Abstract

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Post Occupancy Evaluation for Self-Help Housing in Egypt: The Case of 6th of October “Ebny-Bietak” project

Since the 1952 Revolution in Egypt, the State provision of low income housing was meant to bridge the gap between supply and demand. Later on, the Egyptian government launched “The National Housing Policy” to enable the low income masses acquiring appropriate accommodation. Self-help schemes were a corner-stone in this strategy. The present study undertakes a post occupancy evaluation to “Ebny Beitak” project launched in 2005, with particular reference to the 6th of October site. It adopts a mixed-method approach. In the first phase, qualitative analysis is undertaken to literature about self-help housing, to distill the major criteria to be examined. Then, the backgrounds of “Ebny Beitak” project are studied, to understand how it relates to other self-help schemes – i.e. “Site & Services” approach. Afterwards, the study analyses the methods for post occupancy evaluation, to conclude to adopting the BUS method. The subsequent phase is the empirical verification. It involves quantitative statistical analyses to a purpose-designed questionnaire that was distributed to 66 occupants in the studied project. The outcome of the study has outlined the major points of strength, as well as the areas of potential improvement for applying self-help schemes in a way that better responds to the genuine needs of the local occupants, and promotes more sustainable fashions in the development of the built environment.