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TRAINING AND RESEARCH FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

    BY

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Introduction:

The problems of planning and management of human
settlements in Kenya have already been treated in detail by
the previous speakers in their respective papers. We may
therefore observe generally that these problems seem to be
closely related to the rapid rate of population growth and
the process of urbanisation in the country. There seems to
be the danger that if decisive action is not taken, slums
and squatter or shanty town settlements, overcrowding and
deteriorating transport and sanitation services will be the
rule rather than the exception. It is also possible to expect
that although rapid urbanization is taking place there will
still be more people living in the rural than in the urban
areas of Kenya by the end of the century. These are thus
likely to continue to be plagued by conditions of isolation,
under-nourishment, inadequate housing, shortage of water
and lack of all sorts of public services. There is thus an
urgent need for finding new solutions and applying new and
more realistic but relevant standards. To fulfil this, it
has become even more urgent to study closely the actual
situation and the wishes of the people concerned before
introducing solutions. Thus we urgently require appropirate
skills to ensure the effective and efficient planning and
management of human settlements at their varied levels of
operation. We also need information about the working of
the human settlements system so as to develop the relevant
policy solutions to the identified human settlement
problems.

This paper therefore attempts to briefly outline the
efforts made towards the training of personnel for human
settlements and the problems and limitations facing such
national efforts.

The intention is to underline possibilities and priorities
in training in this field. the paper also looks at the
development of research and the problems of making informati n
available for decision making in the process of planning and management
of human settlements.

It is however assumed that the acquisition of information and
knowledge about the human settlements systems and the training of
appropriate personnel for the planning and management of human
settlements is significant in the achievement of the National goals
for development.

TRAINING FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT

The comprehensive management of human settlements encompasses the
physical, social, economic, financial and administrative aspects of
human settlements systems. Development problems of human settlements
also tend to fall under these categories. The process of human
settlements planning and management, however, includes goal formulation,
policy making, programme enunciation, problem identification,
programming and implementation of rational solutions, community involve-
ment and participation, evaluation and feedback. On the other hand the
responsibility for the management of human settlements although centrally
governed by the National government, in practice tends to be shared with
the local authorities at the Provincial, District, rural and Urban levels.
It may be noted that infact the final responsibility for the management
of human settlements lies with members of the community individually and/or
collectively at the rural and urban levels. Also at each of the higher
levels of operation, the direct responsibility for human settlements
management tends to be delegated to a network of agencies and
institutions both of a public and private nature.

Thus it may be recognized that the nature of the human settlements
problem at any given level of development tends to be highly complex as
it encompasses such a wide variety of aspects, factors, agencies,
institutions and interests operating at many different levels.