

# Factors Affecting Street Skateboarding in Bandung

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## ABSTRACT

The rise number of skateboarders who use the sidewalk as their surfing playground has disturbed public comfort. This research aims to study the phenomenon of street skateboarding in the city of Bandung by analysing the occurring phenomena, existing activities and interests, as well as what public opinion. This study used a qualitative approach through open interviews, observation and literature study. The subjects of this research are users of public facilities (sidewalks) and skateboarders in Bandung. The results found that some pedestrians thought that skateboarders surf on the sidewalks were quite disturbing to pedestrian activities. However, the street skateboarding phenomenon emerged due some factors including: beginner skateboarders' pessimism towards their senior skill as they surf in skateparks; the assumption that skateboarding was begun from the street and should return to the street; government does not accommodate their need of facility; as well as for making video footage for content.

**Keywords:** Skateboard, Street, Bandung, Public.

## 1. INTRODUTCION

Skateboarding is one of the extreme sports played and loved by youth and even elder. Skateboards first appeared in 1950 in California, United States. At that time, the sport of surfing and rollerblading was popular and sparked the emergence of the 'sidewalk surfing' sport which then known as skateboarding [1,2]. Now, skateboarding is one of the most popular sports in Indonesia as well as being seen as a lifestyle for some teenagers [3,4].

The development of skateboarding in Indonesia can also be felt in several cities, one of which is in the city of Bandung. Apart from being a lifestyle, skateboarding is a source of achievement and livelihood for those who pursue this sport professionally [5]. Therefore, skateboarding is one of the most popular sports in Bandung today. We can even meet skateboarders on many streets around Bandung City where they use the sidewalk as a place to play.

There are so many enthusiasts who are enthusiastic about skateboarding, starting from young people, teenagers and even adults [6,7]. Based on the results of an interview with Alvin (May 2021), with the increasing number of skateboard enthusiasts currently, the skatepark area in the city of Bandung feels increasingly

narrow and triggers players to look for other alternative places to skateboard, such as the sidewalk. As a result, the sidewalk now seems to have turned into a skateboarding arena and has caused disturbance to the people who use the sidewalk.

Based on this issue, the researcher intends to reveal the factors that encourage the rise of street skateboarding and the impact felt by road users from these activities. The data and results of this research will be the main elements that will be visualized in the form of a documentary, with the hope that the implications of this research can be a reference for the public both textually and visually regarding the phenomenon of street skateboarding, especially in the city of Bandung.

## 2. METHODS

In this study, researchers used descriptive qualitative as a research method in collecting information by interacting directly with the subject or object on a regular basis for later analysis [8]. The results of data analysis are in the form of explanations and statements about the phenomenon of street skateboarding in the city of Bandung. The method was implemented in the form of interviews with selected informants such as street skateboarders, former street skateboarders, skate school owners, skate shop owners, supported by

observations of the activities of skateboarders playing on the streets of Bandung which made public facilities an obstacle for them. In addition, interviews and observations were also conducted for users of public facilities, especially sidewalk users along Jalan Ir. H. Djuanda Coblong, and Taman Lilin Kosambi Bandung, which are mostly used by skateboarders.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Public Facilities

Bandung city has a high population and activity. All activities in the city of Bandung will influence each other [9]. Walking is an activity that shows the vitality and life in the city and is the main element of transportation in the city. The sidewalk is a path that is intended to serve pedestrians. At this time, the main function of the sidewalk has changed a lot. Such as the emergence of street vendors, illegal parking, and many other inappropriate activities including one of them is used for skateboarding arena.

The result of interviews to 10 users of public facilities along Jalan Ir. H. Djuanda, Coblong, Bandung, it is known that seven people were disturbed by skateboarding activities in several public facilities and sidewalks in the Bandung area on the grounds that skateboarders were blocking the road and endangering users of public facilities. Skateboarders are not supposed to play on the pavement because it is not meant for skateboarding.

