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FOCUSED REVIEWS ON COMMUNITY LIVABILITY STRATEGIESFOR UPGRADING IMPOVERISHED AREAS

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FOCUSED REVIEWS ON COMMUNITY LIVABILITY STRATEGIES FOR UPGRADING IMPOVERISHED AREAS

Abstract

Impoverished areas represent the worst of urban poverty, inequality and intolerable difficulties concerning the quality of life of the wellbeing. A person is impoverished when there is deprivation of strength, vitality and liveliness. Poor societies are conscious of their deficiency of power and independence which subject them to mistreatment; they express about pain brought by their inevitable violation of social norms and inability to fully participate in community life. The concept of livability and its strong link with sense of community is essential; it is the sum of factors that add up the community's quality of life including the built and natural environment, economic prosperity, and social stability. This paper focuses on the existing problems in impoverished areas that represent the most unbearable complications concerning quality of life of the inhabitants. Therefore, this paper aims to provide community livability strategies in local and international regions for upgrading quality of life in impoverished areas. The fourth largest city in Lebanon, Tyre and Colombia's second largest city, Medellin, comprises impoverished areas that experience a deep social and economic exclusion and are mostly inhabited by refugees, homeless children, and fragmented families. This paper analyzes the case studies to add spatiality to understanding of vulnerabilities. Thus, the paper deducts checklists based on the livability factors to check the community livability in impoverished areas. Consequently, livability and sense of community are different for the poor since satisfaction with quality of life of the impoverished increases significantly by gentrifying the area.

Keywords

Community Livability, Impoverished areas, Poverty, Quality of Life, Wellbeing, Upgrading, Strategy.

FOCUSED REVIEWS ON COMMUNITY LIVABILITY STRATEGIES FOR UPGRADING IMPOVERISHED AREAS

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ABSTRACT: *Impoverished areas represent the worst of urban poverty, inequality and intolerable difficulties concerning the quality of life of the wellbeing. A person is impoverished when there is deprivation of strength, vitality and liveliness. Poor societies are conscious of their deficiency of power and independence which subject them to mistreatment; they express about pain brought by their inevitable violation of social norms and inability to fully participate in community life. The concept of livability and its strong link with sense of community is essential; it is the sum of factors that add up the community's quality of life including the built and natural environment, economic prosperity, and social stability. This paper focuses on the existing problems in impoverished areas that represent the most unbearable complications concerning quality of life of the inhabitants. Therefore, this paper aims to provide community livability strategies in local and international regions for upgrading quality of life in impoverished areas. The fourth largest city in Lebanon, Tyre and Colombia's second largest city, Medellin, comprises impoverished areas that experience a deep social and economic exclusion and are mostly inhabited by refugees, homeless children, and fragmented families. This paper analyzes the case studies to add spatiality to understanding of vulnerabilities. Thus, the paper deducts checklists based on the livability factors to check the community livability in impoverished areas. Consequently, livability and sense of community are different for the poor since satisfaction with quality of life of the impoverished increases significantly by gentrifying the area.*

KEYWORDS: *Community Livability, Impoverished areas, Poverty, Quality of Life, Wellbeing, Upgrading, Strategy.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the interest in the relationship between design and human well-being has grown gradually. A community could be understood as a collection of individual users, and likewise, community well-being as the sum of well-being of all individual members. A society is persistently in evolution and communities play an increasingly important role in ensuring this transition. Nevertheless, urban residents are dependent on the living environment since residents in a certain community have a strong relation to their living environment; it's their home (Van Zuthem, H., 2014).

Livability and sense of community became common concepts widely utilized in planning and design; particularly in publications on innovative urbanism and smart growth, to justify contemporary theories and projects. Though these are subjective concepts and their effectiveness depend on the correlation between users and the built environment, current literature pushes towards design tenants and criteria that are action oriented and rely on physical and measurable aspects. The concept of livability and its strong link with sense of community is essential; it is the sum of factors that add up the community's quality of life including the built and natural environment, economic prosperity, and social stability. Most importantly, current research concentrates on very limited levels of socioeconomic groups –high and middle income- and mostly neglects what livability and sense of community might be for the low income - the impoverished- and culturally diverse populations. However, different individuals and social groups have different perceptions of what makes a livable community, and their experience of sense of community is different (Wagner and Caves, 2012).

Impoverished areas represent the worst of urban poverty, inequality and intolerable difficulties concerning the quality of life of the wellbeing. A person is impoverished when there is deprivation of strength, vitality and liveliness. Quality of life is the general wellbeing of individuals and societies, outlining negative and positive features of life. It observes life satisfaction, including everything from physical health, family, education, employment, wealth, religious beliefs, finance and the environment (Barcaccia, 2013). Today, quality of life is considered to be one of the most substantial aspects of prosperity (Mboup, G., 2014).

Impoverished societies are conscious of their deficiency of power and independence which subject them to mistreatment; they express about pain brought by their inevitable violation of social norms and inability to fully participate in community life (UN, 2003). The main problem is that urban residents face significant difficulties in impoverished areas and hence live in poverty. Today, as more than half of the world's population lives in cities and urban areas, upgrading impoverished areas is one of the main challenges of the developing world. Nearly one sixth of the human race continues to live under poor living conditions and inadequate housing. The challenge therefore is to improve governance, productivity, efficiency and equity in order to provide safe and secure living environments, sustainable livelihoods, and a better quality of urban life for people living in poverty (UN, 2003). The importance in upgrading initiatives has generally been on infrastructural and physical improvements, and to a lesser extent economic development. Considerably less attention has been paid to community development and social upgrading, even though these are equally important (Majale, 1998).

Impoverished dwellers are experiencing a massive change in the quality of life as they remain in the settlements that are characterized by numerous problems such as lack of basic services especially water and sanitation, overpopulation, inadequate basic amenities, non-conventional housing, starvation, homeless populations, sewage, socio-economic problems, and weak infrastructure. Low income areas have high concentration of poverty and of social and economic deficiency which may include broken families, unemployment, and economic, social and physical exclusion and many other complications (UN, 2003). Finally, urban poor focus on assets rather than income and link their lack of physical, human, social, and environmental assets to their vulnerability and exposure to risk. Thus, upgrading impoverished areas requires significant strategies to improve the lives of the poor.

