



***Housing for the Middle and Lower Middle Income Groups;
Effort for an Enabling Housing Policy Environment:
Case Study Dhaka, Bangladesh***

Mr. Chowdhury Md Zaber Sadeque

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Room 829, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong

Abstract:

The UN Declaration on Fundamental Human Rights reveals that every human being has a right to shelter of adequate standard for living. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh also recognized "shelter" as one of the five basic human rights for its citizens. But making it available to all is increasingly becoming a significant challenge for the government of Bangladesh. The present population growth rate in Bangladesh is 1.4 percent, meaning that an expandable housing scheme consistent to this rate will also be necessary to accommodate the growing "demographic momentum". Statistics show that Bangladesh needs to construct approximately 4 million new houses annually to meet the future demand of the next twenty years among which about 1 million housing units need to be constructed in Dhaka. Faced with the constraints on suitable and affordable land, most urban dwellers in Bangladesh, especially the middle and lower-middle income caps; are unable to afford decent accommodations. This study aims to analyze the critical issues of housing problems for the middle and lower-middle income groups in Dhaka City (the capital of Bangladesh) with a particular focus on urban planning issues. The urban planning issues (i.e. the regulatory regime, infrastructure development etc) leading to an enabling housing policy environment need to be analyzed in this connection. So far very few studies have been conducted on the housing problems of middle and lower-middle income groups of Dhaka city. But none of those studies focused on the urban planning issues that might possess some bearing to develop an enabling housing policy environment. This study is an endeavor to fill this gap. This seminar will discuss the housing issues of Dhaka City and also the urban planning processes.

About the Speaker:

I have obtained my bachelor degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 2004. Then I worked for Sheltech (Pvt) Ltd., one of the largest Real Estate Companies in Bangladesh for two and half years. Just before coming to Hong Kong in September 2007, I joined Bangladesh Civil Service. Now I am on study leave for two years to obtain my MPhil degree from HKU.

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