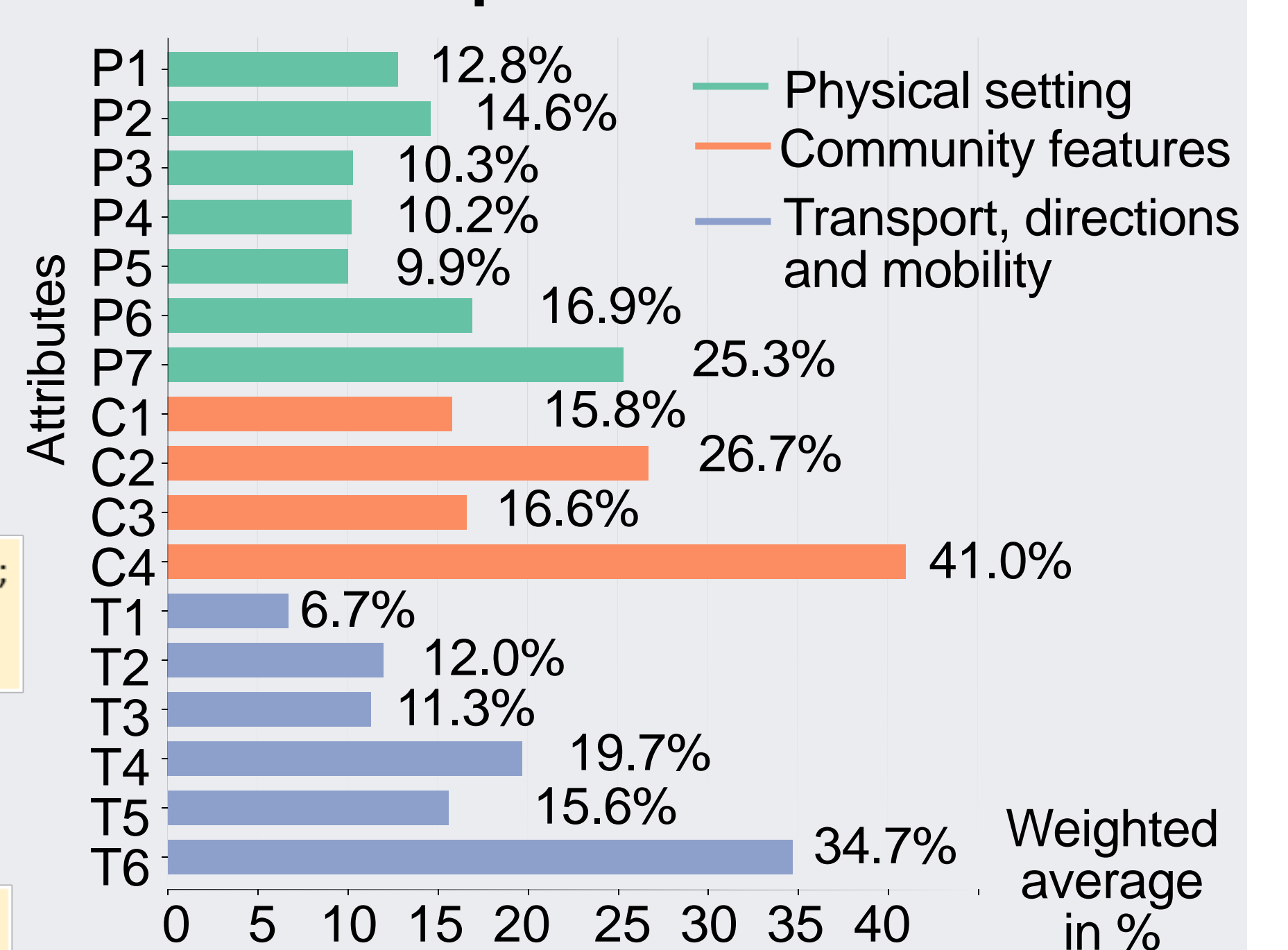


Remarks:

