

## ABSTRACT

This paper deals with Pre-fabricated Construction in housing in Trinidad and Tobago as an answer to the acute housing shortages plaguing this nation. An attempt is made to identify the factors leading to the dilemma in which this country finds itself. In addition, information is provided on current local housing developments in an attempt to shed light on indigenous housing construction practices.

The paper emphasizes the need to analyse and evaluate housing systems compatible with local considerations, namely, labour, material, and construction techniques and methods, even if it means importing a developed system and adapting and modifying it to meet local considerations. In this light a proposed system is described.

The present housing shortage in this country is reckoned at about 10,000 units per annum (reference - Housing Science Vol.2). The corresponding building costs including real estate are estimated at 1.5 billion dollars as at 1980. In contrast to this figure a sum of 0.4 billion dollars has been provided for housing in the public and private sectors during 1979. It is obvious that the whole area of assessment and development needs to be modified to make practicable an expeditious and successful construction programme.