Abstract

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN SIDI-GABER STATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

Public Participation (PP) in Sustainable Development helps the decision makers in acquiring information about the public's preferences. So it plays a vital role in the decisions about choice of projects and formulates its design policies. (PP) is designed to help assure that the people’s will is done it gives the opportunity for people to be heard and to understand what will be done in a specific project. In legality side, (PP) gives legitimacy for decisions, support for plans and builds trust in government. Vested interest of (PP) had been grown in Egypt and in most of other developed countries, public became much more concerned about participation and involvement in governmental decision making processes than they had been before. For that, the confidence between the public and decision makers had been increased. This paper aims to design (PP) process for Sidi Gaber railway station development project, Alexandria, Egypt. It will discuss the methods of (PP) practice and highlights the importance of participation process in fulfilling people’s needs and requirements, it explains the benefits that will be gained in future by enriching environmental democracy. The paper concludes that stakeholders do have influence over decisions and the government should have the ability to manage the conflicts, to deal with anger and aggressive behaviour and to gain the public trust instead of mistrust by ignoring (PP). Sidi Gaber station has a special location, a unique architectural style and a historical value so the research carried on a questionnaire to know the public opinion about this project especially from the logic of heritage rehabilitation and maintenance, and from the environmental point of view. Keywords: Public participation, Public involvement, sustainable development.