Spatial Characteristics and Activity Space Pattern Analysis of Dhaka City, Bangladesh

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Abstract: Although a handful of studies have begun to integrate activity space within travel behavior analysis in the European and United States (U.S.) contexts, few studies have measured the size, structure, and implications of human activity spaces in the context of developing countries. To identify the effects of land-use characteristics, socio-demographics, individual trip characteristics, and personal attitudes on the travel-activity based spatial behavior of various population groups in Dhaka city, Bangladesh, a household-based travel diary pilot survey (for two weekdays) was conducted for 50 randomly selected households in the winter of 2017. The study focused on two separate subareas: one taken from Dhaka North City Corporation, and another taken from Dhaka South City Corporation. Two methods—shortest-path network and road network buffer—were used for calculating activity space in a geographic information system (GIS). The daily activity areas for individual respondents ranged from 0.37 to 6.18 square miles. Land-use mix was found to be a significant predictor of activity space size for the residents. Larger activity space was recorded for the residents of one subarea over another due to less land-use diversity. The pilot data showed some specific socio-economic and travel differences across the two study subareas (car ownership, income, modal share, distance traveled, trip duration).

Keywords: activity space; travel pattern; accessibility; social exclusion; individual perception

1. Introduction

Previous travel behavior and travel demand studies have suggested that travel is a derived demand which is undertaken to satisfy a set of desired activities or chain of activities, but these studies focused primarily on trip frequencies and travel distance/time, and few directly assessed the spatial distributions of activity locations [1–4]. Measuring the geographic extent of travel-activity patterns is very important for understanding the relationship between land-use patterns and accessibility to opportunities. Previous activity space studies, primarily from the field of geography, demonstrated analysis techniques to characterize and assess the spatial dimensions of areas that individuals come into contact with in daily life [5–10]. This approach generates insights into the potential activity space around individual travel routes and activity locations, and can provide useful insights into how accessibility varies across districts and population subgroups [9,11–14]. It can also be used to identify and address potential geographic isolation and social exclusion [15–19]. Those who are socially excluded may have more constrained activity spaces, which could restrict their social and economic opportunity.

Horton and Reynolds (1971), in a very early study, stated that understanding the geographic distribution of daily activities within any urban setting generates important insights into individual and household accessibility to actual and potential amenities [20]. Activity space analysis can be used...
as a tool to explore the relationship between daily activity (travel demand) and urban form through analyzing the spatial distribution of activities. Two factors play an important role in activity space measurement: (1) individual characteristics or preferences, and (2) surrounding environments, which can provide opportunities to perform activities [21]. Activity space distribution can be influenced by urban form, transport services (available transport mode, etc.), accessibility to transport network, and time constraints.

Activity space methodologies have been used to understand spatial dimensions of travel behavior, address health accessibility and social exclusion issues, and investigate gendered differences in mobility and accessibility [1,2,8,12,13,21–27]. Some studies have cautioned that attitudes are more strongly associated with travel and activity patterns than land-use characteristics; this suggests that land-use policies promoting higher densities and mixed uses alone may not materially alter travel demand or private vehicle ownership or usage [28]. Additional research is needed to better understand the relative influence that land-use characteristics, socio-demographics, and personal attitudes have on activity space changes, and to understand the potential differences across population subgroups.

Existing activity space studies have typically focused on patterns in Europe or the United States (U.S.); few studies have examined the size, structure, and variability of spatial activity patterns of residents of developing countries [29–31]. Residents of megacities in developing countries often must confront congested, poor quality road transport networks with greater fluctuations in traffic conditions when organizing daily activities in time and space. In many cases, they have a greater number of proximate destinations to fulfill daily needs due to dense and highly mixed land-use configurations. These conditions can influence the size, spread, orientation, and variability of the daily-activity spaces in developing countries. Rapidly increasing urban traffic congestion has become a major challenge in developing countries, but travel demand analysis has been neglected in transportation planning and policy-making activities in many cities of the developing world [32–34]. Activity space methodologies provide a new tool for examining the spatial distribution of activities within megacities in developing countries and understanding urban sustainability development challenges in the context of the developing world. Moreover, activity space is a completely new concept here, with far more difficult transport situations to handle regarding the day-to-day activity-based travel behavior of people. Through analyzing a traveler’s daily life depending on the spatial distribution of their activities, a clear feedback between potential and actual activity spaces can be found, which would be helpful for future planning implications of spatial behavior. Unfortunately, very few studies have measured the size and structure of human activity spaces in the context of the developing world.

Dhaka city, the capital of Bangladesh, is confronted with badly managed traffic control systems in conjunction with unprecedented population growth. According to a World Bank report, around 3.2 million working hours are being wasted daily in Dhaka, with the current average driving speed of 4.35 miles per hour due to the traffic congestion [35]. According to the Traffic Index 2019, Dhaka just held the top position as the most traffic-congested city (also topped in wastage of time and traffic inefficiency index) in the world [36]. Dhaka’s population is growing even as its important administrative functions and facilities are expanding [37]. Even though a large number of people commute from nearby districts to work in Dhaka every day, Dhaka has failed to develop a public transport system for commuters and residents [38]. Rapid population increase over the past decades is the major reason for the higher demand for transportation. Limited resources (infrastructure and vehicles) for transport facilities development with the rapid rise in transport demand and the lack of adequate traffic management characterize the transport problems of the city [39,40]. The number of single-occupancy vehicles (mainly cars) is increasing daily. According to the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), every year, around 37,000 cars are added to Dhaka’s roads [41]. Seventy percent of the total road space is occupied by private cars [42], whereas only 10% of total trips in Dhaka city are made by cars [41]. While about 60% of trips are on foot and almost half of the remaining trips are on non-motorized vehicle [43], very few facilities are there in Dhaka for pedestrians and non-motorized transport. The average traffic flow for the major arterial roads of Dhaka is 1637 passenger car units
(PCUs) per hour [44]. Traffic congestion and delays, poor traffic management, poor coordination, and conflict across agency jurisdictions characterize the transport situation in Dhaka. The city’s traffic problems have reached such a crisis that they seriously compromise the ability of the transport sector in Dhaka to sustain economic growth and a reasonable quality of life.

Definition of Key Terms

An individual’s activity space can be defined as the spatial extent of areas within which he or she travels to satisfy his or her daily needs during a typical day. Activity space represents the spatial movement element of an individual’s everyday living experiences of places. According to Thornton, Pearce, and Kavanagh (2011), all locations visited by an individual within a specified time period can be termed an “activity space” [45]. Activity space can also be defined as the subset of all the locations with which one has direct contact for accomplishing day-to-day activities [20]. Another important key term used in this paper is ‘social exclusion’, which can be expressed as a lack of access to adequate transport, and thus a reduction of accessibility to opportunities, social networks, goods, and services. Kenyon et al. (2002) defined social exclusion as unequal access (lack of transportation facilities) to participate in social life [22]. In this paper, social exclusion is addressed mainly as exclusion due to a lack of affordability in the case of availing a particular mode of transport (private car in the Dhaka city context). Also, there are social status issues in Dhaka with respect to the ownership of this particular mode. In Dhaka, due to not having private cars, some households are unable to attend social events, especially during the night-time, and if they are a distant location from home. Female travelers and older people mostly fall within this deprived or socially excluded category.

