



Comparison of Some Urban Transformation Experiences in Turkey and few other Developing Countries

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Globalization influences the urban fabric by way of urban transformation. Actual shift from rural to urban is a dominant transformation. Transformation, as a process and concept, has multi-dimensional characteristics and is very much a function of the definition of the city. Ultimately, the (re)solutions are dependent on such definitions. As the local people have to live by the results of urban transformation implementations every day, such (re)solution must be well designed. The population in Developing Countries grows faster than the so-called Western Countries, and faster than their own individual economic capacities. In-migrants flowing from rural into urban areas once having settled in the city for certain period of time, improve and transform their squatter houses and housing environments. In this paper, the experiences will be drawn from Developing Countries in general, and from Asia and Latin America in particular. The alternative urban transformation projects to be described and discussed are successful in terms of implementability and adaptability to the dwellers; and they constitute low-rise human scale dwellings which are to be completed through a participatory process. In the perspective of transformation in Turkey, two different developments emerge: (1) spontaneous, (2) planned. The spontaneous one is the phased spatial development in the urban squatter settlements; while the planned one is carried out by either the private or the public authorities. The experiences from Turkey and some other developing countries will be compared to each other in view of transformations in the cities and the urban society. It is hoped to provide some direction to new projects and policies.

KEY WORDS: Urban Spatial Structure; change; density gradients; land value gradients. Developing Countries, transformation, informal economy, cases, squatter settlements.