

Masters Dissertation Showcase
Year 2023

Department: Architecture and Planning Programme: Masters of Urban & Regional Planning Specialization: Urban & Regional Planning Programme	
1	Title of the Thesis Sustainable Community Development in Low-Income Settlement
2	Abstract <p>Sustainable community development promotes the well-being of both the environment and society. Reduced poverty, equitable resource distribution, and access to basic amenities are all necessary for emerging countries to build sustainable cities and communities. Inadequate housing, unstable buildings, a lack of amenities, and restricted access to infrastructure facilities affect the deprived, more socially vulnerable and precarious due to urban redevelopment guidelines and housing design for underprivileged communities are still largely unexplored. In Pakistan, especially in Karachi, where significant urbanisation and infrastructure development issues are a result of population growth, architects rarely build affordable, sustainable housing, and rarely do consumers participate in the design of community settings that foster or enhance social cohesion. This study aims to investigate sustainable community development approaches through effective urban planning interventions utilised by other sustainable communities within Pakistan or other countries to implement in the low-income settlement, such as Machar Colony. To address these challenges and forces behind the scarcity of facilities, the qualitative study has been conducted by collecting primary data through open-ended interviews with the Machar colony, Karachi residents. The research will underpin access to basic human rights in the country, regardless of biased and political research approaches. The study will also suggest an all-inclusive urban planning framework incorporating sustainable development concepts to overcome challenges. This paradigm focused on community engagement, participatory decision-making, and cooperation between local government officials, citizens, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Keywords: Community development, sustainability, urbanism, urban planning, sustainable community.</p>
3	Impact on Sustainability of Urban Regions or SDG-11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities” (min 400 words) <p>The impact on sustainability of urban regions, specifically focusing on community development and marginalized communities in the context of Pakistan, particularly Karachi. It emphasizes the importance of sustainable community development, which promotes long-term human health and ecological systems. However, in many developing countries, including Pakistan, housing design for marginalized communities remains under-researched, leading to poor quality housing, unstable structures, insufficient amenities, and limited access to infrastructure facilities. This situation increases social vulnerability and precocity among the poor.</p> <p>In the case of Karachi, a city facing significant urbanization and infrastructure challenges due to population expansion, sustainable and affordable housing is rarely designed by architects, and user involvement in the design process is almost non-existent. The urgent and widespread nature of the housing problem often leads to neglect and compromise in architectural design considerations. The influx of a growing population and settlers from different parts of the country has resulted in high-density areas, particularly in the outskirts of the city. As a consequence of urban sprawl, there is a lack of basic amenities for living and limited connectivity to the city center.</p> <p>Highlights the negative impact on sustainability in urban regions caused by inadequate housing design, neglect of marginalized communities, and the absence of their participation in urban development processes. These factors contribute to social and environmental challenges, hindering the creation of sustainable and inclusive cities.</p>
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