This paper aims to pilot and assess methods to examine the influence of land-use characteristics, socio-demographics, individual trip characteristics, and personal attitudes on the travel and spatial behavior of residents in two districts of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Dhaka is the 11th largest megacity in the world, with a population of 18.2 million people living in an area of 590 square miles [46]. Although previous studies have examined the transportation patterns of Dhaka [47–49], no previous study has analyzed the geographic distribution of the household activities of Dhaka residents. Some studies have been conducted regarding mode choice [50,51] and the trip-chaining behavior of particular groups of people [52], travel time variability [53], and vehicular emission mitigation issues [54]. None of these studies have examined the differences in the activity spaces in their daily life within the constraints of Dhaka’s unplanned land-use mix and diversified socio-economic conditions. It is important to examine the role of residential self-selection and personal attitudes or perceptions on travel behavior and spatial behavior. Dhaka is the fourth most densely populated city, with a density of 79,639 per square mile [54] providing residents with locational proximity to service facilities, but high spatial and temporal fixity constraints restrict their access to service facilities/opportunities. The paper is structured as follows. The following section describes the different activity space measurement techniques used in this paper and also in previous studies, as well as the study area profile, survey design and data collection process, and methodology for the proposed full study. Section 3 presents the results of the pilot study, followed by a discussion of the results in Section 4 and conclusions in Section 5.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Activity Space Measurement Techniques

Two methods for representing activity space in a geographic information system (GIS), shortest-path network and road network buffer, were applied to the pilot data. The proposed full study targeted 1000 households as the sample size. A total of 1790 travel logs containing weeklong travel data and 1000 household’s information were collected from fall 2017 to spring 2018 in Dhaka. The proposed travel diary survey period was for all seven days in a week, including weekdays and weekend. In addition to enabling greater comparisons between subareas and subgroups and analysis of intrapersonal
variability, this sample size and longer data collection period will provide more activity location data that is necessary to implement other representations of activity space in GIS. Activity space measures that will be generated for the full study include the standard deviational, minimum convex polygon, minimum spanning trees (shortest path network), and road network buffer indicators using Network Analyst.

Schönfelder and Axhausen (2004, 2003, 2002) in their series of papers developed and used a couple of activity space measurement techniques, namely confidence ellipses, kernel density estimates, and shortest-path networks [24–26]. Confidence ellipse was developed based on the spatial distribution of activity locations. The area of the ellipse somewhat overestimates the activity space of an individual, as it assumes that the individual knows all of the area included in the ellipse. The size of the ellipse indicates the dispersion of the destination points by keeping the arithmetic mean relatively close to the home location. The ellipse measures provide an estimate of the areas traveled by people with a certain probability. This technique of activity space measure is mainly used for investigating bivariate relationships. They identify the smallest possible area in which the true population value will be found with a certain probability. One or two standard deviations (68% and 95% probability) are usually used to calculate the ellipse (also known as standard deviational ellipse, or SDE) and weighted by the frequency of visiting each location. First, a covariance matrix of all the points (activity locations) of a person is computed, and then by using the determinant of the covariance matrix, the size of ellipse is calculated.

Similar to a confidence ellipse, the kernel density approach also incorporates the frequency of visiting each location in its calculation. It transforms activity locations into a continuous representation of density, and visually shows the areas used more intensively. According to Handy and Niemeier (1997), kernel density estimation transforms point data into a continuous density surface where the density of a feature can be estimated for any point on the surface. First, the entire study region is partitioned into grid cells of a predetermined size. Then kernels that are usually circular in shape, with the radius defined by the user, are placed around the centroid of each cell. After that, weights are assigned as a defined function of distance from the geometric centroid of the kernel. Finally, a density value is assigned to each cell for calculating the density values across the whole study region [55]. Cell size and bandwidth can be specified within the GIS interface. Bandwidth can be chosen according to the maximum walking distance between two places. The size of the activity space can be measured as the number of cells for which the density exceeds a certain threshold (>0).

Minimum convex polygon (MCP) is another established method of estimating activity space. This is the smallest convex polygon containing all the activity locations within a respondent’s activity pattern. This method captures the geographical extent and spatial dispersion of daily activity participation [56]. According to Mohr (1947), this measure is non-probabilistic (does not give the probability of usage) [57]. Peripheral locations define the geometry in this method; the size of the geometry mainly depends on the location sample size, and comparison of sizes across individuals or households require a standardization of sampling with no estimation of variance.

The shortest-path networks (SPN) method (Figure 1a), or the minimum spanning tree approach, is based on identifying the length of the minimum distance routes between the activity locations. Road network buffers around the shortest path routes are integrated with this method. Activity spaces can be overestimated for the other two techniques (ellipse and density), as they represent the continues space around the activity locations visited, but with SPN, the actual estimation of activity space is possible, as this method visualizes the size of the activity space around the path or route (potentially) chosen by travelers. Buffer width can be specified according to walking distance standards. In this paper, the shortest-path network along with the road network buffer method is applied.

Botte (2015) in his research, used activity space techniques such as kernel density, confidence ellipse, super ellipse, Cassini oval, and bean curve for assessing the potential impact of transit-oriented developments (TOD) [21]. Sherman et al. (2005) used two standard deviational ellipse activity space measures—one generated for one standard deviation and another generated for two standard
deviations—and three additional network-based activity space measures using Network Analyst in ArcGIS in a healthcare accessibility study. Network-based approaches estimate all the routes connecting the residence and activity nodes and create a buffer around the nodes and paths. The network-based measures used in this study are road network buffer (RNB), standard travel time polygon (STT), and relative travel time polygon (RTT) [13]. The size of the road network buffer (RNB) was set to 1 km (1000 m) assuming this distance corresponded with a typical walking distance (Figure 1b). Among the five measures, this method can be considered the best representation of a respondent’s activity space, because the buffer area is limited to the possible routes and locations that a person travels. It is a closer representation of the spaces that the person actually occupies, not what the person could or should do (probability), similar to the other techniques discussed above. This is the reason why shortest-path network with the road network buffer method was used to calculate the activity space in this paper. Also, collecting only one individual respondent’s travel information from each household limited the use of other activity space measures (such as the standard deviation ellipse method), because most of the respondents had only two activity points that could be used to calculate the activity space. The other activity space measures require more than two activity locations to be calculated, and were not calculated for this preliminary analysis, as most of the pilot survey respondents only traveled to one non-home location per day during the pilot.

![Figure 1](image-url). (a) Examples of shortest path network (SPN). Source: (Schönfelder and Axhausen, 2004) [24] and (b) road network buffer (RNB) measure. Source: [13].

Similar to the road network buffer (RNB), the two travel time polygon measures, standard travel time polygon (STT) and relative travel time polygon (RTT), are based on network calculations. For STT, a GIS-based service area command in the Network Analyst Extension was employed to determine how far each respondent could travel from their house in a standard travel time. To calculate RTT, the shortest network path was determined between the household location and activity destinations. One major limitation of these polygon measures is that they assume the same travel mode is available for all routes, which is usually not the case for Dhaka city, where a wide variety of travel modes are used by travelers compared to other cities.

The advantages and disadvantages of all the methods were discussed by Sherman et al. (2005). Euclidean measures (SDE) do not fully capture surface effects. They provide a comparatively poor representation of actual activity space, could capture opportunities not in activity space, and require a minimum of three unique points to generate. Road network buffer methods capture 100% of activity destinations and seem to provide the best representation of the actual space, as determined by activity locations and routes. Standard travel time polygon (STT) measures are fundamentally different from other measures, because they provide an indicator of relative locations within a road network. This measure is not based on activity destinations, and uses an arbitrary travel time limit as the standard. Relative travel time polygon (RTT) is the most strongly conditioned measure by location relative to
the road network. It captures 100% of activity destinations, which is also highly correlated with road network buffer (RNB). This method may overlap with standard travel time polygon (STT), and is also conditioned by location within a road network hierarchy [13].

Zenk et al. (2011) examined the relationships among activity space, environmental factors, and dietary and physical activity behaviors using the standard deviation ellipse and daily path area measurement techniques [27]. Kwan (1998), in her ‘Space-Time and Integral Measures of Individual Accessibility’ study, used three activity space techniques: gravity-type, cumulative-opportunity, and space-time measures [9]. Kwan (1999b) in another pioneering work, ‘Gender and Individual Access to Urban Opportunities’, used daily potential path area (DPPA) as an aggregation of potential path areas (PPAs) as a measure of accessibility. PPAs contain all of the possible urban opportunities using feasible transportation routes within the time constraint of the traveler, which is defined by pairs of fixed activities. A summation of all the potential path areas in a day is the daily PPA. Finally, Kwan (1999b) calculated the number of opportunities included in the DPPAs, an area-weighted sum of all the opportunities contained in the DPPA, and the length of the network arcs or road segments included in the DPPA [8]. Olaru and Curtis (n.d.) investigated whether transit-oriented development reduces the activity spaces or not, and used the second moment of activity space and confidence ellipse activity space measurement techniques. The second moments of activity location are the squared distance between the residence location and center of gravity of all the other activity locations [58]. Dharmowijoyo et al. (2014), and Susilo and Kitamura (2005) also used second moment of activity locations to examine the day-to-day variability of activity spaces [4,30].

