

127, 17 27, 17 (20) 77, 17 (20









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DETERMINATION OF THE BEST DEVELOPMENT PATH FOR THE EGYPTIAN'S CITY AND REGION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS AN ENTRANCE TO PHILOSOPHY OF DEVELOPMENT

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A DISSERTATION TO BE SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

BY

METWALLY FATHY METWALLY

32.21

1999

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GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

CAPMS Center Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics

COB Community Based Organization

CDC Community Development Corporation

CIDA Canadian International Development Agency

GOE Government of Egypt

GS General System Theory

Household See Section 5.5 for a definition

Housing Unit "

IDRC International Development Research Center

ILO International Labour Organization

IMF International Monetry Fund

IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

NGO Non Government Organization

NHT National Housing Trust

NIEO New International Economic Order

PSU Portland State University

UNCHS United Nation Centre for Human Settlement (HABITAT)

USAID United States Agency for International Development

WCS World Conservation Strategy

ABSTRACT

During the past few decades, many Third World nations have experienced high rates of urbanization. This has led to environmental planning and development problems in their human settlements, where many people live without such basic needs as proper sanitation, adequate shelter and water supply systems. There are a number of global trends, these include the widening income disparities between and within nations, the increasing marginalization of the poor and the high rates of population growth putting further strain on the economies of the developing world. So we find that the governments, development agencies and community based organizations have been frustrated in their attempt to improve the conditions in Third World communities.

The result of these failed attempts at improving the city areas, combined with the current unfavorable and "turbulent" global economic trends, have led to an unprecedented challenge. The forecasts for the next few decades, as reported by the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), point to the continued expansion and deterioration of communities in the urban areas of developing countries. The Commission also suggested that the "urban challenge" demands creative strategies and recommended that a sustainable development path be adopted.

The World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) identifies low-income countries as those having an average annual per capita gross national product (GNP) of less than \$580¹, the quality of life as measured by longevity and literacy, and the Human Development Index (HDI). The UNDP finds some 63 low-human-development countries, including most of the low-income countries, and the other countries may not be poor in terms of per capita GNP, they are poor in the quality of life they provide their citizens. Thus, these countries face many of the same problems as low-income countries.

Low-human-development countries include countries in North and sub-Saharan Africa, South and Central America, South Asia, and the Middle East² The Upper Egypt Region

² ibid, p.153

¹ United Nation Development Programme, *Human Development Report 1991*. Oxford: Oxford University Press,, New York,1991,p.153

have most of these category, so it will be explored as an example of the difficulties facing many Third World communities. Through a program of reviews, combined with an examination of other sources of information, the felt needs and stresses were uncovered in these selected region.

After viewing a number of alternative development models for Upper Egypt to consider, it was concluded that a sustainable development path offers the most potential for meeting the region felt needs and for confronting the identified stresses. The literature review produced five important sustainable development principles which are applied to the region situation. A strategic planning system is then offered as a basis for operationalizing sustainable development, both for meeting the immediate needs and also the region's more long term objectives as they arise, through combined the theory with practice by working with local people to take the best of available resource and adapt them to local conditions.

ACNOWLEDGMENTS

I acknowledge that it is Allah who gave me the strength to accomplish the task involved. This dissertation draws on the help, guidance and assistance of many people. Among them, I am most indebted to Dr. Nohad Toulan who provided valuable guidance and incredible support all along, but especially during the critical early stages of proposing my research plan and conceptualizing the dissertation's focus. His help invaluable.

Among my close collaborators, Dr Taher El- Sadek for his insight and guidance in this dissertation, and his excellent prodding which encouraged me to complete this work. I would like to extend my gratitude to, Dr. Sami Amer for his excellent guidance. Finally, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to family, friends and all the people I have worked with over the years who taught me what it means to manage with flexibility.