Informal Settlements Development in Khulna City, Bangladesh: Need for Stakeholders Participation in Regularization Process

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Introduction

The informal settlements are one of the common phenomenon in Bangladesh like other third world countries where dwellers are living in very inhuman condition of urban life. However, both public and private sector initiatives for informal settlements improvement so far have been undertaken in several urban areas in Bangladesh mostly include Khulna city (the third largest within six major cities). But, it is a matter of concern that most of them have limited significant progress for providing sustainable solution for urban community. It is necessary to answer, how informal settlement improvement process can continue as a stable regularization program through the active participation of different stakeholders. Moreover, it is important to focus attention not only to mega city-Dhaka, but also to medium cities like Khulna.

Research Objectives

General

➢ To explore and analyze present situation of informal settlements development and role of stakeholders participation in regularization process.

Specific

➢ To identify the present situation of informal settlements which are located on public lands
➢ To investigate different initiatives taken by public and private sector for regularization of informal settlements
➢ To develop a comprehensive framework for achieving informal settlement regularization through stakeholder’s participation

Conceptual Framework

Research Methodology

➢ Primary data: Direct physical observation, household survey, KI interviews
➢ Secondary data: Existing literature, official project documents, rules and regulations, policy and strategies documents, developmental plans among others
➢ Case study selection process: Based on pre-defined criterion and its significance, informal settlement on BRA land was found as perfect match

Informal Settlement Formation Process and Causes

➢ Process was unorganized and slow at the beginning but became organized and fast
➢ Rural-urban migration and political support are major causes among others

Result of the Research

➢ Vulnerable socio economic condition of the dwellers
➢ Poor physical condition in the informal settlements
➢ Limited focus on regularization process: Within the initiatives so far
➢ Poor stakeholders participation: Within the initiatives so far

Recommendations - A Framework

➢ Conceptualize sustainability of regularization process - tenure security 1st priority
➢ Ensure stakeholders participation - a common platform, guiding principals
➢ Adapting future options-Capacity building, political will, recognize private sectors

Areas for Future Research

Climate change risk on informal settlements formation and future adaptations mechanism through stakeholders participation, Status of urban public land and its management