2.2. Study Area Profile

Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh and focus of this study, is one of the most densely populated cities of the world. Within an area of only 118.29 square miles, approximately 14.54 million people reside in Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). Two sections of the city, each with multiple wards (administrative units) of Dhaka City Corporation, were selected to serve as the study areas based on their distinctive demographic and transportation characteristics in Figure 2; one is Mirpur area (Ward no: 7, 11, 12, 13, 14) from Dhaka North City Corporation and another one is Dhanmondi area (Ward no: 47, 48, 49) from Dhaka South City Corporation. While making the selection, considerations have been given to the different demographic and transportation characteristics of each subarea to ensure that representation of a variety of socio-economic groups and transport service conditions were incorporated in the study.

The study subareas were selected from the northern and southern parts of DCC. Dhanmondi represents an upper-middle and higher-income group residential neighborhood, and Mirpur represents a lower-middle and middle-income residential neighborhood. This categorization was made based on the land and property value of the area and income level of the residents [59,60]. Population density is much higher in Mirpur [61]. Primary land use is residential for both the areas, but Dhanmondi is rapidly developing commercial and mixed (residential plus commercial) land uses. Dhanmondi is a comparatively planned residential area compared to Mirpur. Originally, Dhanmondi was developed based on a rectangular or gridiron road network system.

The target population for this study was mainly those with a postal address. People living in slums were not included (no initiative taken for understanding people without formal addresses) due to some reasons such as there not being that much variation in mode choice, income group, etc. among slum dwellers. Almost all the people are below the poverty line, and walk short distances to work. Therefore, the participation of informal housing (slums, squatters, etc.) in this study was somewhat restricted. Informal settlements can be defined as: (1) housing units established on a land area that residents are occupying illegally with no legal claim, and (2) unauthorized or unplanned residential areas where current planning and building regulations are not properly followed. According to the first part of this definition, Dhaka slums are not informal settlements, as these are occupied legally by slum tenants. They give monthly rent to the legal slum owner (land owner). Also, Dhaka slums
occupy only 5.1% of the city’s total land [62]. In the existing land-use distribution analysis (found from the Dhaka GIS database), slum areas were found to occupy a very minimal percentage of the city. Squatter settlements are illegal, but their percentage of land-use distribution in the total land area of Dhaka city is much less than that of the slum area. Now, according to the second part of the above definition, informal settlements are unplanned residential settlements that are 42.82% of the total area. This has already been considered in this pilot study, as Mirpur (an unplanned residential area) has been selected as one of the study subareas.

Figure 2. (a) Land-use map of study subarea, Mirpur; (b) Ward map of Dhaka city showing the two study subareas; and (c) Land-use map of study subarea, Dhanmondi (Source: Capital Development Authority, Dhaka; GIS Database, 2010).

2.3. Data Collection: Approach and Methodology

2.3.1. Survey Design and Collection of Primary Data

A household-based travel diary pilot survey was conducted in the winter of 2017 that included a sample size of 50 households (25 for each of the subareas). The reason for choosing exactly 50 households was convenience for the surveyors, due to the shortage of manpower and time to complete survey work. Sample households were randomly selected based on parcel number (or address) for in-person interviews. Surveyors went to the selected households from a full list of all addresses and asked about their willingness to take part in the survey. If the household refused to participate, surveyors went to the next household in the list. Respondents provided information on household characteristics and socio-economic factors (household income, occupation, age, gender, education level, and ownership of private vehicles), trip characteristics, which were mainly travel diary information for two weekdays (trip segments, origin–destination of each trip, travel mode used, travel distance, travel time and cost, purpose of trip, frequency of visiting each location). The survey also collected data on individual perceptions (including perception toward different modal choice, environmental concerns, safety concerns, and gender issues, using Likert scale variables), which could influence activity space and travel patterns. The questionnaire was divided into three parts. The first part was related to individual and household (socio-demographic) information. The second part focused on the travel behavior of the respondents. The third part contained questions on individual perceptions related to a range of transportation topics focusing on activity space and travel pattern issues. Pilot survey questionnaire is given in Supplementary-II, Supplementary Material.
Information on trips associated with both work and non-work was included in the household-based travel survey (travel log). Data was also collected through the questionnaire format on household characteristics and socio-economic factors (occupation, income, gender, age, etc.), and perceptions. Household travel survey data was collected using an in-person questionnaire format in which the surveyor prompted participants about household characteristics and perception-related information. Surveyors collected these data directly from the household head or any of the members of the household who were able to provide information on all the household members. In the travel log (trip diary), respondents were asked about the specific address of their destinations. Using the detail land-use database with GIS shape files available for Dhaka city, origin–destination land uses were geocoded using ArcGIS for the pilot study.

Before the data collection started, the study data collection process was approved by the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Office of Research, and Institutional Review Board (IRB) as an exempt category research. Random selection was used as the recruitment method from the list of buildings with addresses, which was provided by the municipality or ward commissioner’s office. Following recommendations by Dillman (2000) [63], the first step of outreach and recruitment was to send a pre-notice letter that introduced the study to all the households (HHs) sampled to be invited to participate in the study. This pre-notice letter generally described the purpose of the study and survey procedures, indicated the general time period when the survey team would be visiting the household’s neighborhood to collect surveys, and provided contact information so that invited households could call the study contact phone number for more information. Each selected household received a pre-notice letter more or less one week prior to being visited by surveyors. Respondent households were also contacted by phone in case of previously known respondents (friends and relatives). In the second step, survey team members traveled to the study area during the designated time period and visited the households of the random sample invited into the study. Team members knocked on participant doors or rang doorbells and followed the survey invitation script to invite a head of household who was 18 years or older to participate. The participant could choose to complete the survey at that time, schedule a subsequent time the team could visit to complete the survey, or refuse to participate. As needed, the team conducted multiple follow-ups for non-contacts. The third outreach and recruitment step, which occurred just prior to conducting the survey, was to review with the participant the Study Information Sheet, which provided a description of the study purpose, survey procedure, potential risks, and survey team contact information. Some of the known people (from the Dhanmondi area) asked for a soft copy of the survey questionnaire and travel log; they sent the completed survey sheets by email to the surveyors.

Non-response rates were high for both the subareas (for Dhanmondi and Mirpur; rates were found as respectively 26.47% and 24.24%). The reason for non-response was mainly the lengthy questionnaire, and that there was no incentive/reward for response. The non-response rate was handled by the surveyors through knocking on the next available household in the address list and also collecting data from known person’s (friends/relatives) households (especially in the Dhanmondi area, where getting access to pre-selected HHs was difficult due to strict security systems). Here, accessibility was difficult due to high security facilities and the unwillingness of the residents. People were not willing to give their personal contact number, and were also not comfortable disclosing their income range. Due to these rejections, most of the data were collected from known persons in the case of the Dhanmondi area (mostly relatives and friends of the surveyors). On the other hand, in the Mirpur area, some people were very friendly and spent a long time completing the questionnaires and travel logs. Some people felt irritated and were not willing to spend much time completing the questionnaire. Overall, for both areas, most of the respondents provided their income range and contact number, but some of the respondents (in particular, female respondents) were not willing to share their income range and personal contact number. Also, a response bias was found, as surveyors could not reach some people (household members) who traveled a lot because they were out traveling in some of the cases. Some members were excluded as they were living outside Dhaka for work and visited home once a week/month.
The majority of the respondents were literate, as the literacy rate in Dhaka has been increasing quickly. It was estimated it was at 69.2% in 2001 and had gone up to 74.6% by 2011, which is significantly higher than the national average of 51.77%. Those who were not literate among the respondents were handled well by the surveyors through making them understand the questions and filling out the questionnaires and logs on behalf of them after hearing their answers/responses.

