# Role of Endogenous Development in Informal Habitation: An Analytical Study

[1]Khosro Daneshjoo, [2] Siamak Panahi
[3] Seyyed Mostafa Mokhtabad Amraey

[1]Ph.D. Department of Art and Architecture, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.
[2]Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Islamic Azad University, Abhar branch, Tehran, Iran.
[3]Ph.D. Associate Professor, University of Tarbiat Modarres, Tehran, Iran.

**ABSTRACT:** Today, most of the big cities or metropolises around the world have been encountering with the problem of informal habitation. The present study, thus, tries to focus on the role of endogenous development in such type of habitation process. For that matter, the paper takes into account architectural programming and urbanism as its theoretical framework because the endogenous development is related to new ways of architecture and urbanism. For a society, exogenous or vertical development and Endogenous or people are two main developmental processes. The current study tries to show as how the endogenous development solves the informal habitation problem. At first, the study analyzes the meaning of habitation, exogenous and endogenous development and then determines how the endogenous development, which is based on sustainable development, help peoples deal with their problems. The methodology applied in this study is analytical, combined with qualitative (from the case study to the theory) and quantitative (from the theory to the case study) researches. Explaining seven factors, the study concludes that the endogenous development has key role in solving the informal habitation problems.

**Keywords:** *Endogenous development, Informal habitation, Marginality, Enablement Introduction*

## INTRODUCTION

As indicated in technical literature, today, informal habitation is one of the most important problems of big cities in our country. Intermittently, experts have tried to solve this problem applying different ways and means at different levels. They tried to solve this problem, occasionally, by destroying living places of informal habitants in order to disperse them, and some times, there were a large number of arrests using police forces. Undoubtedly, those tactics have never been successful. It seems that each of these intrusions not only did not solve the problem rather made the problem worse leading it to the critical juncture. In the present era, management is considered as one of the most significant activities in the social life. Through correct management, missions and goals of organizations come true. In addition, management puts skills and abilities of man into practice.

Managers, in fulfilling their duties, follow a process consisted of planning, organizing, supervising and controlling, encouraging, invigorating communication, piloting and decision-making. These activities together make goals possible.On the other hand, if one thinks of development with the aim to change the social life, in fact the issue of management as a science is invigorating the process of development. In other words, managers' viewpoints, managing guidelines, ways of perceiving changes

in the environment and strategies to confront these changes, at the same time, indicate conditions as the final product of this process. (Mghaddas, 2006) As mentioned before, two chief classifications for developmental process in societies are:

1. Exogenous or vertical development: This relies on the authority and power and it moves from top to bottom. It is said that the degree of participation in this development is low.

2. Endogenous or people-based development:

Unlike vertical developments, this emphasizes on a structural, horizontal and responsible systems. In this model, while opinions and viewpoints of people are respected, their activities whether great or little are undertook by their participation and enthusiasm. (Islami, 2003) Introducing the phenomenon called informal habitation as well as analyzing structural causes of its formation; the paper will try to prove that this phenomenon is mainly the outcome of the planning system of our country. In other words, this phenomenon, beside ignorance of all the effective and beneficiary constituents, is caused by inaccurate inferences of present conditions, determination of inharmonious strategies and inappropriate managing patterns. Rest of the article introduces "enablement" in order to find an appropriate solution to the problem of informal habitation."Enablement"

is based on the concept of endogenous development and it adopts some patterns of lasting development. These days, it is the most effective method to confront the problems of informal habitation in different world societies. Further, "enablement" as a solution intends to make capacity in societies to enable them to solve the problems by their own reflection, sources and strength.

## Informal Habitation

According to the 1996 habitation index of the United Nations (UN), one- fifth of the world population--- including a large extent of homeless and vagabonds--- did not own appropriate place of living. Accordingly, international commission on the future of cities in the 21st century has warned that poverty in the southern countries has increased parallel to the development of mega cities. Since, the principal part of development in urban life is based on informal economy; it is often accompanied by the growth of informal habitations. The human habitation commission calls this tendency "Informal Urbanization". As such, the informal habitation is not a temporary issue with some limited dimensions and there is a concurrence for its survival and production. This shows inadequacy to solutions and urban policies hence; demands novel findings and actions. (Wheeler and Beatley, 2003) In Iran, too, the informal habitation growth was swifter than urbanization. However, it is estimated that one-fifth of the cities' population live in such habitations. In fact, informal habitation is one of the evident faces of urban poverty. It is usually concentrated in the suburbs of cities (especially big cities) and lacks official building licenses or urban planning. They are the one with low-income grade hence; their living spaces too are poor in both quality and quantity. The informal habitation is also known as suburbia, inappropriate and self-growing habitation as well as hovel societies (people who live in hovels).The living environment of these habitations accepts abnormalities, provokes social harms, and sometimes in a reverse inference, this environment is the cause of emergence of these habitations. Though the framework of informal habitation, from the viewpoint of used materials, per-capita habitation and social and infrastructural services are not as grave as conditions of many southern countries, however, deprivation and discrimination of these places, compare to other urban areas as well as growing social poverty and corruption have brought these habitations into focus. In other words, these are critical and contrary to the lasting development of human beings.