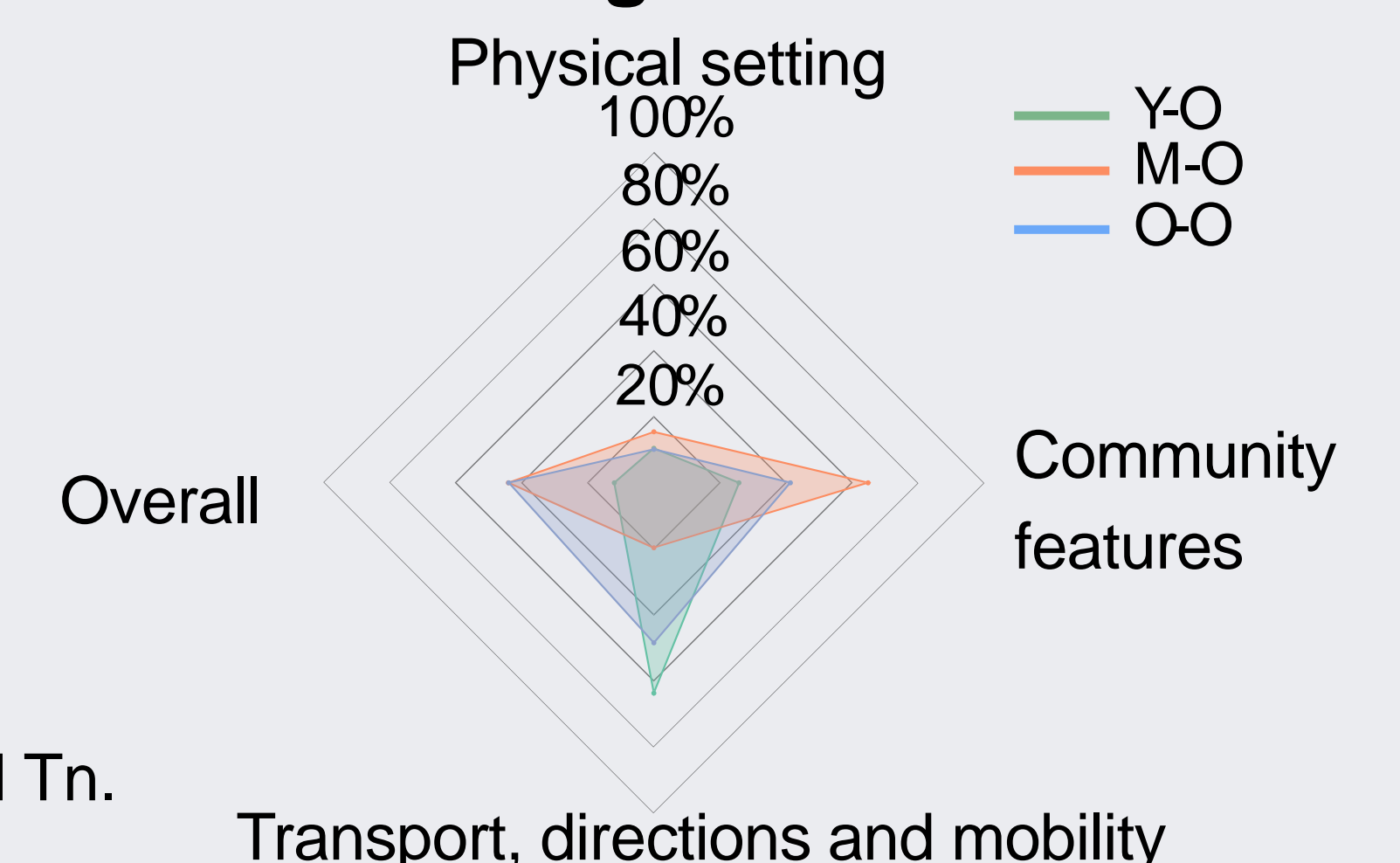
Under each category, individual attribute is denoted by P_n, C_n and T_n.
Where -
1. P = Physical setting, C = Community features, and T = Transport, directions and mobility;
2. n = the vertical order of the attributes numbering from top to bottom.

Pair-wise comparison in AHP

Relative importance of attributes



Age friendliness of Kwun Tong Promenade



Justifications for the outcomes

For all age cohorts

- poorly maintained waterfront boardwalk
- inadequate provisions of elderly fitness facilities and shaded planting areas

For M-O and O-O

- inadequate provisions of social interaction opportunities

Overall

- Is Kwun Tong Promenade age-friendly?

Recommendations

Short-to-medium term

- physical settings
 - sufficiently provide shaded planting areas
- community activities
 - allocate resources for community outreach activities
- transport, directions and mobility
 - well-planned boardwalk to reduce maintenance

Long term

- senior engagement in co-design
- encourage social participation



Fig.1 "The Evergreen" Award Scheme

Conclusions

Implications

- develop an AHP method to assess the age friendliness of Kwun Tong Promenade
- fill gap between planned criteria & actual needs
- flexibly applied to other promenades

Limitations of research study

- limited sample size
- elderly unable to access are excluded
- non-built environment attributes are excluded