And three others argue that skateboarding on the sidewalk is not annoying if it doesn't harm other people. Another opinion states that skateboarding on the sidewalk is a separate entertainment for some users of public facilities and feels accompanied especially at night, even though actually skateboarding on the sidewalk is wrong.

The results of observations on skateboarders and pedestrians along Jalan Ir. H. Djuanda, Coblong, and in around Taman Lilin, Kosambi, Bandung, various responses from sidewalk users were found, ranging from negative responses such as cynical views from pedestrians, even to those who scolded, to positive responses from pedestrians who appreciated by giving money to a skateboarder who performs a trick such as an ollie, treflip, or when a skateboarder jumps over an obstacle. Appreciation from pedestrians also came in the form of applause and requests for selfies with skateboarders.

Broadly speaking, skateboarders in the city of Bandung can be classified into 4 categories based on their reasons for skateboarding on sidewalks or public spaces, including:

#### 3.1.1. Inconfident

Some skilled or professional skateboarders in the skatepark implicitly drop the confidence of some other skateboarders who are more beginners so that the 'beginners' prefer to play on the sidewalk in a scope that they are familiar with. They also admitted that they prefer to be quiet and watch if they play on the sidewalk with a better skateboarder.

#### 3.1.2. Taking Video Footages

Some skateboarders think that skateboarding on the street is just a form of actualization of the tricks they have learned in the skatepark, and these moments should be recorded and compiled as a visual proof of their progress or existence. This moment is also often used by certain companies to promote a brand

#### 3.1.3. Skateboarding was Born Out of the Way (Culture)

Skateboards were born on asphalt because waves cannot be found on land. Although skateparks are already available, they still come to the streets (sidewalks) to fulfill their exploratory desire for public spaces available in the city of Bandung. Recently, the government has just completed the renovation of Monumen Perjuangan located next to Gasibu Field, Bandung. Many skateboarders play there and according to them it is all a form of their response to the available public space.

#### 3.1.4. Feeling Un-facilitated by the Government

In 2018, skateboarding officially became one of the sports at the Asian Games and began to receive government attention. But unfortunately, the construction of skateboard facilities that do not involve skateboarders causes the construction to be non-standard and unfit for use. Therefore, playing on the sidewalk is one form of their criticism of the government.

Based on observations, it appears that the skateboarders are more flexible and do more exploratory tricks when playing on the street. They take advantage of public facilities such as trash cans, stairs, and sidewalks as obstacles to apply the tricks they have learned before. The dominance of positive responses from users of public facilities is also the reason street skateboarders are getting excited to play on the sidewalk.

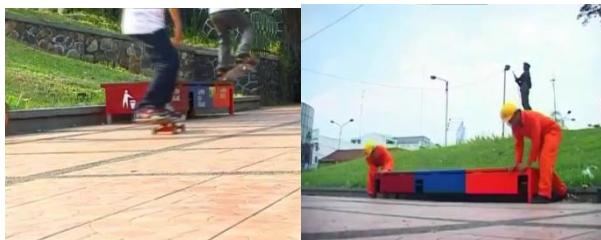


**Figure 1** Heaven skateboard, *Skateshop*, Trunojoyo street, Bandung (Source: Muhammad Fikri A'lwani, 2021).

On the industrial side, Soffi Gahara, owner of Heaven skate shop on Trunojoyo street Bandung (Figure 1), stated that the increase in skateboarding enthusiasts has had many positive impacts on his skate shop, such as increased sales of merchandise and skateboard equipment. For him, the increase in sales is very profitable considering his business is indeed focused on the realm of fashion and skateboarding equipment.

### 3.2. Camouflage the construction of Public Facilities in the City of Bandung (Build This City Project)

According to Alvin (Skateboard Videographer), an archive from 2005 - 2009 in the form of a documentation titled "Build This City" shows the camouflage process for the construction of public facilities that are used as obstacles to skateboarding (Figure 2).



