

Pillars of Community Development: A Study of Al-Asmarat District

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ABSTRACT

The topic of community development for marginalized communities has evolved significantly in the last eight years worldwide, following the United Nations' (UN) establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Under this umbrella, Egypt has set a development vision and targets to improve the standards of living conditions in the country. One of the targets is to minimize the problem of informal settlements through a series of action plans, such as creating new districts that aim to offer a better quality of life for the people who used to live in the various informal settlement areas. This prompted the state to spend exorbitant sums on these development projects, amounting to six trillion Egyptian pounds according to the prime minister's declarations in the "Decent Life" Initiative Conference 2021.

The thesis aims to develop an analytical tool to understand the pillars of community development. The aim was completed by collecting the main pillars of development from the point of view of many organizations, like the UN, and many individuals, like economists, sociologists, and architects. This results in having the five main pillars, which are knowledge, psychological, social, economic, and urban pillars.

The tool was implemented in a local case study, which is the Al-Asmarat district, to assess and evaluate the project as a community development project. This was achieved through site visits to collect primary qualitative data from the interviews and through observation, mapping, and photo documentation to come up with a conclusion and action plans for the already existing phases in Al-Asmarat and future recommendations to Al-Asmarat phase four, and the other futuristic community development projects.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

The world now is directed to set development plans which act as a target that should be achieved within a specific range of years; they call it a vision for a better community and quality of life. One of the most prominent examples of this approach is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 2030 vision. The vision consists of seventeen goals that can be categorized into economic, social, educational, health, and environmental aspects, which help to understand the different development pillars.

On the other hand, Egypt follows this development plan and has started to put its vision for the year 2030. The plan focuses on three main development pillars: the economic, social, and environmental, which stress the importance of those pillars. "For instance, key components of Egypt's Vision 2030 and 2050 - emphasizing justice and social integration, such as sustainability and the creation of a competitive, balanced, diversified, and knowledge-based economy" (Kadry & Husain, 2025).

The topic of community development has become the topic of every era and area. Despite that, there is no collaborative tool that can be used as a guide for developers and planners, so in this dissertation, We will talk about varies dimensions of community development adding the urban and architectural perspective, by conducting a tool that can be used as an analytical tool to analyze already existing communities or as a design tool highlighting the aspects that should be taken in consideration in the design process.

This assessment tool can be used to assess any development project, or it can be used as a design tool to guide the decision maker in the design decisions.

In this thesis, we use this tool to analyze Al-Asmarat district as an example of a community development project, and study all the aspects of a current local case study and assess it.

1.2. Aims

- The thesis aims to develop an analytical tool to understand the pillars of community development and investigate the overlap between them.
- The tool aims to help the decision maker in design decisions, as it acts as a checklist for the most critical aspects of developing any community.

1.3. Objectives

- To provide and propose specific criteria and guidelines to deal with the complexity of the overlaps between the main community development pillars.
- To assess this tool on a local case study in Egypt.

1.4. Methodology

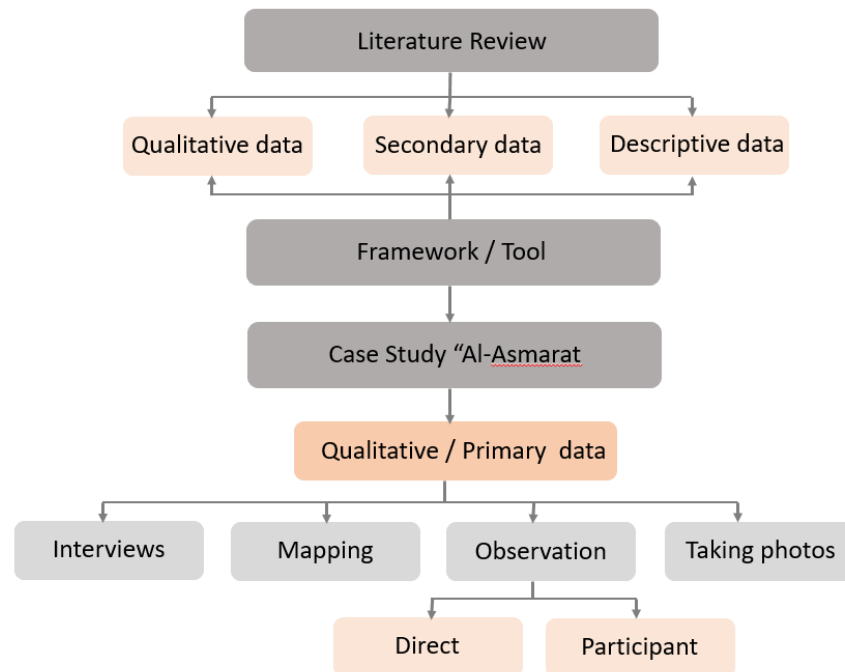


Figure 1. Research Methodology (source developed by Author, 2022)

The research methodology was about collecting qualitative, secondary, and descriptive data in the literature review; those data have been transferred to an analytical framework/tool. This tool has been tested and applied to the case study, which is "Al-Asmarat district".