Oral informed consent was obtained (i.e., no signature was obtained). Names and other subject identifiable information were obtained. The following measures were in place to ensure the confidentiality of study records. First, a code was used. Subject identifiers were kept separately to help ensure confidentiality. Data was stored both electronically and also in hard copies. When maintained electronically, the data were password-protected and encrypted. When maintained in hard copy, the data was stored in a locked area that was not accessible to non-study team members. Each household was assigned a Household ID (HID). The household survey was coded with the HID, and did not include any identifiable information. Only the researcher had access to the key code that linked the HID to the identifiable information. Only approved research staff accessed the survey or trip diary data (which did not include any identifiable information), and the key code linking the identifying information was stored separate from the travel log/diary.

2.3.2. Collection of Secondary Data

Digital datasets (ArcGIS-generated shape files) for road networks, land use, and other required layers were collected and cleaned to provide important secondary geographic data needed. A soft copy of Detail Area Plan (DAP) Map was collected from the Dhaka Capital Development Authority, which provided the data on the road network, existing land use, and other required layers. The network database contained the links and nodes of major arterial streets and other types in a road network hierarchy of Dhaka with comprehensive address ranges for geocoding locations. Another source of data is the digital database for all of the land parcels in the study area belonging to the different land-use categories, which will be selected as the origin–destination of trips for this study. The ArcGIS-generated structure shape file contained the land parcels of different service facility types (educational institute, hospital, recreation, retail shop, restaurant, open space, and so on). This database had good coverage both spatially, and is also quite accurate with code values, but it was developed a couple of years ago. Dhaka is growing in an unplanned way, and very quickly, so the current scenario may diverge somewhat from the existing available GIS data. For detailed information about both the primary and secondary data, see the Supplementary Material.

2.3.3. Methodology

The shortest-path network with the road network buffer method was implemented using the pilot data. For the shortest-path network, the size of the path buffer was set to 400 m (0.25 miles), assuming that this distance represents a walking distance from the path in which participants could potentially access opportunities. The reason for choosing a 400-m buffer size is that for Dhaka city, this distance can be traveled by walking mode within approximately five minutes. According to Mannan and Karim (2001), the average trip length of walk mode in Dhaka Metropolitan was 15 min [43]. Average walk trips are of 15-min duration, which at 5 km/h gives an average walk trip distance of 1.25 km (1250 m). With a 5-min walk trip, people can travel 417 m here. This is why a 400-m buffer size was chosen for the study. The 15-min walk trip was not considered for this study as a standard since not all travelers (various age groups) would be comfortable walking that much, but 5 min is a considerable walking distance that is convenient for all. The buffer size could also be put at 1200 m, also assuming a 15-min walk trip for this analysis, but since the Dhaka city area is very small (the city corporation area is only 118.29 sq. mile), it can be expected that even a 400-m buffer can cover a number of potential activity spaces/opportunities for the residents. However, no age group-based walking time study was reviewed before fixing the buffer size. It was only an assumption/hypothesis that 5 min is a considerable walking distance that is convenient for all travelers representing various age groups.
After calculating the activity space for individuals and households; an assessment of the relationships of activity space with built form variables (land-use mix, intersection density), socio-economic variables (age, gender, income level, education level, employment status, occupation, household size, number of employed persons in household, car ownership status, marital status, number of children, number of elderly persons, number of cars in use, other vehicle ownership), trip-related variables (travel distance, travel time, trip purpose), and perception-related variables (social excludability feeling, safety concerns, etc.) was conducted. Implications of travel-activity patterns on accessibility to various opportunities (educational institute and open space) were investigated.

Factor analysis is often used to transform the attitudinal questions (Likert scale variables) into a smaller set of factors to include as explanatory variables in travel behavioral models. Anable (2005); Elias and Shiftan (2012); Horton and Reynolds (1971); Houston et al. (2015); Spears et al. (2013); and Wang and Chen (2012) conducted factor analysis based on attitudinal variables in their studies [20,64–68]. For most of these studies, the main respondent in each household was asked to rank some attitude or perception-related statements on a seven-point Likert scale ranging from one (strongly disagree) to seven (strongly agree). The first step in analyzing participant responses to attitudinal questions was to use exploratory factor analysis to reduce the large number of questions to a smaller set of factors for regression analysis. Then, principal component analysis was used as the extraction method with Varimax rotation for most of the studies. Based on a scree plot showing the variance explained by each factor, a fixed number of factors were chosen for analysis in most of the cases. Then, Cronbach’s alpha was calculated for each factor to assess the reliability and evaluate the internal consistency of the factors. Here, in this paper, Step 1: Descriptives, Step 2: Extraction, and Step 3: Rotation were performed in SPSS. Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (also performed here; see Table S16 in Supplementary-I, Supplementary Material) is not a test, but rather a measure of sampling adequacy, which is a number that measures the proportion of variance in the variables that might be explained by underlying factors. Rotated eigenvalues and scree plot were used to determine the number of significant factors (see Table S18 and Figure S10 in Supplementary-I, Supplementary Material). Factor analysis is used to identify latent constructs or factors. It is commonly used to reduce variables into a smaller set to save time and facilitate easier interpretations. The interpretation of factor analysis is based on rotated factor loadings, rotated eigenvalues, and a scree test. Factor scores can be used in a regression to predict behavioral outcomes using travel perceptions. A confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) can be run to validate the factorial validity of the models derived from the results of this exploratory factor analysis. Individual respondent’s home and work locations were first geocoded in ArcGIS using the land-use shape file for Dhaka City. Similarly, trip-level destination points for both days were also geocoded in GIS. Addresses (including home, workplace, and trip destination locations) were transformed into WGS 1984 UTM Zone 46 N, which is the coordinate system for Dhaka, Bangladesh. Other ArcGIS land-use, building, place, and point shape files (obtained from a web based open data source) were used to cross check the actual activity locations (Source: [69]). MapCruzin.com is an independent firm specializing in the publication of educational and research resources. After analyzing the shape files, it seems that the location points are accurate, and the data approximately corresponds with the original shape files collected for the study from the Dhaka Detail Area Plan (DAP) GIS database. All GIS database are given within Supplementary Material.

3. Results

3.1. Comparative Analysis between Two Study Areas

Mirpur is much larger than Dhanmondi, considering area and population. Population density is also higher in Mirpur. The pilot survey oversampled the male population for both areas. With respect to employment situation and income level, the respondents chosen from Dhanmondi are in a better position. From the socio-economic aspect, both study areas have a varied range of income groups. Dhanmondi, being the higher middle-class residential area, has a large percentage share (68%)
in the upper-middle and higher-income category, but Mirpur has a considerable percentage share of residents from the lower-income category. Dhanmondi respondents have a higher rate of using a car for travel compared to those of Mirpur.

A higher level of car ownership was found in Dhanmondi. In Dhanmondi, almost 70% of the sample owned at least one vehicle, and about 40% owned a car. Compared to car ownership, the share of other vehicle ownership is higher in Mirpur. It is interesting here that while car ownership is rising rapidly among the more affluent populations, there is an increasing tendency of people in the less affluent groups to opt for owning other vehicles such as an auto rickshaw or motorcycle to fulfill the need for a private mode of travel. Independent sample T-tests were conducted for a set of indicators (income, number of employees, car ownership, number of cars, distance traveled, travel cost, trip duration) to compare both areas. The mean value of household income level, car ownership status, and number of cars were found to be significantly different between the two areas.

In Figure 3, modal share analysis by study areas was conducted to capture the variation of travel modes. In Mirpur, bus as a travel mode dominates the modal share (45.92%), indicating the public transit dependency of people of this area. Almost half of the survey respondents with home locations in Mirpur used a bus as their primary travel mode to complete their day-to-day activity. A significant percent of respondents walk in Mirpur (30.61%). Cars made up a very limited share of the travel mode in Mirpur (only 4.08%), which supports the finding of the low car ownership status of this area. Rickshaw (non-motorized three-wheeled vehicles) is a popular non-motorized transport mode in Dhaka, which is also used mainly to travel short distances.