**Figure 2** Camouflaging trashes on the sidewalk, Viaduct, Bandung (Source: Project build this city, 2008).

One of the public facilities camouflaging made by skateboarders in the city of Bandung in 2005 was a trash can built in the Viaduct area or Jalan Perintis Kemerdekaan, Bandung. The idea was initiated by Fani Krismandar Suryatilaga Kusuma Negara or better known as Fani Inong.



**Figure 3** Camouflaging street seats on sidewalk, Jalan Merdeka, Bandung (Source: Project build this city, 2008).

In Figure 3, a public facility made by skateboarders in the city of Bandung is a seat that was built in the Jalan Merdeka area, Bandung. The seat is made of iron so that it can be used as an obstacle for skateboarders.



**Figure 4** Camouflaging stair handrail, Jalan Padjajaran, Bandung (Source: Project build this city, 2007).

Then in Figure 4, the facility built is a stair handrail which is also made of iron, the handrail was built on Jalan Padjajaran, Bandung.

The data is enough to prove that the limited playing area or obstacle does not make the skateboarders in Bandung run out of ideas. The example of camouflage initiated by Inong has two uses at once, as a public facility, as well as becoming a comfortable obstacle for skateboarders. Interestingly, the camouflage project was also carried out by Inong and his friends in orange uniforms like public works officers. This also shows that street skateboarders do not only play, but also make something useful for users of public facilities in the city of Bandung, such as trash cans, seats and handrails.

The lack of availability of skateboarding facilities in the city of Bandung makes it difficult for skateboarders to find land or arenas to play and practice, as evidenced by the many skateboarders who play on the streets or on the sidewalks which can disrupt public order [10].

The existing facilities are considered inadequate and not attractive for skateboarders to play in these facilities [11]. This is also what hinders skateboarder's skill development and illustrates the inability of the Bandung City government to accommodate the needs of skateboarders. Skateparks that are already available, such as in Pramuka Park and under Pasopati Bridge are often flocked by visitors (players), so those who do not have a place have to look for land or other alternative arenas to play [10]. With a relatively minimal number of skateparks, the city of Bandung is still able to produce

many reliable skateboarders. In addition, skateboarding is also able to create its own industrial ecosystem in the business world such as distribution stores (distribution stores), skate shops, skate schools. In fact, today's skate photographer and videographer have become a place to make money.

Currently, the capitalists look to the world of skateboarding as an opportunity to do business [1]. There are 13 skate shops in the city of Bandung, one of the oldest of which is Heaven Skateboards which has been around since 2007. The presence of these skate shops is a response to market opportunities and strengthens the existence of skateboards in the city of Bandung. This is also reinforced by the existence of Skate schools in the city of Bandung which are still active today, such as Bandung Skate school, which is in Buqiet Skatepark, Geger Kalong, and Fat Free City Skate school which is located at Luckyline Skatepark in Antapani area. Each skate school has quite a lot of active students so that they can produce quite good skateboarder talents. Apart from skills, skate school also serves to educate students in terms of behavior so that skateboarding is more focused.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that there is a relationship between sidewalk users and skateboarders who play on the sidewalks, that everyone must have their own interests in public facilities (sidewalks). Pedestrians who prioritize comfort when doing activities on the sidewalk, while skateboarders who play on the sidewalk are a form of response to the available public space. Street skateboarding was born for several reasons including: lack of skatepark facilities; lack of self-confidence of a skateboarder; the existence of the skateboarder's initiative to apply the tricks that have been trained in the skatepark; the excuse that skateboarding was born on the streets so that playing on the pavement is a natural thing. On the other hand, the existence of projects such as Build This City has a good impact on users of public facilities as well as street skateboarders, both of whom can use these facilities. Pedestrians can throw trash into the trash cans built by the Build This City Project, and vice versa, street skateboarders can also use the trash can as an obstacle to skateboarding. In the business sector, skateboarding is also an opportunity to make money.

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