



Land tenure security for low-income residents' urban livelihoods: A human development approach review of temporary occupation license

Kiky Kirina Abdillah^{a,b}, Azima Abdul Manaf^{a,1,*}, Abd Hair Awang^a

^a Centre for Research in Development, Social and Environment (SEEDS), National University of Malaysia (UKM), 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

^b Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Existing studies on the human development approach discuss how eliminating capability deprivation and enlarging people's choice led to improvement on their overall wellbeing. However, land tenure security, the pre-condition to safeguard secure livelihood for poor and low-income urban residents is rarely discussed. This study examines the potential of the human development approach to the land tenure security debate by using a desk review of literature on both concepts. It employs the usage of a land policy instrument, known as the Temporary Occupation License (TOL), which aims to provide urban low-income residents with tenure security despite their lack of formal ownership over the land. In this context, land tenure security is understood from the subjective perspective, rather than from its traditional economic objectives. Findings show that the pursuit of human development through TOL results in an enhanced security of tenure amongst urban low-income residents in two forms. Firstly, protecting them against the threat of eviction through the principle of equity in which TOL provides opportunity for nonlandowners with legal access to state land for housing. Secondly, allowing households to gain the benefits of labour and capital invested in the land. For instance, the principle of efficiency embedded within TOL allows households to utilise land according to their priorities and needs; empowerment allows them to make decisions pertaining to housing and tenure upgrading, whereas sustainability allows citizens and authority to achieve developmental results that benefit both parties. The study concludes that the pursuit of the human development approach in land management, through administrative decisions and conducted in a participatory manner, can indeed enhance land tenure security for urban low-income residents.

1. Introduction

The human development concept has been extensively discussed in policy circles and public discourses, primarily through the Human Development Report, which was first published under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990. The concept was the idea of Mahbub Ul-Haq, a Pakistani economist who wanted to view the world's socioeconomic advancement through the eyes of ordinary people (Alkire and Deneulin, 2009). Amartya Sen's remarkable work has greatly influenced the human development approach in welfare economics, poverty, famine, development economics and social choice (Lampis, 2009; Alkire and Deneulin, 2009; Schokkaert, 2008). It serves

as a critique of the developmental approach, which emphasizes economic growth and assets maximisation as indicators to measure human wellbeing (Lengfelder, 2016; Patel, 2012; Ghosal, 2009; McNeill, 2007; Robeyns, 2005). According to human development advocates, the development objectives should not only be concerned with income growth and material wealth but instead focus on all aspects of life, including secure livelihood (Fukuda-Parr and Kumar, 2003). Housing security is one of the essential components of secure livelihood. Secure housing not only serves the needs of the occupants, but it also promotes the household's well-being and therefore the community's quality of life (Junaidi et al., 2018).

In urban areas, secure livelihood provides a challenge to low-income

Abbreviations: TOL, Temporary Occupation License; COR, Certificate of Rights; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UN, United Nations; CoC, Certificate of Comfort; CLT, Community Land Trust; NCC, Nairobi City Council; NGOs, non-governmental organizations; FPSG, Fixed Period State Grant.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: akkirina@unimas.my (K.K. Abdillah), azima@ukm.edu.my (A. Abdul Manaf), hair@ukm.edu.my (A.H. Awang).

¹ Present address: Centre for Research in Development, Social and Environment (SEEDS), National University of Malaysia (UKM), 43600 Bangi, Selangor, MALAYSIA.

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