![Figure 3. Area-wise modal share of respondents for all trips. HH: household. CNG: compressed natural gas.](image)

On the other hand, from the modal share analysis of Dhanmondi area respondents (Figure 3), the car mode was obviously a dominant share (24.19%) among all of the category travel modes. However, the highest modal share in Dhanmondi was rickshaw (32.26%). Since this area was developed with the characteristic of a planned residential area with traditional grid-pattern roads (and collector or access roads), there is a greater potential for short-distance trips within the area, which is more readily supported by the rickshaw travel mode. Public transit (bus) is also used by a significant portion of Dhanmondi travelers (16.13%), despite the lack of availability of buses alongside Dhanmondi compared to Mirpur. Influenced by rapid urbanization, the demand for travel in all sections of the community has been increasing rapidly. Traffic movements in the Dhaka North and South City Corporations differ. Compared to the southern part, the roads in the northern part are wider and include some major arterial roads (where non-motorized traffic is restricted). As a result, non-motorized vehicles such as
rickshaws are more restricted on major roads in the northern part than in the southern part of Dhaka. This is another reason of the greater share (32.26%) of rickshaws in the Dhanmondi area.

3.2. Combined Analysis of Both Areas

Changes of travel modes within a single trip were observed for some trips. Most of the trips were single-mode trips (62%). From the travel diary, 28% of all trips were multimodal trips that used two modes. The remainder (10%) of trips were multimodal trips that were completed using three travel modes. Since most of the pilot survey respondents only traveled to one non-home location per day during the pilot, some activity space measures requiring more than two activity locations were not calculated. Instead, travel distance/length and activity area (or buffered areas around the route) were used as a proxy for activity space measures.

Since two significant travel modes are bus and car, t-test analysis was conducted for trips made by each of these modes. The reason for selecting these two modes specifically is because the transport mode preferences of urban commuters in Dhaka mainly vary according to these two broad categories of modes, namely private car and public bus [51]. If we want to compare between the private and public transportation systems of Dhaka, we need to choose car and bus. An independent sample T-test comparing the mean between the activity length/area within these two modes shows no significant difference found at the 95% confidence interval (Table 1). There were slightly different means observed within these two modes for activity length and area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical Travel Mode to Work</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig. (2-Tailed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity length</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>6373.472</td>
<td>0.144</td>
<td>0.707</td>
<td>−0.471</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>7353.288</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>−0.505</td>
<td>15.496</td>
<td>0.621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>4.46315 × 10^6</td>
<td>1.229</td>
<td>0.278</td>
<td>−1.011</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>6.01823 × 10^6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>−1.204</td>
<td>20.252</td>
<td>0.242</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents from both study areas used bus as their daily travel mode by a large percentage share (Figure 3). The walking time to the nearest transit stop is a useful indicator for successful transit provision, and its possible impact on respondent travel behavior. A five to 10-minute distance is a convenient distance to walk, which is the walking time for 52% of the respondents. Also, 18% of respondents only needed to walk less than 5 min, which is a very positive finding. As people are willing here to walk, and also from its modal share of all trips, it has been found that walking also possesses a significant percentage share among all the other modes, so it can be said that there is the potential to motivate people to choose public transit in daily travel.

Gender-based analysis is very important to investigate the potential differences among the factors that influence travel behavior and activity travel patterns. Unfortunately, the pilot study included only a small number of women (only 18.4%). Their most popular mode was rickshaw and car. This choice can be easily explained by the convenience and privacy of these modes compared to bus. On the other hand, male respondents reported bus as their most preferred mode due to the lower travel cost associated with this mode, as well as because in Dhaka city, due to their socio-cultural perspective, the male population is not so bothered about the comfort and safety issues related to traveling by bus as opposed to female travelers. In terms of the gendered difference on typical travel mode to work, identical results regarding preferred travel modes were found. Most of the male respondents take the bus to work. On the other hand, most female respondents use cars as their typical travel mode to work. One interesting finding from this cross-tabulation is that 22.2% of women typically walk to work. These are mainly short-distance trips, and the respondents belong to the low-income working group (garments workers). Another 22.2% of women work at home (mainly as homemakers).
Independent sample T-tests were conducted for a set of indicators (travel distance, trip segments, activity space, and activity length) to investigate whether any gender difference existed (Table 2). The mean value of travel distance, activity space, activity length, and trip segments were not found to be significantly different between male and female respondents. The small number of women sampled could be one of the reasons of this finding. The activity length and travel distance are different in the way that activity length is based on the shortest-path network developed in ArcGIS using Network Analyst based on different activity locations (from origin to destination of each trip). On the other hand, travel distance is the actual distance traveled for each trip by respondents (distance data collected from respondents during survey; later cross-checked in GIS and Google map).

Table 2. Gender-wise independent sample T-test results. Df: degree of freedom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gender of the Respondent</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig. (2-Tailed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trip segments (per day)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>0.294</td>
<td>0.590</td>
<td>1.149</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.991</td>
<td>10.337</td>
<td>0.344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity length (meter)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7959.003</td>
<td>4.842</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>−0.082</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0.935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8134.720</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>−0.131</td>
<td>18.227</td>
<td>0.897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity area (sq. meter)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5.96896E6</td>
<td>1.962</td>
<td>0.169</td>
<td>−0.240</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0.812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6.32001E6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>−0.332</td>
<td>13.012</td>
<td>0.745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance traveled (mile/day)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10.294</td>
<td>2.766</td>
<td>0.103</td>
<td>0.732</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0.468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8.116</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.256</td>
<td>14.041</td>
<td>0.230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents were also asked about the safety and security concerns that they face in their daily travel. They were also asked some perception-related questions. Most of the male respondents did not feel unsafe due to gender and they did not think that there was gender discrimination in transit. In contrast, female respondents’ perceptions on these grounds were the opposite in Dhaka, as due to socio-cultural practice, they have had to fight for equal rights in every sphere, including traveling in public transport modes. Issues related to a lack of safety are also experienced by female passengers compared to their male counterparts while traveling. Safety and comfort issues are very dominant factors for shaping individual travel behavior in Dhaka. That is why perception-related variables are very important while analyzing variation in travel and activity space patterns. Almost 76% of the respondents indicated a lack of personal safety and comfort as reasons for not using the bus. Bus is the only public transit option in Dhaka, as no intra-city train service or subway (underground) metro rail exists. Female passengers face gender issues; these include physical harassment while traveling by bus, seating problems, etc. A specific numbers of seats are reserved for female and older persons in the bus, but during peak-hour traffic, most of the time; these seats are taken by male passengers. Other reasons cited for not using the bus are the longer waiting time (bus scheduling issues), limited frequency or no service in some areas (lack of accessibility), and longer travel time. Certain social norms, such as a negative perception toward transit, were not mentioned by any of the respondents, which reflects an overall positive perception toward transit. As for there being a long distance to the nearest bus stop, this reason was also skipped, which supports the finding that most respondents have a minimum walking time to their nearest transit stop.

Safety is a very important aspect of people’s perception when choosing transport options. Activity space could be more geographically restricted due to an unsafe environment. Safety-related problems are very common in bus stops and during bus rides. From Table 3, on average, 67% of respondents indicated that they faced no safety-related problems at bus stops and during bus rides.

In order to gain more insights about the perception of respondents toward having a safer environment within activity spaces, respondents were asked to indicate their feelings regarding conducting their daily activity at different times and at different activity points.
From Figure 4, it can be understood that perceptions vary considerably between day and night. Being “completely unafraid” was more prevalent for daytime activities, and being more afraid was more prevalent for night-time activities, especially while walking, getting on and off the bus, and during bus rides. Some respondents were extremely afraid of riding the bus at night. In Dhaka, due to some social constraints, most of the female travelers feel unsafe within their activity space. Therefore, the full sample will obtain a greater sample of females to better understand the relationship between perceptions and behavior.