The main aim of the research is to find out community livability strategies adopted in local and international regions for upgrading quality of life in impoverished areas. To accomplish this aim, the research achieves the following objectives: To create basic knowledge about community livability characteristics and factors, To analyze the strategy and the methodological process applied in impoverished areas in local and international regions , to produce checklists based on the community livability factors to assess it, and to examine the current situation and the problems encountered in the areas that represent the most unbearable complications concerning the quality of life of the dwellers and thus to discern the livability of the poor. The research question: What are the countries' strategies applied for upgrading and enhancing community livability in impoverished areas? The paper starts by introducing a literature review to create basic knowledge about community livability characteristics and previous studies about upgrading and enhancing community livability in impoverished areas and then it focuses on two case studies in Tyre, Lebanon and Medellin, Colombia which comprises impoverished areas that experience a deep social and economic exclusion and are mostly inhabited by refugees, homeless children, and fragmented families. The paper analyzes the different strategies applied in both case studies. Yet, the paper follows a scientific methodology in analyzing the case studies based on a specific criterion to deduct checklists based on the livability factors to assess the community livability in both areas.

2. THEORITICAL BACKGROUND

There are several descriptions for livability according to experts which are the characteristics that make a livable environment for people. According to Sanders, 1996, Livability is described as the sum total of the qualities of the urban environment that tend to induce in a citizen a state of well-being and satisfaction. According to Gut Berlet and Hunter, 2008, Livability is best defined at the local scale as it refers to the quality of life for a group of people who live in a particular place. According to Wagner and Caves, 2012, Livable environments are places that people like, satisfy their needs, promote human health, and contribute to a sustainable environmental system. The livability of residential environments relates to features that promote residential satisfaction, a sense of community, and environmental sustainability as shown in table 01. First of all, residential satisfaction primarily relates to four factors; the physical condition of buildings, the Size of Residences and how they are structured to manage crowding and privacy, Safety and the Perception of Safety, and relations with Neighbors. It shows that people differ on their residential preferences .It is not a measure of the environment, but a measure of the fit or congruence between the individual and the environment. Second, sense of community includes both neighboring interactions and a cognitive and emotional connection to the people and place .Research supports a connection between residential design and neighboring. A sense of community also relates to non-design variables such of homogeneity of residents and length of time living in a place. Impoverished residents are more likely to focus on community of place and view neighbor relations as more important. And last, Sustainable development relates to urban designs that lower energy and resource use and pollution. Sustainable design concepts include compactness and density,

mixed land use, sustainable transportation, and integrating nature into the urban environment (Wagner and Caves, 2012).

Table 1 showing the table showing the characteristics of community livability
Reference: Wagner and Caves, 2012, Illustrated by the author, 2017

RESIDENTIAL SATISFACTION
1- The Physical Condition of Buildings (concerns the quality of materials, construction, and design of the residence and their maintenance)
2- The Size of Residences and how they are structured to manage crowding and privacy (Crowding relates to both residential density and how the residence structures space to give people control over their social interactions)
3- Safety and the Perception of Safety (Relates to crime in the area, social fear of crime, and the physical and social characteristics of the neighborhood that create defensible space);
4- Relations with Neighbors (Good relations provide emotional and social support to residents and are encouraged by neighborhood design features, such as walkability, density, and local social spaces such as shops, and recreation areas.)
A SENSE OF COMMUNITY
1-Neighboring Interactions (Greater Residential Satisfaction, Community Participation, Perceived Safety, Social Bonding And Support, Perceived Control Over One's Environment.)
2-A Cognitive and Emotional Connection to the People And Place (A Sense of Membership and belonging, influence on what happens in the community, fulfillment of needs, shared emotional connections among the residents.)
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
1-Compactness and density (Minimize sprawl and transportation use, protect the surrounding rural environment, and reduce energy consumption and pollution.)
2-Mixed land use (Reduces the use of cars for commuting, shopping, and recreation. It has been linked to increase in neighborhood social interactions and sense of community.)
3- Sustainable transportation (Uses walking, cycling, and public transportation to reduce energy consumption and pollution. It promotes neighborhood interactions and human health.)
4- Integrating nature into the urban environment (Reduce pollution and help to preserve ecological diversity. It increases neighborhood interactions and safety, reduce stress and promote health.)

Compactness and density minimize sprawl and transportation use, protect the surrounding rural environment, and reduce energy consumption and pollution. Mixed land use reduces the use of cars for commuting, shopping, and recreation. Sustainable transportation uses walking, cycling, and public transportation to reduce energy consumption and pollution. Especially for impoverished communities, the key to sustainable transportation is to provide convenient, safe, and affordable access to people for meeting their needs. Natural areas within and surrounding communities reduces pollution and help to preserve ecological diversity. The characteristics of sustainable development have important physiological, psychological, and social effects on residents. Although density may increase crowding, it helps to promote neighboring and sense of community. Mixed land use has also been linked to increase in neighborhood social interactions and sense of community. Sustainable transportation promotes neighborhood interactions and human health. Natural environments in urban areas increase neighborhood interactions and safety, reduce stress and promote health. The livability of a residential environment relates to a variety of factors that impact residential satisfaction, a sense of community, and environmental sustainability. The relationship of these factors to the impacts is presented in fig. 1 below (Wagner and Caves, 2012).

	<i>Residential Environment</i>	<i>Neighborhood and Community</i>	<i>Environmental Sustainability</i>
Livability			
Physical condition of buildings	**	*	*
Crowding, privacy and density	**	*	*
Safety and perception of safety	**	**	
Neighboring and sense of community	**	**	
Compactness and density	*	**	**
Mixed land use	*	**	**
Access to sustainable transportation	**	**	**
Natural environments and parks	**	**	**

** very important topic; * somewhat important topic

Figure 1 showing the livability Matrix
Reference: Wagner and Caves, 2012

3. METHODOLOGY

The research concentrates on selected references that employ a qualitative methodology which relates to impoverished areas upgrading with a focus on the strategies in improving the living conditions of the urban poor. It is an exploratory research where the research emphasizes on the descriptive format to analyze and critically appraise the contents of an archival document. The research applies three research methods; first the inductive method which includes gathering data about community livability where the data collected is desk-based which secondary data are. Second, the analytical method where the research analyzes the selected case studies. Third, the deductive method, as a final step, where the research deducts a checklist including the community livability factors, then the research ends up with a set of general conclusions. The research methods will be represented in the following points.

