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都市および農村地域の土地利用計画適正化に関する 研究:カブール首都圏域を対象として

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A Study on the Land Use Suitability Assessment for Urban and Rural Development: A Case Study of Kabul Metropolitan Area

(都市および農村地域の土地利用計画適正化に関する研究:カブール首都圏域を対象として)

The capital of Afghanistan, Kabul has gone through the most powerful wave of urbanization since 2003. The population increased by almost 10% per year, which eventually contributed to a large urban sprawl and illegal settlements in the city. Most of the settlements are prone to natural disasters and may cause casualties and extensive damages if not paid attention. The residents are also facing lots of problems with respect to the informal settlements, which require careful development and certain planning at the management and policy level. To achieve this, there is a crucial need for characterization of the suitable areas for urban development.

In this regard, Kabul Metropolitan Area (KMA), with a total area of 1763 km², has been chosen as the study area. It encompasses both the existing Kabul and Kabul New City (KNC).

The master plan for the KNC which is also known as Dehsabz area was prepared with the cooperation of JICA and endorsed by the cabinet of Afghanistan in 2009. Planners faced several challenges while designing the new city as the land already contained 54 villages and, more importantly, 140,000 people were residing there. Given their socioeconomic significance and crucial role in urban-rural integration, it was necessary to preserve and upgrade them. To define a sustainable model for the development of the villages, essentially, there is a need to identify and characterize the villages with the greatest development potential.

Therefore, following a discussion of informal settlements, their problems, and the need assessment for the categorization, the second part of this dissertation explains a method for categorization of villages through multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA); seven potential factors with thirty-six sub-parameters were identified and rated in collaboration with experts, and super decision software was used as an analytic hierarchy process (AHP) tool to weight the factors. Result revealed that almost two of the entire villages have the highest development capacity while another two villages have the lowest. Furthermore, *8*, *9*, and *15* villages have been classified respectively into high, moderate, and low categories.

The third part of the dissertation primarily evaluates land suitability from an environmental and physical perspectives as a tool for determining appropriateness for urban development in the existing Kabul city. The focus was centered on the application of the AHP and MCDA through GIS. Twelve principal factors with forty-three sub-parameters including landslides, avalanches, earthquakes, floods, groundwater, and climate, along with other physical and geological factors

like soil, slope, natural features, historical and cultural sites, landcover, and barren land, were identified to be weighted in collaboration with experts. The result showed that 22.9% of Kabul is highly suitable, while 28.1%, 17.5%, and 18.4% are classified respectively as suitable, moderate, and less suitable areas. However, 13.2% is ranked unsuitable, whereby factors such as slope, natural features, and landslides contribute most to the unsuitability. The resulting information from this research will assist urban planners and policymakers in determining the most effective use of land, as well as the protection of human lives and the environment.

The final output is very easy to read and understand by planners and policymakers to make proper decisions. In Afghanistan, the majority of projects are being selected based on a single criterion and mostly political preferences, which raises a lot of conflicts between the government and people. Therefore, this method can be used as a solution to avoid such conflicts. In this regard for research validation, a part of the old city of Kabul has chosen as target area. The research primarily focused on three different development approaches and reveals that urban development methods are too dependent on a variety of factors, including the environmental, socio-economic, cultural, and physical conditions of each location. So that each area and region must be characterized and addressed by a specific development model that is consistent with the characteristics of the area.

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