

ABSTRACT

Over the past few years, Government has been unsuccessful in its attempt to provide housing for the lower-income people. Several plans have been developed by a number of consultants and housing and planning departments, only to be rejected as unfeasible. Some of the reasons being, the high cost of infra-structure and the relatively high planning and construction standards advocated. In essence, there has been a total misunderstanding of the term low-income, coupled with the stringent and metropolitanized planning standards which effectively mitigate against the provision of this type of housing.

Essentially, this project report seeks to:

- a) Critically analyse the existing housing situation,
- b) Recommend an appropriate construction technology and implementation through the aided-self-help concept,
- c) and to emphasise the need for a National Housing policy with specific reference to the low income, by suggesting a number of policy instruments.

The self-help concept has, over the past five to ten years been the most common (if not the only) method of low-income housing construction. The method has manifested

itself through the evolution of the overnight and weekend construction of squatter-type and other legitimate housing by the low-income. It is the opinion of the author that the "close-knit" nature of the St. Lucian society may be the main factor responsible for this concept of housing construction. The main emphasis, therefore, of the project report, is to capitalise on this inherent cultural attitude in the provision of low income housing.

In addition, the author intends the project report to be used as a manual for the planning of housing projects.