3.1 Criteria of Selection of the Case Studies

The research selects two case studies based on specific criteria. First of all, Maachouk neighborhood in Tyre is an ineffective neighborhood characterized by a poor socio-economic status, high refugee inflow, and a deficient basic urban services rank. Second of all, Medellin is the city with longer and larger variations of conflict and it is a city with a large concentration of poverty. It is one of the most violent and socially fragmented places in the world. The selections of case studies are based on their location and context in poor urban areas in addition to the people and communities living in substandard conditions-impoverished areas- that requires community livability and urban upgrading of their quality of life. Yet, the research commences by an introduction that includes a general overview. Second, urban analysis is tackled to highlight unmet urban needs, to add spatiality to understanding of vulnerabilities. And then, the strategy and interventions which embraces the actions applied to upgrade the area. Yet, the analytical method is used to analyze the case studies and then a checklist is tackled to check the community livability in the areas. Criteria to be considered are the community livability factors that impact residential satisfaction, sense of community, and environmental sustainability which are the main characteristics of community livability.

3.2 Local Case Study: Maachouk Neighborhood, Tyre Lebanon

Maachouk neighborhood is an impoverished community in the city of Tyre, Lebanon (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017). UN-Habitat is the United Nations program working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. Its main aim is to visualize a well-planned, well-governed, and efficient city and other human settlements, with adequate housing, infrastructure, and universal access to employment and basic services such as water, energy, and sanitation (Unhabitat.org, 2012).

3.2.1. Urban Analysis

Urban analysis comprises space, population, safety and security, social services, local economy, housing conditions and accessibility.

a. Space

Maachouk falls within the boundaries of Tyre Municipality in eastern parts of Tyre city. It consists of four zones: (1) The Central Village-type Structure on the Hill, (2) the main road, (3) Residential areas, and (4) an industrial artisanal area. (See fig. 2).

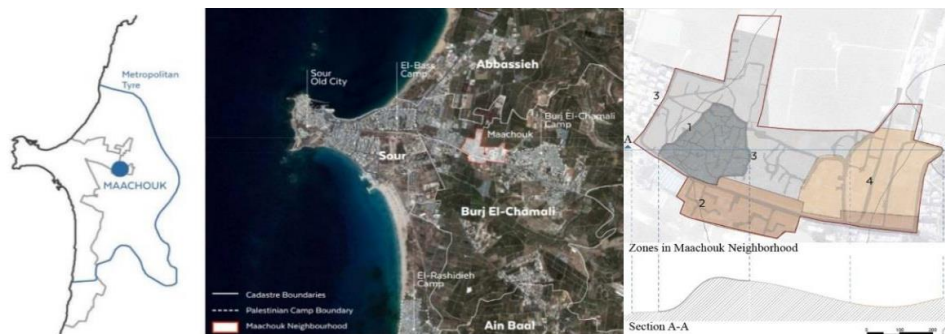


Figure 2 to the left: Maachouk neighborhood in context of Tyre and To the Right: the four main zones
Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017

b. Population

There is over population in the area which includes almost half were Palestinian refugees from Lebanon, and a quarter Syrian refugees and the rest are low income Lebanese people (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).

c. Safety and Security

The risky economic situation, lack of basic urban services, deficiency in healthcare and educational facilities, lack of recreational and open spaces, and vulnerability to tension during political conflicts all hinder safety. Its main causes are lack of social cohesion due to unemployment, shortage of law application, lack of basic urban services. Public spaces are very limited in the area due to the crowded urban fabric. Yet, streets are narrow with nonfunctional street in addition to the drug and alcohol addiction among youth which is rising gradually (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).

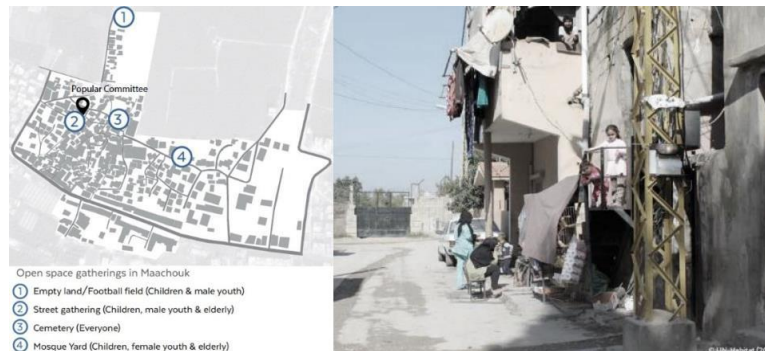


Figure 3 the open space gatherings in Maachouk Map of the area and pictures
Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017

d. Social Services and Local Economy

The unaffordability of transportation limits both opportunities of livelihoods and education in central Tyre. Many students dropped out of school to support their families. They join technical institutes instead of higher educational programs to study technical craftsmanship. Health services are limited to primary health care. While concerning the local economy, labor is the main source of income followed by agriculture (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).



Figure 4 showing social services and building use on ground floor in Maachouk neighborhood
Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017

e. Housing Conditions

The area includes low rise multistory residential buildings of one to three stories in height. Most buildings are made of concrete and corrugated iron roofs. Yet, the buildings are informal on public lands overlooking building and safety laws and without proper construction inspection. Most buildings are stated to have

been built using poor construction methods with inadequate structural support (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).

f. Accessibility

The road networks in the area are in a dilapidated state where 82% of the roads / pathways are showing major and/or minor signs of deterioration as shown in fig.4 (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).

3.2.2. Strategy Applied

The Neighborhood Strategy is a spatial and thematic confined phased response plan .A multi-phased strategic action-oriented spatial tool. UN-Habitat Lebanon produces neighborhood strategies as a basis for raising coordinated action between partners to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and local authorities to improve the response in urban neighborhoods. Practically, the strategies focus on cultivating living conditions through: Community stabilization, Upgrading of basic urban services and housing, and improving capacity for effective governance. Recommendations are phased in order of identified needs, irrespective of the actual or likely availability of funds (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).

a. Components of the Strategy

The components of the strategy in Maachouk neighborhood are shown in the table 2 below.