This pilot travel diary survey also included attitudinal questions to supplement the data on household characteristics that are traditionally collected in this type of survey. Although attitudinal surveys are not generally classified as a qualitative method, they provide a means for measuring important qualitative factors in travel behavior studies. Each respondent in the pilot survey was asked a series of attitudinal questions in the form of statements with which respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree on a seven-point Likert scale. Respondents’ feelings or experiences regarding a variety of transportation-related topics could shape their travel and activity behavior. From the attitudinal characteristic importance ranking for the respondents (descriptive statistics of Likert scale variables related with perception), the dominant attitude stressed the importance of protecting the environment (6.04 out of 7.0). Concern for the noise and air pollution from cars (5.98) was next in importance, followed by increasing the perception that transit use is beneficial for the environment (5.84). Lower travel cost by bus compared to car and enjoyment of walking and bicycle as travel modes
for short distances were next in the ranking, and both were rated at approximately 5.78 out of 7 for importance. The least important attributes were generally related to the importance of car (1.98) and the presence of physical limitations in getting around (1.52). One important finding to note is that the following attitudes were ranked within lower important categories (ranked in the lower half in importance): carrying negative attitudes toward transit, feeling of restriction, deprivation, and social exclusion for not having a car, lack of knowledge regarding transit, and perceiving the car as a symbol of social status. This indicates again the potentiality of promoting sustainable travel modes (walk, bicycle, and bus) in Dhaka rather than encouraging automobile use (private car ownership). This analysis is given in Table S17 of Supplementary-I (Supplementary Material).

Factor Analysis of Attitudinal Questions

From the Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin test, it was found that the resulting factors explained 49.4% of the variance in the attitudinal responses. In the Bartlett’s test, the null hypothesis is that there is no correlation among the questions. The $p$-value is significant; thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. After applying principal axis factoring as an extraction method, 11 factors were found from 39 questions. After extracting 11 factors, a factor matrix and rotated factor matrix were found, which are the SPSS output before and after Varimax rotation to illustrate how rotation aids interpretation.

To evaluate the internal consistency of the factors, Cronbach’s alpha was calculated for each factor (Table 4). Six factors had a Cronbach’s alpha of 0.594 (equivalent to 0.6) or higher, which is above the recommended minimum of 0.60 for exploratory research [70]. Cronbach’s alpha values for most of the factors were found as more than 60%, which indicates that those six factors explained 60% of the total variation in the responses to the corresponding attitudinal statements. If we discuss the first factor (transit preference), the Cronbach’s alpha value was found as 0.690, which indicates that 69% of the variance in that score would be considered a true score variance or internally consistent reliable variance. Although the sample size for this pilot study is very small to run confirmatory factor analysis, even then, the Cronbach’s alpha values were found to be internally consistent (analysis is reliable) and indicate sufficient internal reliability.

Table 4. Summary of the factor analysis (statements organized as per correlation matrix).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Statements (Survey Item)</th>
<th>Factor Loading</th>
<th>Cronbach’s Alpha ($\alpha$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transit preferences</td>
<td>I can get things done while riding on the public bus that I can’t do in my car.</td>
<td>0.805</td>
<td>0.690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The public bus takes me where I need to go.</td>
<td>0.712</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I try to minimize my impact on the environment by taking the bus whenever I can.</td>
<td>0.601</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The public bus schedule is convenient for me.</td>
<td>0.560</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I enjoy walking or bicycling near my home to travel short distances.</td>
<td>−0.579</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Much of my travel is done to meet the needs of others in my household.</td>
<td>0.725</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privacy and social</td>
<td>I feel restricted because I don’t have access to a car often enough.</td>
<td>0.701</td>
<td>0.789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exclusion/trend concerns</td>
<td>I like the privacy of riding in a car compared to other modes of traveling.</td>
<td>−0.502</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I am feeling socially deprived and excluded for not having a car.</td>
<td>−0.669</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I feel socially excluded for not having access to car.</td>
<td>0.523</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I am feeling socially deprived and excluded for having a limited activity space or daily travel area.</td>
<td>0.550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I carry negative attitude toward using public transit.</td>
<td>−0.454</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due to social trends, I want/wanted to buy a private car.</td>
<td>0.718</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4. Cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Statements (Survey Item)</th>
<th>Factor Loading</th>
<th>Cronbach’s Alpha (α)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car attachment</td>
<td>My car is an important part of who I am.</td>
<td>0.663</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My car acts as a symbol of social status for me.</td>
<td>0.623</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I feel pressed for time in my daily travels.</td>
<td>0.541</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using the public bus takes too long to reach my destination compared to going by car.</td>
<td>0.495</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It is/would be difficult to get everything done without a car, especially when multiple destinations are needed to be covered.</td>
<td>0.584</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There are enough places in my daily travel area where I can go for recreation or entertainment.</td>
<td>0.767</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal safety concerns</td>
<td>People who are important to me worry about my safety when I use public transit.</td>
<td>0.653</td>
<td>0.745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>According to me, a car is safer than other travel modes.</td>
<td>0.915</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support and environmental concerns</td>
<td>My family and friends would support me if I used public transit for environmental reasons.</td>
<td>0.579</td>
<td>0.693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary and environmental concerns</td>
<td>My close friends and family are concerned about the environment.</td>
<td>–0.500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taking the bus could save me money compared to driving a car.</td>
<td>–0.699</td>
<td>0.594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noise and pollution from cars and trucks is a problem in my daily travel area.</td>
<td>–0.481</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3. GIS Applications of Methods for Representing Activity Space

The shortest-path network (SPN) and road network buffer (RNB) were applied on the preliminary data collected through the pilot survey. Analyses related with these two methods are included here.

In Figure 5, trip origin points are not located, as in all of the cases, the first trip origin was the respondents’ home location, and for all the other trips, one trip’s destination point is the immediately following trip’s origin. In most of the cases, the second trip’s destination is the home location (people went back home). That is why, for most of the respondents, a maximum of two trips was recorded in a day. Overall, the maximum number of daily trips recorded for any respondent was four. The destination points found for both the days were very similar, as previously mentioned. This is the reason why the intrapersonal variation of the same respondent’s activity space is not so meaningful regarding two-day survey data for Dhaka City. Not that much variation in activity space and travel pattern could be possibly captured with two weekday-based travel diary data. However, the weeklong full travel survey data is expected to capture the variation.

The shortest-path network (SPN) complemented with road network buffer (RNB) method is used here to calculate activity space, as this method does not overestimate the spatial area traveled by the respondents. Since this method is closely related to actual paths, there is less of a likelihood of overestimating the extent of the activity spaces, as can happen with the two methods not analyzed with the pilot data, standard deviational and minimum convex polygon. The SPN and RNB methods are useful for investigating the accessibility to potential services/opportunities, which will be explored later in this paper (see Section 3.5). While calculating RNB, the size of the buffer was set to 400 m (0.25 mile), assuming that this distance would be a typical walking distance for most people.

Some SPN and RNB figures are attached here to clearly depict the activity space of respondents calculated from the pilot study. Sample shortest path network with 400 m road network buffer for one individual respondent from study sub-area Mirpur are shown in Figure 6. The road network buffer for both areas with the separate-path network is shown in Figure 7a, which depicts the buffer (RNB) with transparency, so that the SPN travel paths around which the RNB are based are visible. Although several maps are produced using GIS, due to the overlapping buffer areas among the respondents, the resultant output are not that much clearer with maps.
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Some SPN and RNB figures are attached here to clearly depict the activity space of respondents calculated from the pilot study. Sample shortest path network with 400 m road network buffer for one individual respondent from study sub-area Mirpur are shown in Figure 6. The road network buffer for both areas with the separate-path network is shown in Figure 7a, which depicts the buffer (RNB) with transparency, so that the SPN travel paths around which the RNB are based are visible.

Although several maps are produced using GIS, due to the overlapping buffer areas among the respondents, the resultant output are not that much clearer with maps.

Figure 5. Distribution of trip destination points for all the trips of two working days; (a) Day 1 and (b) Day 2. Shortest-Path Network with Road Network Buffer.