## Effective causes of establishment and development

For explaining the informal habitation phenomenon, one should refer to different reasons at different levels. However, effectiveness and predominance of each of these reasons are different, as well. The first reason may be discriminate actions, which give rise to poverty and are based on unfair distribution of power, wealth and income. Throughout the country, these actions manifest into regional and local imbalances. Movement

of immigrants should be priority of the selected areas such as large cities and wealthy neighborhoods. Since these people are mostly economic refugees, they do not take into consideration natural merits and "man-made" capacities to their destination. They are on the track of accessing job opportunities and income hence; make sudden and hasty request for their habitation in limited areas. This request results in the increase of prices, decrease of habitation money, inadequacy of urban services and filling of infrastructural networks. In such circumstances, low-income immigrants would not have the power to use the formal market of land and home but insisting on living in this area, they create unreliable and unpleasant but cheaper atmosphere in informal market of land and homes. (Mohammadi, 2003)

## Assessing structural and constitutional causes of informal habitation in Iran

Following current literature of urban political economy of 1960s and early 1970s, the chief part of the analysis written about suburbia in Iran mentions the existence of capitalist and universal system as well as its related phenomenon such as dependence, immigration caused by the destruction of villages, intense regional imbalances and the swift rise in mega cities. In general, the informal habitation in Iran is due to constitutional reasons and shortcomings of urban and home planning and inefficiency in formal market, land and home. (Sarrafi, 2003) It can be said that because of gradual decrease of the workforce in agricultural sector on one hand and the increase of citizens and existence of mega cities on the other hand, the structural necessities of development seem to be forbidden. Compare to other developing countries although the intensity of urbanization and the growth of mega cities in Iran is less, but cause of informal habitation is fixed. Consequently, instead of settling the informal habitation, the improper and impossible method of pushing immigrants to return to villages by increasing the number of the employees in the agricultural section was on mind.

## Shortcomings in urban and home planning

Reviewing home plans in developmental framework of the country suggests that these plans, in spite of their gradual evolution, have been limited in particular fields. This limitation prevented them from success and achieving goals. The general review of the home problem in the ninth developmental plans suggests that unfortunately none of them had a clarified and proper definition of their target groups. Even though the more we get nearer to the newer plans, the less we confront this problem, but we are still facing an ambiguity about the people for whom we should provide habitation. It seems that those people who do not have any place in the codified and formal plans take action and strive to solve their problems within their means. The reason behind this is that they cannot wait for ratified laws, regulations or approvals for having a habitation. In addition, whenever they meet a need, they have to satisfy it.(Shahsavari, 2006)

## Enablement as solution to informal habitation

To solve the informal habitation problem, as Table1 shows, we can classify four symbolic sentences as the remedies to this problem and four Strategies and ways of management. These strategies are according to sociology of development. (Asadi, 2006)

Through a conservative viewpoint, the first remedy suggests how to uproot the phenomena of the informal habitation. Under this, the only solution to retain the security is to use bulldozers and to destroy those habitations. Instead of solving the problems, this remedy tries to erase them, without paying attention to the geographical movement of rest of the problems. Therefore, it can be said that this remedy makes people hopeless and incites them to retaliate and take revenge. The second remedy, through liberal viewpoint considers the informal habitation as a temporary and transient phenomenon particularly by comparing it with the chronological developments in other "northern" or developed countries. Under this, the removal of informal habitation is expected with the passage of time. Taking into account the perpetuation and development of this

of the informal habitation. Based on universal documents and experiences, this framework is widely acceptable. The administration often helps the low-income local societies through donations, providing services to them or renewing their habitations. This is being perused in spectacular ways and equipping many sources and high standards. However, that cannot be generalized and was intensive for begging or extorting. As a solution, "enablement" intends to make societies capable in dealing their problems by their own reflection, resources and strength. To reach such a stage, we need modern urban governance that should remove the historical pessimism about impoverished societies by enforcing laws and transpiring, responding and using people to do jobs. Moreover, it should have financial and social capitals as their contributions. Before proposing the solutions, in this guideline, structural processes have been designed to activate local societies. In addition, this guideline never endangers people rather intends to organize a social investment through group work and improving the living place. It should be noted that "enablement" does not agree with