Table 2 showing the components of the neighborhood strategy in Maachouk neighborhood
Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017, illustrated by the Author, 2018

NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY	GOVERNANCE	-
	SOCIAL STABILITY	Safety And Security
		Livelihoods
		A Protective Environment For Children
		Women Empowerment
		Youth Empowerment
	URBAN UPGRADING	Housing
		Wet Utilities
		Electricity Management
		Accessibility & Mobility
		Solid Waste Management

b. Methodological Process of the Strategy

The strategy proposes actions that respond to specific social, economic and urban challenges. (See table 3)

Table 3 showing the methodological process of the strategy applied in Maachouk Neighborhood
Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017, illustrated by the Author, 2018

METHODOLOGICAL PROCESS OF THE STRATEGY	IMMEDIATE RESPONSE	An intervention that should be undertaken within six months due to its criticality for social stability or to emergency need in the realm of basic urban service provision.
	SHORT-TERM RESPONSE	An intervention that should be undertaken within a year to diminish further deterioration
	MID & LONG TERM RESPONSE:	An intervention that should be undertaken within two or four years respectively, due either to its secondary or tertiary priority level or to the time frame needed for its execution. General strategic directions likely to be of ongoing relevance may also be outlined under this response phase.

3.2.3. The Interventions

The Interventions implies the interposition of governance, social stability and urban upgrading.

a. Governance

Developing a Popular Committee (organization to operate and maintain the basic urban services within the area) capacity in the neighborhood will ensure a service provision in the area. This development will attain to local needs through creating neighborhood engagement structures in coordination with NGOs and other development actors. Governance requires a short term response which includes for instance to support this coordination to address the neighborhood needs in a complementary manner (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).

b. Social Stability

The suggested community development process and livability targets at strengthening social stability, facilitating access to livelihoods, empowering women and youth, protecting children, and mobilizing the community to take communal action on - and produce solutions to - common social and economic complications as shown in fig.5 (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).



Figure 5 showing the social stability actions applied in Maachouk Neighborhood
Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017

c. Urban Upgrading

The suggested community development process and livability targets at strengthening social stability, facilitating access to livelihoods, empowering women and youth, protecting children, and mobilizing the community to take communal action on - and produce solutions to - common social and economic complications as shown in fig.6 below (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).

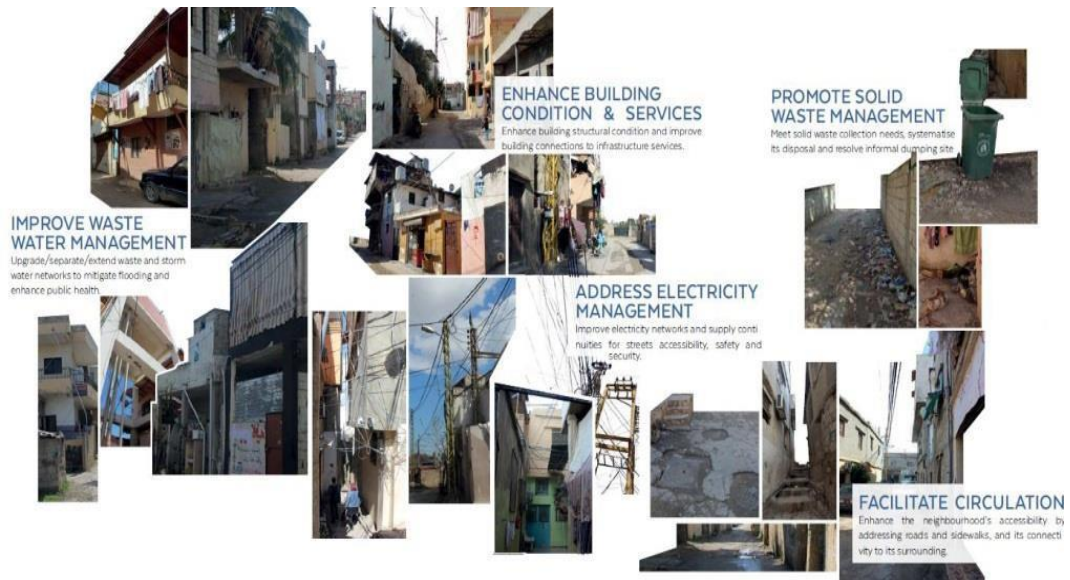


Figure 6 showing the Urban upgrading actions applied in Maachouk neighborhood
Reference: Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017

3.2.4. Deliverables of the Applied Strategy

This strategy proposes a new knowledge baseline, recommended by the local community and municipality, which can certainly produce a local authority response in improving vulnerabilities in an optimally phased manner. Urban upgrading (See Figure 7) can cultivate programs related to the concerns of safety and security, public health, accessibility and socio-economic development (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017).

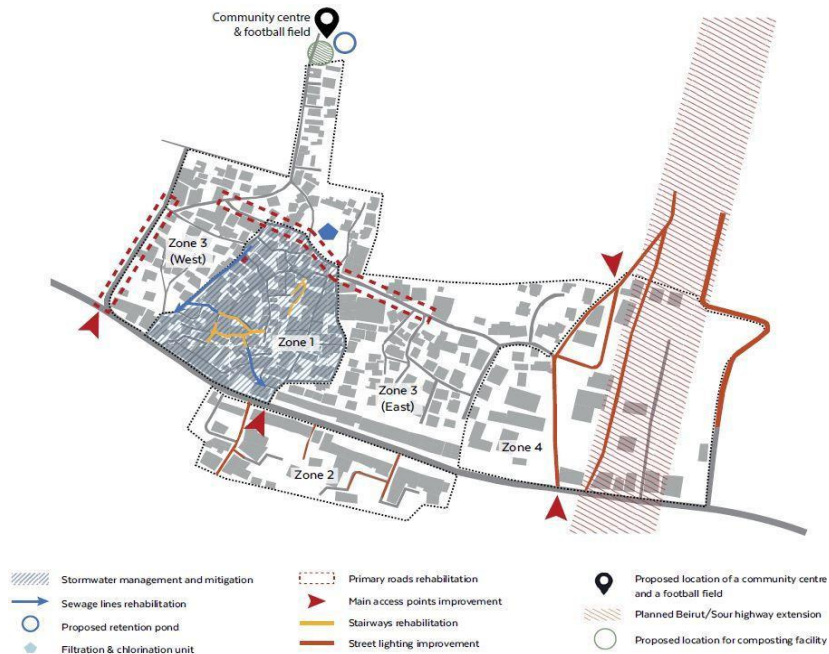


Figure 7 the main upgrading strategies in Maachouk neighborhood
Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017

The neighborhood approach encourages multi-sectoral objectives integrated within a spatial framework. The integrated approach which illustrated the linkage between urban upgrading interventions and the community development responses is described in the diagram below.