Figure 6. Visualizing activity space: example of (a) shortest-path network (SPN) with (b) 400-m road network buffer (RNB) for one respondent (home location: Mirpur).
Figure 6. Visualizing activity space: example of (a) shortest-path network (SPN) with (b) 400-m road network buffer (RNB) for one respondent (home location: Mirpur).

Figure 7. Shortest-path network with 400-m road network buffer of (a) both areas (with transparency), showing separately for the respondents of (b) Mirpur and (c) Dhanmondi.

From Figure 7b,c, it can be easily observed that the aggregate activity space area for the Mirpur respondents was much larger than that for the Dhanmondi-area respondents. The Mirpur respondents covered more activity points from a spatial perspective. This shows more dispersed activity locations for Mirpur over Dhanmondi. This finding can be matched with the larger average total distance traveled by Mirpur-area respondents per day. Also, respondents whose home locations were in Mirpur took a greater amount of time for all the trips compared to Dhanmondi respondents (see Section 3.1).

One reason could be that they traveled a longer distance, which supports this finding of the larger activity area of Mirpur residents. The highest modal share in Dhanmondi (Figure 3) was found to be for rickshaws (32.26%). Rickshaws are a popular non-motorized three-wheeled transport mode in Dhaka that are used mainly to travel short distances. Since this area was developed with the characteristic of a planned residential area with traditional grid pattern roads (and collector or access roads), there is a greater potential for short distance trips within the area, which is more readily supported by the rickshaw travel mode. This travel characteristic of Dhanmondi residents can explain the result of the smaller activity space found for Dhanmondi in comparison to Mirpur, the other study subarea.

On the other hand, regarding the socio-economic characteristic differences between the two areas, the above different activity area finding can be explained. In Mirpur, bus as a travel mode dominates the modal share (45.92%), indicating the public transit dependency of people of this area (Figure 3). Almost half of the survey respondents with home locations in Mirpur used bus as their primary travel mode to complete their day-to-day activity. Being a lower-income residential area (as bus fare is comparatively cheaper), Mirpur residents can travel longer distances by bus. However, in Dhanmondi, as rickshaw is a semi-private mode of transport (no ownership by user, but the mode is used by a single rider), the fare is comparatively high, which supports the upper-middle and higher-income residential characteristic of Dhanmondi-area residents (see Section 3.1).

3.4. Quantification and Mapping of Built Form Indicators and Activity Space

The built form indicators selected in this paper are quantitative in nature, and thus each of them has a numeric value. Here, a suitable measure for each built form indicator will be selected in terms of data availability and applicability for this study. Each measure will be calculated within each respondent’s daily activity area. Diversity, design, and accessibility can play a crucial role behind travel and activity space patterns. Diversity in land use has many benefits. Heterogeneous land use can promote different activities within a walking distance, which eventually helps people complete many activities within walking distance. In that case, even after having a smaller activity space,
people will not be excluded from a variety of social and economic opportunities. On the other hand, homogeneous land use induces sprawl growth, which enhances automobile ownership among the residents and simultaneously reduces the transit use. For up to a one-half mile catchment area, an entropy index can give a result that can be interpreted easily to understand the land-use balance [71]. Usually, entropy is estimated on the basis of share of each land use in the area, which can also be referred to as ‘land-use balance’.

Usually, a selection of land uses depends on the specific study area context [72,73]. For this paper, from a set of 19 land-use categories, five land-use categories (commercial and industrial, institutional, mixed use, recreation, and residential land uses) were considered while computing the entropy index (see Figures S4 and S5 in Supplementary-I, Supplementary Material). Mixed land uses were taken into account because a considerable percentage share (15.27%) of mixed uses is apparent in the land-use distribution within the area of all the respondents’ activity space (mixed use holds the second highest percentage share; see Figure S6 in Supplementary-I, Supplementary Material). Commercial and industrial lands uses are summed up as purely commercial activity-based land parcels, and are less prevalent.

After reclassification, Dhaka South City Corporation was predominantly found to have a mixture of mixed, institutional, recreational, and commercial and industrial use, whereas the northern part of Dhaka featured mostly residential use. Here, the residential land-use category contained both planned and unplanned residential land parcels. Education and research, health, and public facility were combined to create the institutional land-use category. Commercial activity has been identified by combining manufacturing and processing land categories, and was named commercial and industrial. Three land-use categories—restricted area, unknown, and vacant land—were excluded from the analysis. As people sometimes visit historical places for recreation in Dhaka city, historical land parcels were combined with recreational land use and represented in the recreational land-use category.

While calculating the existing share of different land-use types within the activity space buffer of all the respondents, residential land use dominates completely the activity space by a large proportion (58.82%) as seen from Figure S6 in Supplementary-I, Supplementary Material. For all of the land-use categories except residential land use; the percentage distribution was higher within the buffer compared to the total area. Within the activity area of the respondents (buffer area), the land-use distribution was more diversified compared to the total area of the city. The land-use diversity within the activity area showed a positive result (heterogeneity of land use, which indicates balanced land-use distribution). Most of the areas showed a diversity value of higher than 0.5, which indicates heterogeneity of land use and would be supportive for enhancing accessibility. Moreover, it can also be said that Dhanmondi is slightly more diverse in land-use distribution than Mirpur.

In addition to good land-use mix, a good connectivity of the road network is essential for commuters to access potential service facilities. The most recommended methods for road connectivity are street density and intersection density. Another measure, link–node ratio, is less intuitive, because it does not reflect the length of the link. Moreover, the link–node ratio is not corresponding to the actual size or spacing of road network [74]. In this paper, intersection density (per square mile) was hypothesized as being positively associated with activity space expansion, and was used to analyze pilot results. An intersection having more than two legs (connecting lines) was considered for this analysis. Intersections with one connecting line (cul de sac) and two connecting lines were ignored from the analysis, because they are not preferable for good connectivity. In terms of road connectivity, the activity space of respondents from Dhanmondi has relatively better connectivity than that of Mirpur. Poor road network connectivity would tend to reduce the activity space. However, it was found from Figure 7 that the aggregate activity space of Mirpur respondents was much larger than that of Dhanmondi residents, irrespective of the area’s poor connectivity. Dhanmondi respondents had relatively better connectivity than Mirpur residents with more intersections (number of junctions >2) per square mile.

All of the respondents from the Dhanmondi area had a daily activity space of less than 3.59 square miles, while 40% of the respondents from the Mirpur area had an activity space range
of 3.12 to 6.18 square miles. The percentage share of activity space in each category and range were found after mapping in GIS using the equal frequency classification method. This clearly reveals that the respondents that had larger activity spaces were mostly concentrated within Mirpur, which is predominantly residential use with a lower percentage share of other land-uses categories. The residents of Mirpur have to travel more to get other types of land-use facilities. Table 7 shows that the smallest daily activity area for any individual respondent was 0.37 square miles, and 6.18 square miles was the largest area. Both the areas were recorded for respondents from Mirpur. Similar patterns are apparent if we measure the daily activity length in areas with the shortest-path network method (in miles) (replacing the road network buffer method). Sixty percent of respondents from Dhanmondi had a daily activity length less than 3.84 miles, while 80% of the respondents from Mirpur belonged to that activity length range of 3.38 to 12.64 miles. This percentage share of activity length in each category and range was also found after mapping in GIS. The smallest daily activity length for any individual respondent was found to be 0.42 miles, and 12.64 miles was found as the largest activity length. Both the activity lengths were recorded for respondents from Mirpur.

3.5. Modeling Individual Accessibility Using Activity Space

Assessment of the implications of travel-activity space patterns on accessibility to opportunities (educational institution, hospital, recreation, retail shop, restaurant, open space, and so on) will be conducted for the full study. ArcGIS-generated structure shape files are available where different kinds of opportunities were geocoded. For preliminary analysis, school and open space were selected to model individual accessibility using the road network buffer activity space measure. The reason for selecting these two particular facilities is that one opportunity (school) is observed in large numbers in comparison to open space facilities, which are very limited in number within the city area.

