



Ain Shams University
Faculty of Engineering
Department of Architecture Engineering

Assessing Good Urban Governance in Promoting Informal Settlements Upgrading Policies in Egypt

A thesis Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Master of Science Degree in Architecture Engineering

By

Aya Mohamed Hisham Elsisy

BSc in Architecture 2012- Ain Shams University

Supervisors

Professor Dr. Mohamed Ayman Ashour

Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
Faculty of Engineering - Ain Shams University
&

Dean of Faculty of Engineering – Ain Shams University

Professor Dr. Marwa Abo El-Fetouh Khalifa

Professor of Urban Design & Planning
Faculty of Engineering - Ain Shams University

Associate Professor Dr. Laila Mohamed Khodeir

Associate Professor of Architecture
Faculty of Engineering - Ain Shams University

2018



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Name: **Aya Mohamed Hisham Mohamed Abd El-Rahman Elsisy**

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The Jury Committee:

Professor Dr. Sahar Abd El-Moneim Attia

Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
Faculty of Engineering – Cairo University

Professor Dr. Ghada Farouk Hassan

Professor of Urban Design and Planning
Faculty of Engineering - Ain Shams University

Professor Dr. Mohamed Ayman Ashour

Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
Dean of Faculty of Engineering
Ain Shams University

Professor Dr. Marwa Abo El-Fetouh Khalifa

Professor of Urban Design and Planning
Faculty of Engineering - Ain Shams University

Post Graduate studies

Approval stamp

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Faculty Council Approval:

.../.../...

The Research was approved on

.../.../...

University Council Approval:

.../.../...



Disclaimer

This thesis is submitted as partial fulfillment of M.Sc. degree in Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University.

The work included in this thesis was carried out by the author during the period from January 2015 to September 2017, and no part of it has been submitted for a degree or qualification at any other scientific entity.

The candidate confirms that the work submitted is her own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

Name: Aya Mohamed Hisham Elsisy

Signature:

Date:

Examiners Committee

Board	Signature
Professor Dr. Sahar Abd El-Moneim Attia Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning Department of Architecture Faculty of Engineering Cairo University	
Professor Dr. Ghada Farouk Hassan Professor of Urban Design and Planning Department of Urban Planning & Design Faculty of Engineering Ain Shams University	
Professor Dr. Mohamed Ayman Ashour Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning Department of Architecture Faculty of Engineering Ain Shams University & The Dean of Faculty of Engineering in Ain Shams University	
Professor Dr. Marwa Abo El-Fetouh Khalifa Professor of Urban Design and Planning Department of Urban Planning & Design Faculty of Engineering Ain Shams University	

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis main advisor Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ayman Ashour for the continuous support and guidance in my M.Sc. study and research. I thank him for nominating me for the IHS postgraduate diploma in Land Management & Informal Settlements Regularization, which enhanced my perception in the research and added insightful information to my analysis. I would like also to thank Prof. Dr. Marwa Khalifa, my advisor, mentor, and role model, for her patience, motivation, enthusiasm and support in all the time of the research and writing of this thesis. I thank her for the opportunity to work with her in relating projects in informal areas, adding practical insights to my theoretical study. Besides, I thank my advisor Assistant Prof. Dr. Laila Khodier for her guidance, encouragement and insightful comments. I would like also to thank her teaching me the basics of academic research.

My sincere thanks also go to Prof. Carlos Morales, IHS instructor in my postgraduate diploma for the stimulating discussions, and enlightening me with important aspects for my research. I would like also to thank all the interviewed stakeholders for their time, and the information and support they have given me to complete my research analysis. Special thanks to Eng. Magd Zahran for his support and guidance throughout the research and the field study. My sincere thanks also go to all the professors and teachers that added insights to my research, participated in discussions, or given me the spiritual support. I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Sahar Attia and Prof. Dr. Ghada Farouk, my examiners, for their constructive criticism and insightful comments.

I thank my friends and colleagues for their spiritual support and their continues backup. I would like to specially thank my closest friends Eng. Dalia Aly and Eng. Fatma Fathy for bearing with me through the whole process. Thank you for sharing all the good and hard times, thank you for being my sisters and mentors. Without you both, I am never complete. Last but not least, my sincere gratitude to my family, my backbone in this life. Thank you, my mother Dr. Suzan Zakaria, for teaching me passion and disciplinary. Thank you, my father Eng. Mohamed Hisham, for teaching me patience and perfection. And thank you, my sister Amira, for teaching me forgiveness and kindness. Thank you all for the spiritual support and guidance throughout my life. Thank you for raising me on honesty, respect and kindness. I am grateful for having all of you in my life and I hope to make you all proud.

Abstract

The uprising phenomenon of informal housing and urbanism is becoming one of the urging challenges on decision-making process in developing urban upgrading policies and strategic planning. This phenomenon is caused by poor pro-poor housing policies that provoked many working class and low-income groups to find alternative for affordable housing through building informal settlements. There are main negative impacts for informal growth which promoted governments and authorities to face it through corrective policies depending on upgrading informal areas from one side, and preventive policies depending on providing adequate affordable housing for lower income groups from another side.

Despite the continuous efforts to restrain informal growth and its problems, the policies developed in Egypt could not achieve its goals, and the continuous growth and deterioration of informal areas are still urging problems. Thus, investigating the adopted upgrading policies in Egypt is inevitable, to define deficiencies in the governing framework and reasons behind its failure to achieve its intended goals. This thesis examines the policy of urban intervention in slums in Egypt and analyzes the shortcomings and strengths of the institutional and legislative framework to adopt and implement these policies. Moreover, it studies the effectiveness of applying the principles of Good Urban Governance in raising the efficiency of decision-making processes in urban development management in general and informal upgrading in particular.

The theoretical study discusses the ruling framework for urban development in Egypt through the discussion of laws and legislations governing urban development, the analysis of economic, social and political influences, and the reflection of all the above on informal growth within our society. It also addresses the approaches and principles of applying Good Urban Governance and their relation to the principles of intervention in informal areas. The practical study deals with a field survey to identify the roles of stakeholders involved in informal upgrading and urban development in Egypt, the aspects of cooperation and participation among them, the challenging aspects and the improvement suggestions for policies, applications and for the institutional and legislative frameworks.

The findings of this thesis are the positive and negative impacts of applying Good Urban Governance principles on Urban Upgrading policies in informal areas. These impacts are studied from the perspective of informal upgrading goals, and the capability of their achievement within the Good Urban Governance system. These findings will give insights for the future development of the legislative and institutional frameworks of urban development management in Egypt and for future tailoring Good Urban Governance principles to adapt to the Egyptian context potentials and challenges.

Acronyms

CAPMAS: Central Agency for Public Mobilization And Statistics

ESA: Egyptian Survey Authority

ISDF: Informal Settlements Development Fund

ISDP: Informal Settlements Development Program

GARPAD: General Authority for Reconstruction Projects, & Agriculture Development

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GOPP: General Organization for Physical Planning

GRC: Great Cairo Region

GUG: Good Urban Governance

MDG: Millennium Development Goals

MHUUC: Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities

NUCA: New Urban Communities Authority

PPP: Public Private Partnership

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

TDA: Touristic Development Authority

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

UN-HABITAT: United Nations Human Settlements Program

UGI: Urban Governance Index

UUU: Urban Upgrading Units