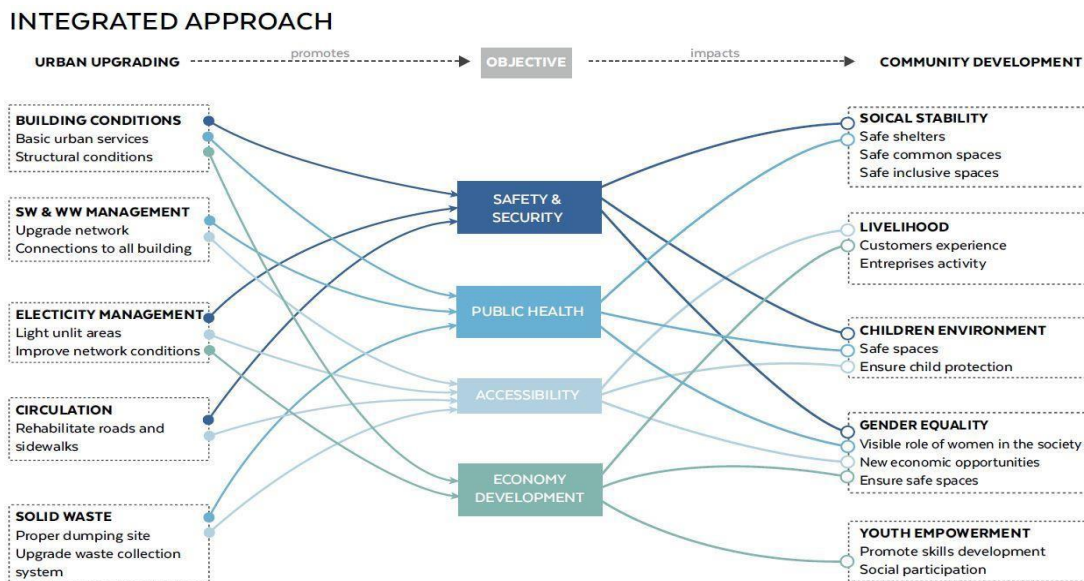


Figure 8 showing the inter linkage between urban upgrading interventions and the community development responses is described in the diagram below
Reference: UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2017

3.3 International Case Study: Communes in Medellin, Columbia

Medellin, which is one of the most violent and socially fragmented places in the world, established a strategy called Social Urbanism to support social and economic cohesion and unity within the city's boundaries. Communes of Medellin Columbia are impoverished neighborhoods located on the margins of Medellin.

3.3.1. Urban Analysis

Urban analysis comprises space, population, safety and security, social services, local economy, housing conditions and accessibility.

a. Space

Medellin is Colombia's second largest city; it is an important center for the region due to its commercial and industrial activities Medellin is located in a valley called the Aburra Valley with its main urban structures in the flat part and the housing areas up to the mountains (see Fig. 9). The slum areas concentrated in the north part of the valley growing up to the mountain and facing topographical challenges that increased the dangers for its residents (Guadalupe Vital Estrada, 2014).

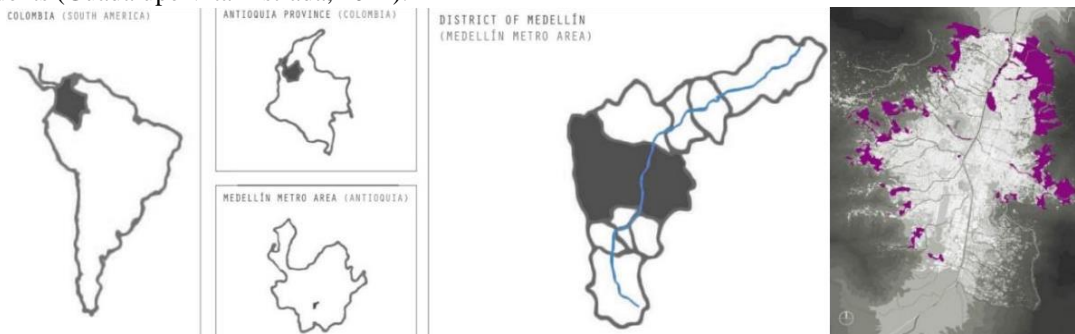


Figure 9 showing the regional map of the location of Medellin, Colombia and the location of slum areas

Reference: (Bahl, 2011), (Getty Images Arboleda, 2008).

b. Population

Current estimates indicate that the population of Medellin reaches 2.5 million people by the end of 2017 (World Population Review, 2017).

c. Safety and Security

Medellin is considered as the most dangerous city in the world. The risky economic situation, lack of basic urban services, lack of recreational and open spaces, starvation, severe malnutrition and school leaving, social segregation, poverty and marginalization, high percentage of homicides, unemployment, drug cartels, all hinder safety and security in the area as shown in fig. 10 below (GUTTLAB, 2012).