Table 1: Remedies for informal habitation

| Remedies for solving problem of informal habitation | Strategies and ways of management |
| --- | --- |
| We uproot the problem. | By a conservative viewpoint |
| We leave the problem. | By a liberal viewpoint |
| We solve the root of the problem. | By a radical viewpoint |
| We correct the problem. | By a corrective viewpoint |

phenomenon, mistake of this conception, in comparison to the third world and developing countries of "south", is obvious, chronologically. In addition, according to the moral standards, lack of attention toward millions of citizens for decades and hoping to have the problems solved are simply not acceptable. The third remedy, based on a decisive viewpoint, intends to find the fundamental solution the problems or change the structure of a society. It seems that small systems are not rectifiable without correcting the mega system. In fact, this remedy does not involve in improving conditions of societies with informal habitations rather it relies on the social arrangement for political movements. (Madani poor, 2000) Like the second remedy, it leaves the societies until the actions, which bring poverty and injustice, are annihilated. The fourth remedy, through a corrective viewpoint, believes in the necessity of establishing social justice and regional balance, however, it strives to solve the problem by accepting reality and paying attention to available short-term potentialities. This remedy thinks of gradual changes at the low level to be a better solution, compare to a transformation at the higher level. According to this remedy, one should not involve the structural solutions, forgetting impoverishment and suffering of those societies. In the framework of the fourth remedy, "enablement" is the best way to solve the problems

"what exists" and "where it exists". Believing in prevention of destruction and compulsory evacuation, this guideline thinks of "what exists" to be below the dignity of human beings. As such, it makes the solution moderating and corrective. In this viewpoint, preparations for urbanization, propagation of urban culture and connection to the urban economy are crucially important, parallel to basic improvements for integration of these societies.

## Mega goals

With respect to the constitutional law of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in accordance with the most important universal statements for providing an appropriate shelter for everyone and establishing the lasting urban development, the "enablement" has a guideline to solve the problems of informal habitation (suburbia) in the country and to prevent its development in the future. Under this guideline, when the principal part of population suffers from impoverishment, discrimination and an abnormal situation, the country will witness no real development. The guideline has following aims:

a) Paving the way to upgrade permanent environmental condition to increase health, faith and generosity.

b) Predicting the development of informal habitation in the future and paving the way for building appropriate home, basic services and foundations in the formal urban area, which are

affordable for low-income strata.

c) Paving the way for having urban privileges and teaching the urban culture to habitants of these places, along with, their contribution in different directions for decision-making and local actions.

## Conclusion

Informal habitation has been exposed with a set of circumstances, problems, capabilities and facilities. It seems, the current policies have either failed or have not been successful in solving those problems. Apart from these capabilities, direct intrusion by the authorities (including destruction, using police forces, building homes, giving lands and assigning urban standards) have been inefficient and ineffective. To solve the problems of informal habitation, the present study proposes the following principles as the guidelines:

1) Reviewing the present policies and providing planned urban places for the people with low-income: The informal habitation has no appropriate and formal place; hence, it is affordable for low-income people in cities. A review is necessary to know the common confrontation between the governmental and general section and urban planning and programming in order to provide the formal living place of these people.

2) Facilitating and guiding role of the governmental-general section: Accomplishing the responsibilities is not based on the direct satisfaction of all needs and controlling all affairs by the governmental-general section. The responsibilities are carried out through facilitating process, a wide range of participation and enabling societies to satisfy their needs. The role of the governmental-general section, in this way, is the cause of their direct contributions, which seems essential for the lowest income groups.

3) Mobilizing resources in the society and self-guidance and support: Taking advantage of social and human resources are important guiding principles in enabling and organizing these societies. Nevertheless, we should not solve the problem by making a conscious use of resources in the governmental-general section or by having a gradual improvement. The solution is based on self-guidance and support in order to enable those societies and to improve their living standards and their integration.

4) The right to have habitation and security along with urban responsibility: To confront with the informal habitation, the policy should not be based on prevention from the right of immigration and habitation in the city. It should be based on

teaching the responsibilities and duties of citizens in order to have the right of habitation.

5) Strengthening economic-social bases of families by emphasizing on home and occupation: Home is the biggest capital of families and its security and improvement result in protection of families, increase of workforce and its unity. Consequently, allocating the resources of governmental-general section to this issue is not merely a social expenditure, but it has economic privileges for the whole society as well.

6) The comprehensive result of social-economic development: We should gain fundamental capacity by contributing and enabling to the local societies. Initially, we provide habitation to people with low-income within the cities and then in the future, provide their upgrading and balance with the available urban habitation.

7) Strengthening and mentioning the role and responsibility of local managing organizations in the process of enabling and organizing informal habitations: Organizing and preparing suitable managing organizations for guiding and supporting the arrangement and planned habitation with the contributions from local organizations (especially municipalities and Islamic town councils) is vital for stabilizing the executive programs and actions and guaranteeing their successes.

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