Accessible schools and open spaces were defined as those located within a respondent’s activity space. To examine accessibility, three sets of descriptive statistics were looked at for representation of activity space by RNB. These are: mean and median number of opportunities within an individual’s activity space, percentage of respondents with at least one opportunity inside their activity space, and correlation between the area of activity space and the number of opportunities. As expected from Table 5, it is clear that RNB had the highest percentage (100%) with at least one school facility, indicating that each individual respondent has at least one school within their activity space defined by the road network buffer measure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure of Activity Space (Road Network Buffer)</th>
<th>Mean (S.D.)</th>
<th>Median (Range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of opportunities</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>57.16 (29.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open space</td>
<td>1.66 (1.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent with at least one opportunity</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open space</td>
<td>29.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correlation between area and number of</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>0.639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opportunities</td>
<td>Open space</td>
<td>0.139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The RNB measure indicates that a substantial percentage of respondents did not have access to an open space opportunity (70.45%). Correlation was performed to test the strength of association between the area of the activity space and the number of opportunities for the activity space model (RNB). While the activity space model used here (RNB) demonstrates a positive correlation between the area and number of opportunities (both school and open space), the association was strong for school facilities (0.639). However, there was a weak correlation between open space and activity area.
(0.139), which was expected. The mean, median, and range were very minimal for open space in comparison to school facility.

Area-Wise School Facility Comparison

From Table 6, it is clear that Mirpur has more schools in number compared to Dhanmondi. As a consequence, the correlation value between the activity area of the respondents and number of schools is also stronger (0.703) for this area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure of Activity Space (Road Network Buffer)</th>
<th>Mean (S.D.)</th>
<th>Median (Range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of schools Mirpur</td>
<td>56.5 (28.4)</td>
<td>(0–110)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhanmondi</td>
<td>52.55 (28.06)</td>
<td>(0–87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent with at least one school Mirpur</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhanmondi</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correlation between area and number of schools</td>
<td>Mirpur</td>
<td>0.703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhanmondi</td>
<td>0.629</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Discussion

4.1. Summary of Pilot Results

From Table 7, we can see that the daily activity areas for individual respondents ranged from 0.38 to 6.18 square miles. The average activity space for the respondents from Mirpur (2.88 square miles) was much larger than that of respondents from Dhanmondi (1.63 square miles). All of the respondents from the Dhanmondi area had a daily activity space of less than 3.59 square miles, while 40% of respondents from the Mirpur area had an activity space of 3.12 to 6.18 square miles. This shows more dispersed activity locations for one area over another. An initial hypothesis regarding this finding was that the Mirpur area is predominantly residential, with less commercial and other facilities, and therefore, Mirpur respondents needed to travel greater distances to satisfy their daily needs. This difference also likely occurred because the Dhanmondi area, in contrast, has a slightly more diverse land-use distribution than the Mirpur area (based on a land-use entropy measure), so Dhanmondi respondents could satisfy their needs within short distances. From the entropy value ranges, the Dhanmondi area was found to be slightly more diverse in land-use distribution than the Mirpur area, which complemented the greater land-use balance that was stated above. While calculating diversity, residential land use was found to completely dominate the activity space by a large proportion (58.82%). Most of the activity areas showed diversity values higher than 0.5, which indicates heterogeneity of land use and would be supportive for enhancing accessibility. In terms of road connectivity, the Dhanmondi area had relatively better connectivity than the other one, with more intersections per square mile. From the accessibility of opportunities (school and open space) analysis, each individual respondent was found to have at least one school within their activity space, while a substantial percentage of respondents were found without access to open space (70.45%). After performing correlation analysis, positive correlations were found between the area and number of opportunities for both school and open space; the association was strong for school facility (0.639), but a weak correlation was found between open space and activity area (0.139). While conducting subarea-wise analysis, Mirpur was found to have more schools in comparison to Dhanmondi. As a consequence, the correlation value between the activity area of respondents and number of schools was also stronger (0.703) for this area.
Table 7. Summary of pilot results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily activity area (sq. mile)</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean activity space (sq. mile)</td>
<td>Mirpur</td>
<td>2.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dhanmondi</td>
<td>1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominant land use within activity space: Residential (58.82%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity value &gt; 0.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhanmondi area: more diverse and better street connectivity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correlation with activity space</td>
<td>School facility</td>
<td>0.639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open space</td>
<td>0.139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2. Lessons Learnt from Pilot Study

Although the pilot study clarified the data and analytical requirements for the full study, several elements will be revised in the proposed full study. The pilot data showed that some specific socio-economic and travel differences were observed across the study areas (car ownership, income, modal share, distance traveled, trip duration, and so on). Therefore, in terms of the survey sampling and methodology for the full study, the selection of these two study areas may not be sufficient to capture variation in travel behavior, since the majority of the trips were found to be work trips (64.48%). Collecting only one individual respondent’s travel information from each household limited the use of other activity space measures (such as the standard deviation ellipse method), because most of the respondents had only two activity points that could be used to calculate their activity space.

Preliminary multiple regression analysis of the two measures of activity space size was conducted (not reported here given the small sample size) and suggested that, consistent with previous activity space studies, land-use mix was a significant predictor of the activity space size for residents of Dhaka City. The collection of more trip-related information in the full survey will be beneficial. Exploratory correlation and regression analysis of the pilot data was limited by the small sample size. If GPS-based data collection procedures could be employed in the travel diary survey, the exact activity areas of the respondents could be collected. In terms of analytical methods, additional activity space measurement techniques or different sets of indicators (variables) will be evaluated in the full study to assess a wider range of factors associated with activity space patterns. Regression modeling techniques will also be refined. A more in-depth literature review will need to be conducted in order to identify most suitable models, variables, and activity space measurement techniques.

5. Conclusions

This paper will contribute to the literature based on travel-activity space patterns and planning practice in several areas. Very few studies exist on travel-activity space measures outside the U.S. and European contexts. Representing southeast Asia (from the developing world) in the transportation research literature by studying Dhaka City will make an important contribution. Differences across subgroups of the population (based on gender, social class, etc.) can help identify and address social exclusion concerns. Also, only a few previous studies have assessed the influence of individual perceptions and values on activity spaces. Finally, understanding the day-to-day interpersonal and intrapersonal variability of activity spaces and examining individual access to potential urban opportunities will give specific guidance for reshaping the land-use and socio-economic policies of the study area. Some limitations are evident in this paper, which are as follows. As the ArcGIS-generated land-use shape files were prepared a few years ago (2010), there is a possibility of there being some land parcels that were developed after that time not being included in the available data. However, those missing land parcels (if any) can be located in the map with reference to the adjacent land uses. It was not possible to conduct a GPS-based travel diary data collection method in the Dhaka city context, as most of the people do not own automobiles and change mode frequently. The lack of affordability of
GPS trackers (instrument) for each individual respondent was another issue. Without GPS tracking survey, data accuracy may be in question, but that is a limitation of collecting data for Dhaka.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online at http://www.mdpi.com/2413-8851/3/1/36/s1, Table S17: Attitudinal Characteristic Importance Ranking for the Respondents (Descriptive Statistics of Likert scale variables related with perception), Table S16: KMO and Bartlett’s Test: Factor analysis (Descriptives), Table S18: Total variance explained for extracted factors, Figure S10: Scree plot indicating that the data have eleven factors, Figure S4: Existing land use distribution, Figure S5(a): Reclassification to five types of land uses for diversity measurement, Figure S5(b): SPN with selected land use within buffer area for diversity measurement, Figure S6: Land use distribution comparison between total area and within the area of all respondent’s activity space. All GIS database can be found at https://www.dropbox.com/s/2duph9p6wqfrfbd/GIS%20Dataset.zip?dl=0.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, D.H. and N.S.; methodology, N.S.; software, N.S.; validation, D.H.; formal analysis, N.S.; investigation, N.S.; resources, D.H. and N.S.; data curation, N.S.; writing—original draft preparation, N.S.; writing—review and editing, D.H.; visualization, N.S.; supervision, D.H.; project administration, D.H.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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