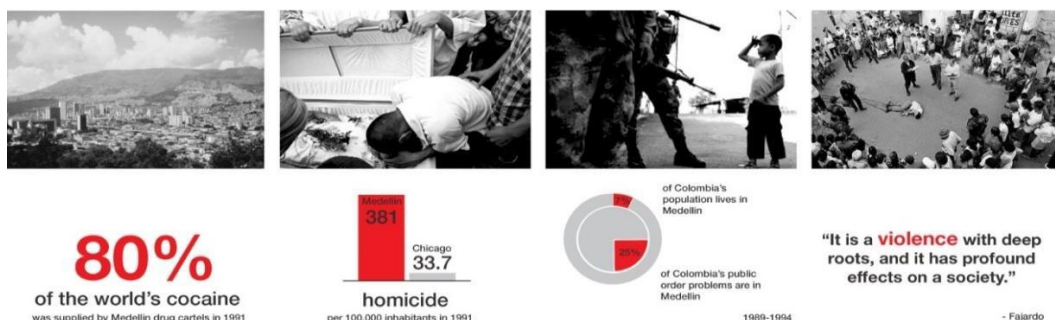


Figure 10 showing the problems in Medellin

Reference: GUTTLAB, 2012

d. Social Services and Local Economy

The access to social services in the area has increased the challenge to secure the residents in the area due to population growth. Social services include public services, commercial, specialized activities, mining and other services which are mainly included in the middle of the city. Yet on the margins, there is overcrowding

and social exclusion (Calderon, C., 2012). While concerning the local economy, the lowest socioeconomic level is concentrated in the margins where the impoverished communes are present the source of income. Thus, 41% of dwellers are retired and 33% of residents work remotely (Medellin Living, 2016).

e. Housing Conditions

The housing conditions in the communes of Medellin are below standard (see fig. 11). Some became the habitation of gangs, band of assassins who acted on the order of narcotics traffickers and other criminals. The area involved initially in thatched houses with earth walls, which meant that the materials were extracted in the same place where the house was built. A further step was the implementation of bricks and tiles (President and Fellows of Harvard College, 2016).

f. Accessibility

The road accessibility from different arterials in the area in the poor neighborhoods of Medellin are very narrow and in a dilapidated state. When people are walking around the area in the narrow stairways and alleys, they sometimes catch sight of the expansive view as shown in fig 11 (GUTTLAB, 2012).



Figure 11 on the left: showing the housing conditions in Medellin. On the right showing the road accessibility of Medellin Colombia and the narrow alleys in the poor neighborhoods

Reference: GUTTLAB, 2012, Anon, 2011, and President and Fellows of Harvard College, 2016

3.3.2. Strategy Applied

Social Urbanism strategy was applied in Medellin developed by the mayor of Medellin Sergio Fajardo in 2004. Due to the complications present in the impoverished neighborhoods of Medellin which include poverty, inequality, violence, and lack of participatory arenas, a prime limitation to upgrade the international competitiveness and economic development of Medellin. The main objective of this urban strategy is that whenever there is an urban intervention, in parallel to the physical transformation, there is an innovative social institutional programs (education, culture, sports, recreation and employment) and activities that added the physical change. For taking Social Urbanism principles into practice, an integrated and participatory urban upgrading model called Proyecto Urbano Integral – PUI was developed. The PUI model is a strategic tool for planning and physical intervention in areas characterized by a high degree of marginalization, segregation, poverty, and violence (Calderon, C., 2012).

a. Components of the Strategy

There are three main components of this strategy and it was part of the PUI model which aim of identification of the needs, the opportunities and define a clear approach of the project as shown in table 4. (Calderon, C., 2012).

Table 4 showing the components of the Social Urbanism strategy in Medellin: PUI model
Reference: President and Fellows of Harvard College, 2016, Illustrated by the Author, 2018

SOCIAL URBANISM STRATEGY -PUI MODEL COMPONENTS	PHYSICAL	New Public Spaces, housing, restoration of environment
		Interventions strengthened by community participation
	SOCIAL	Identifying problems and opportunities
		Establishing projects and making Public Workshops
		Combined with strengthened community organization and leadership promotion, this allows for restoration of the social fabric
	INSTITUTIONAL	Coordination of Activities
		Implementation of Social Programs
		Applications with private sectors, NGOs, national and international bodies and community organizations are promoted.

c. Methodological Process of the Strategy

The methodology used in northeastern PUI was the methodological base for all the PUIs developed in Medellín. Yet, each project had different conditions related to the territorial scale as well as to the social issues. First, there is identification of issues, next a diagnosis, and then a formulation of strategies to solve or minimize the problems. In addition to the high degree of institutional coordination, this project was innovative since of its sustainability phase; this phase began parallel with the intervention and continues after it, involving the community as an active part of the process from the start. The methodology of implementation aims to generate an institutional Urban Relationship between communities and governmental departments, as well as private and international agencies, to deliver tangible outcomes and ensure the sustainability of the project where a master plan for the Integral Urban Project is developed in four phases (President and Fellows of Harvard College, 2016). First of all, the Diagnosis phase, where there is identifying the problems around community life and their sources is done as well as potential areas of opportunity for change. Several maps of analysis were developed. Second, the planning phase, where there is defining specific types of projects and programs to be implemented, creating the master plan for the upgrading of the area incorporated municipal action, Prioritizing and planning the projects in time. The validation of the master plan for upgrading the area; several actors will be involved in the achievement of these objectives. (See fig 12)

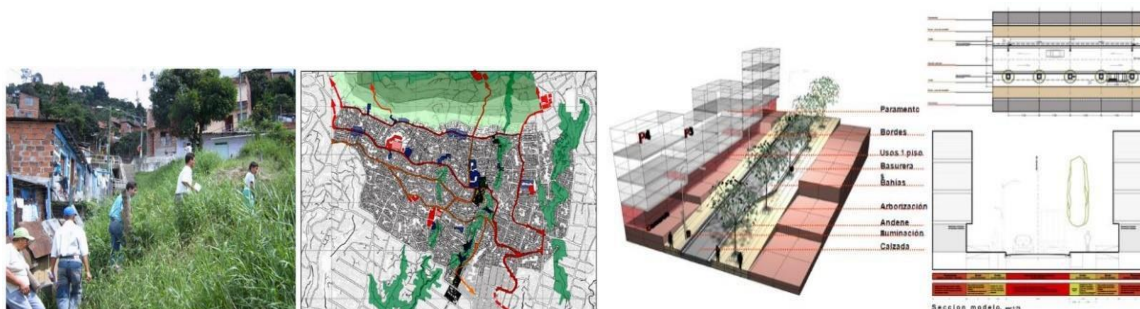


Figure 12 On the Right showing the Diagnosis phase and on the right showing the planning phase: guideline example of street upgrading intervention in Medellín

Reference: ANDRES and ARCILA, 2008 and Calderon, C., 2012

Third, the design phase, where the PUI-Team carried on a set of workshops with the community to define the precise location and vocation of the projects, make the final designs of the projects, and identify the perceptions that the community had to the specific area. Fourth, the implementation phase, which is related to all the tasks needed for the construction of the projects. Coordinating and giving to the different agencies of the municipality specific tasks and projects in order to finance and manage their construction. Community helped control the construction's quality, through the employment of local labor in construction. While concerning the Animation phase, one of the main objectives of these projects is to become new physical and social landmarks for the community. The main tasks of this phase is to create a big event out of the initiation of the project in which a new social program, activity or vocation will be established to new space/place (Calderon, C., 2012).

