Strategies for Sustainable Low-income Housing Enhancement in Thailand: Contributions of Income Generation Space (IGS), Self-built Metamorphosis and Self-customization

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Abstract

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This dissertation contributes the imperative outlooks that low-income housing circumstances in the developing housing world can be enhanced, implemented, as well as strengthened both for the habitat policy distribution level and the housing design enhancement. It provides the sustainable practical strategies that reflect the necessity of present housing needs and shed light on the sustainability of future low-income housing development. It provides coherent instances on how to strengthen the housing program and explore the sustainable implementation.

Two of Thai major housing programs have been clarified; the first program referred to as the Baan Eua-Arthorn Project (BEP), which is renowned as a low-cost housing project, while the second referred to as the Baan Mankong Program (BMP), or a secured housing program.

Particularly, the IGS has played a significant role supporting the low-income dwellers' earning. The habitat itself is also able to support the dwellers to generate income. This strategy is found effectively works both for the BEP and the BMP by utilizing self-built metamorphosis, as well as self-customization as tools to get the IGS. As for the BEP, about 77% of houses in the research area conducted the extension. About half of dwelling units in the study area are extended for the IGS. Moreover, the spatial characteristics of IGS as a multipurpose/ flexible space can serve the desire of dwellers. It furthermore has a capability of solving the poverty issue as the essential outlook of low-income enhancement that is needed to be fulfilled. The IGS has supported the dwellers' continuous occupation and could also reflect the nature of how low-income Thai people have survived through fundamental given conditions. As for the BMP, Self-customized IGS survival strategy was explored to be utilized by the dwellers throughout their occupation period. More than one-third of the houses in the research area are self-customized for IGS. The study has further shown that, even in the non-IGS utilizing family, there is a positive trend that the IGS is demanded to support the dwellers' income generation activities. IGS has also shed light on its flexibility of usage possibilities that can be implemented in future low-income housing scenarios, as well as for a wider scale of housing enhancement, that will pave the way for a practical housing program and sustainable habitation to settle in, securely and sustainably.

Keywords: Architectural Sustainability, Baan Eua-Arthorn Project (BEP), Baan Mankong Program (BMP), Baan Karn Keha, Extension, Housing Strategy, Income Generation Space (IGS), Self-build, Self-built Metamorphosis, Self-customization, Self-customize, Sustainability, Time Variation

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