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Squatter Settlement in Jeddah: Causes, Characteristics & Dimensions

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Abstract

This is a scientific study for the phenomenon of squatter areas in Jeddah city. The preparation of this study comes within the frame of determination of the concept of squatter areas, and the different factors that lead to their existence, to understand of the construction and population characteristics (economic and social) of the squatter areas, and linking these characteristics together, and explanation of their relationships. Then highlighting the most important problems of these areas, and an attempt to draw some solutions which can participate in the development of the urban environment of these areas. The study area is limited to four squatter areas between the years 2007–2008 on the families residing in these areas. The researcher used several approaches, as the historical approach, the descriptive approach and the analytic descriptive approach. This study contains statistical tables, charts, maps and aerial photographic. The study ended with explanation for the concepts and the different variables of the phenomenon of squatter areas. The study also proved that the appearance of squatter areas in Jeddah is very old, and that it continues to grow up during the period of the economic boom and until the present time because some different factors that caused the appearance of squatter areas, for example demographic, social, economic, planning or utilities & public services. Through studying of the construction characteristics of the urban areas; the study revealed the prevalence of the style of traditional houses and apartments. In the other hand there are rare existence of villas. Most of these buildings are residentially in a bad condition. And its outer appearance have been deteriorated with low height. The population characteristics of the squatter areas varied widely. Sometimes it is similar and in other times it is very different for several reasons. The study has revealed the positive and negative functional aspects of the squatter areas, and the construction, environmental & population dimensions of these areas. The study also proved the existence of several problems in the study areas. The study suggests some recommendations and solutions that may participate in raising the efficiency of these
areas and an attempt to rehabilitate and improve its urban environment in order to become a descent human environment suitable for the life of individuals.