3.3.3. The Interventions

PUI project brings together various physical initiatives: libraries, schools, transportation, public space, housing, and environmental remediation, and built them in a short period of time (two years) throughout the most economically and infrastructural marginalized areas of the city. Library Parks (see fig.

13) embodied an inspirational vision of social transformation and while integral urban projects impacted residents on a human scale and added a level of practicality to Fajardo's belief that "Architecture could perpetuate social change". The library was constructed to raise living standards through a series of new sustainable public spaces and social intervention. By improving and building new public spaces, social development can occur to offset poverty (El Baba and Youssef, 2017). The Integral Urban Projects, the residents involved in decision making process and enhanced a new sense of community pride and improved and expanded the space and accessibility through the following interventions and upgrading issues. While concerning the PUI interventions it includes two new soccer stadiums, play areas, look out points, large cultural centers, botanical gardens, housing upgrade, program of housing tenure, sidewalks, pedestrian walkways, bridges and terraces, five library parks built, and five more in progress, ten new schools, one hundred thirty five school upgrades and two metro cable lines. Metro cables which was the first application

of tourist infrastructure technology to public transport for the urban poor. It was constructed with local labor, the Metro cable transports 67,000 people daily. Public space improvements, housing upgrades and

environmental risk management rank the Metro cable, spreading more holistic urban renewal. The Metro Cable usually works in conjunction with public space interventions and some of the other large interventions (Bahl, V., 2011).

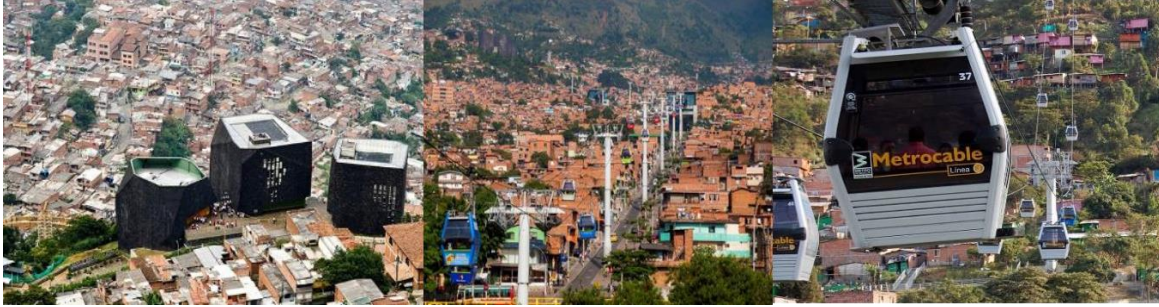


Figure 13 On the Right: showing an aerial view of the Library Park, on the left: showing metro cables in Medellín impoverished areas.

Reference: GUTTLAB, 2012, and Capille, 2017, and Geneske, 2013

3.3.4. Deliverables of the Strategy

First of all, Community participation reveals the real demands and needs of the population. Second, social and transport infrastructure are necessary, but not a sufficient to completely solve the social and economic issues which prevail. Third, The PUIs have not succeeded in entirely alleviating housing in risky locations, illegal construction, marginalization, and restrictions to mobility. Last but not least, violence still persists, and Medellín remains among the 50 most violent cities in the world with 920 homicides committed per year (Ortega, 2014).

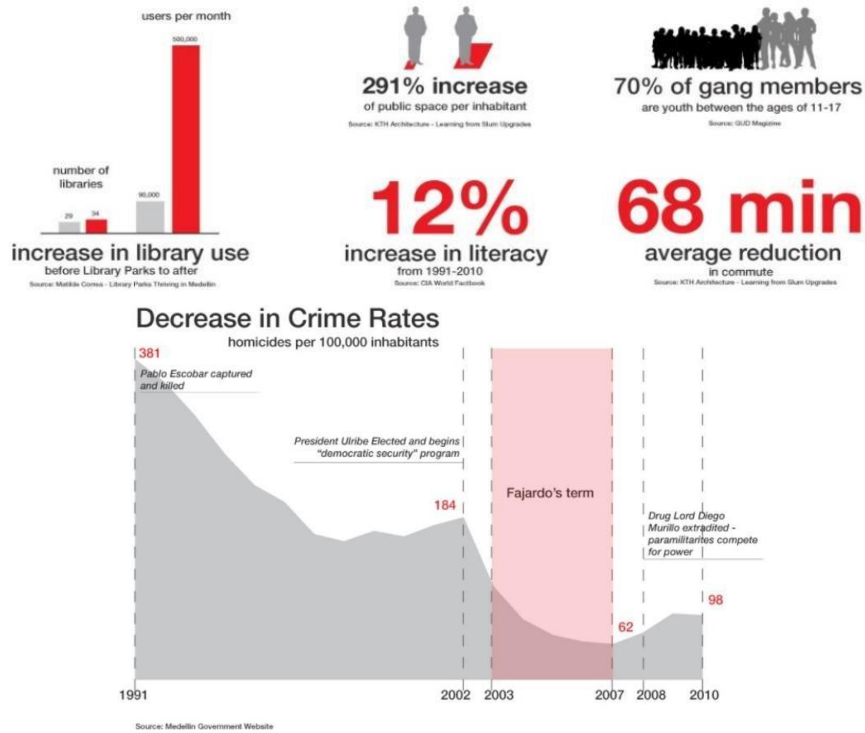


Figure 14 showing the deliverables of the strategy applied PUI model in Medellín, Colombia.

