

ABSTRACT

Development of Appropriate Infrastructure Standards in Low Income Settlements The Trinidad and Tobago Experience

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Shelter is a basic human need and yet this fundamental requirement is unmet for thousands of people in Trinidad and Tobago. To provide shelter there must be land available with infrastructure such as roads, drainage, water and means to dispose sewage. The cost of providing this infrastructure in residential land development that meets the standards as required by the regulatory agencies will be beyond the affordability of the lower middle and low-income groups.

To prevent this group of people from resorting to informal settlements, there needs to be ways to provide serviced land that can be afforded by the lower income groups.

In attempting to determine ways to reduce the infrastructure cost in land development, the existing approaches to infrastructure provision was examined. It was realized that lowering the standards of infrastructure that is required by the regulatory agency will reduce the cost to develop land.

Ways were suggested for lower infrastructure standards that will reduce cost and yet achieve the fundamental purposes. The starter standards will be upgraded incrementally. A detailed cost analysis of providing conventional and appropriate starter infrastructure was presented. It was shown that starter

standards reduce the infrastructure cost by 61 percent which is a high cost difference.

To conclude, it was recommended that the continuous upgrading of the infrastructure be done through a community effort by forming community groups. The use of unemployed labour from among the settlers will be utilised as much as possible. The project showed the only way forward is the use of the starter standards to solve the landless and shelter problems in Trinidad and Tobago.

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