Reference: GUTTLAB, 2012

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

By using the analytical method, the research analyzes each case study based on the community livability factors. They are presented in the form of checklist as shown in table 5 below.

Table 5: Table showing the checklist that includes the community livability factors with an appraisal to each case
 Reference: The Author, 2018

COMMUNITY LIVABILITY FACTORS	MAACHOUK NEIGHBORHOOD IN TYRE LEBANON	COMMUNES IN MEDELLIN COLUMBIA
The Physical Condition of Buildings (concerns the quality of materials, construction, and design of the residence and their maintenance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Buildings are informal on public lands overlooking building and safety laws and without proper construction inspection. -Poor construction methods with inadequate structural support; -Structural Conditions of Building and Exterior physical Condition needs: Routine Maintenance , Minor Repair, Major Repair, and Emergency Intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Housing upgrade was applied in integral urban project, PUI model. -Construction of new housing -Improvement of existing housing
The Size of Residences and how they are structured to manage crowding and privacy (How the residence structures space to give people control over their social interactions).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of privacy since the residences are built informally. -The social interactions between residences are visible since the residences are built very close to each other where they consider the alleyways as a place to gather to socialize. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is lack of privacy since the houses are built informally. Yet, the social interactions between residences are visible.
Safety and the Perception of Safety (Relates to crime in the area, social fear of crime, and the physical and social characteristics of the neighborhood that create defensible space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UN habitat increases awareness of the need for safe and accessible streets in the area, and support the municipality to address security concerns related to drugs and alcohol abuse and decrease crime. -Establishing a community center and football field/multipurpose space in abandoned lands for social gatherings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Although PUI implemented its interventions, but violence still persists.
Neighboring and Sense of Community Relations with Neighbors (provide emotional and social support to residents and are encouraged by neighborhood design features, such as walkability, density, and local social spaces such as shops, parks, and recreation areas, community participation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Social spaces are very limited in the area; children and adults ensure social gathering in streets and around coffee shops only. -Due to the crowded urban fabric and lack of urban planning, there is a deficiency in public open spaces. -UN Habitat ensured a raise social cohesion within the family-based neighborhood through family oriented activities and Community development process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After implementing the PUI strategic interventions, social cohesion increased significantly. -Community Participation and Communication through identifying, validating, participation and education; the action of identifying the problems and opportunities, establishing and approving projects and using participatory design practices such as public workshops.
Compactness And Density (Minimize sprawl and transportation use, protect the surrounding rural environment, and reduce energy consumption and pollution.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To launch a project on proposed solid waste management and that reduce energy consumption and pollution; to provide better facilities for garbage collection disposal and recycling. -Addressing the safety of electric wire arrangements, while avoiding immediate destruction; decreasing the dependency on generators by stimulating the use of renewable energy, reduce energy costs, develop safety by lighting up the neighborhood when public power supply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Compactness of urban sprawl is still significant in the area since there is an uncoordinated growth: the expansion of community without concern for its consequences due to overpopulation.
Mixed land use (Reduces the use of cars for commuting, shopping, and recreation. It has been linked to increase in neighborhood social interactions and sense of community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rehabilitate existing structures to be a community center. -Implement soccer fields -Increase the Public spaces in the area -Enhancing different facilities and activities to increase the sense of community in the area at the community center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After the integral urban project; PUI, the land use has developed concerning education and leisure but health facilities are still minimal. -Construction of new public spaces and improvement of existing public spaces.
Sustainable transportation (Uses walking, cycling, and public transportation to reduce energy consumption and pollution. It promotes neighborhood interactions and human health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UN Habitat facilitates circulation where it enhances the neighborhood accessibility by addressing roads, and sidewalks, and its connectivity to its surroundings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After implementing the Metro cable which is a sustainable transportation, it has encouraged people to walk and use public transit. -Improvement of mobility
Integrating nature into the urban environment (Reduce pollution and help to preserve ecological diversity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Encourage urban agriculture at houses' backyards as an alternative to obtaining food. Resulting a planting training, initiate a distribution plan for edible seed to designated houses. -A football field, a protective environment for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After the integral urban project; PUI, which includes Botanical Gardens and library parks.
Economic Prosperity (Employment and income...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthening the local market comprises sustaining existing market street and support entrepreneurship. -Livelihood opportunities depend on producing income-generating chances within the area's economy and agriculture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The community participation as laborers in construction of the integral urban projects.

Based on the preceding, the livability of a community relates to a variety of factors that impact residential satisfaction, a sense of community, and environmental sustainability. Thus, the strategies applied in both local region; Tyre, Lebanon and international region; Medellin, Columbia enhances community livability after applying the strategy which are checked and appraised based on the livability factors in table 05. Nevertheless, community livability for the impoverished emphasizes on mostly on social gatherings were the sense of community creates an important role in creating a livable community. A Cognitive and emotional connection to the people and place creates satisfaction, social bonding, and a perceived safety in the place they live in. In addition, from the checklist, it can be inferred that what a city offer in terms of inhabitants' empowerment that is the economic vitality (income, mobility) most significantly measures its livability. In support is the safety environment (crime level, accidents and property safety). Also, of significance are the community facilities which enhances social stability (children education facilities, healthcare, and shopping and open/green space).

5. CONCLUSION

The research deducts a set of conclusions as follows:

- The strategies applied in impoverished areas are significant examples which created a basic knowledge about local and international strategies in upgrading quality of life and enhancing livability in impoverished areas.
- Livability and sense of community are different for the poor since poor people are more dependent on social supports and community surveillance by neighbors that provide a sense of safety to the poor and their satisfaction with quality of life increases significantly by gentrifying the area.
- Livability is the sum of the factors that add up to a community's quality of life. The factors are including the built and natural environments, economic prosperity, social stability and equity, educational opportunity, and cultural, entertainment and recreation opportunities.
- This implies that in creating livable neighborhoods, the factors examined in this study are very fundamental and need to be considered in development planning. Provision of amenities results in a more livable neighborhood that enhances the quality of life of the people, and in the long run improves the overall sustainability of the development.

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