The case study has been analyzed through interviews with people living there, mapping different activities, direct and participant observation, and taking photos. Finally, we came up with a conclusion in the form of a SWOT analysis technique applied in the analytical tool and future recommendations.

Through the photos of the case study, I try to record the following three aspects:

- Displays of self: the different kinds of adaptation to the existing situation and the ways of personalizing specific spaces.
- By-products of use: the leftovers and the traces of humans using the spaces and dealing with the current features.
- Context: by trying to read the present signs and indications.

The observation methods I used in the case study are:

- Cognitive observation: by observing human behavior in social interaction places.
- Interpretive observation: observing the relationship between human behavior and the built environment.

1.5. Research problem

The government in Egypt started an initiative to minimize the informal settlement problem and lift the citizens' quality of life through several community development projects, started seven years ago all over Egypt as development projects; this initiative cost around six trillion Egyptian pounds, according to the Prime Minister's declaration in the "Decent Life" initiative conference 2021. This amount of money should be used through a studied plan to come up with tangible results for the users.

2. Literature review

What is community development? "Community" is defined by Boothroyd as "A human system of more than two people in which the members interact personally over time, in which behaviour and activity

are guided" Boutilier, M.A., Rajkumar, E., Poland, B.D. et al (2001), on the other hand, "Development" is defined as 'The objective of moving to a state relatively better than what previously existed, a good change', getting more in the definition of "community development" as a whole, Butterfield, A., & Chisanga, B. (2013, June 11) Describes it as a planned approach for improving well-being among disadvantaged groups through capacity building, participation, integration, and community organizing—with asset-based and community-building methods as growing trends. While Green, J. J. (2016) frame community development as collective social action toward agency and solidarity, sometimes connecting across communities or feeding into broader movements.

2.1. Social development

Talking more specifically about the effect of the social and cultural aspects on community development and showing how it is essential to consider it to have an effective outcome, Pawar talked more about the social development approach saying that "while community development is defined as a participatory people-centered process that involves bringing together, mobilizing and organizing people, keeping them together and enabling them to work together to address their needs and issues and thus to facilitate their own, their communities, and society's comprehensive development as per the social development approach" (Pawar, 2014).

To address poverty in rural areas, both development partners and national governments have launched enterprise development programs that emphasize the need for participatory frameworks. These frameworks aim to empower rural entrepreneurs to identify the specific Business Development Services (BDS) they need to foster economic growth and social transformation. To ensure that participation goes beyond rhetoric. Nordjo, E., Boadu, E. S., & Ahenkan, A. (2023)

Social community development is defined by various aspects that should be taken into consideration or thought of before undertaking community development programs; some of these aspects are traditions, values, culture, mores, and attitudes; Stepney & Popple (2008) specify this more and sum the concept of community in terms of five characteristics which are commonality among people, size of the population, sense of belonging and identity, attachments, primary relationships and finally the local culture. They argued that these five aspects must be considered while working on social community development.

Focusing on one of the critical aspects of social development is the effect of community organizations and the interventions they make in the community. Referring again to Mohd. Shakil, who strongly relates community organization to community development, argues that "community organization is one of the primary methods of the social work profession, it deals with intervention in the communities to solve the community problems. Community organization and community development are interrelated as two sides of the same coin" (Shakil, 2015).

2.2. Economic development

Economic development, in a broader perspective, could be defined as a dynamic process involving the country's interaction with the people and their environment through changes in the quality of productive factors in the growth process, which will lead to an increase in the individual income and this will not happen until women be a part of this development, This was ensured by the economist Karl Marx (1855) in his argument saying that "The participation of women is a mean to achieve the goals of development, through gender awareness, more efficient economy-wide policies. It will contribute to achieving economic growth, but it will also help identify the social goals the society is willing to pursue" that is why Onu (1998) opined that "women are at the heart of the development; they control most of the non-money economy (subsistence agriculture, bearing and raising children, doing domestic labour) and taking an important part in the money economy (trading, the formal sector, and the wage employment)."

Women and men need economic empowerment to reach the community's economic development, and many aspects could achieve this. One of them is microfinance. Muhammad Yunus, who is called the "father of micro-finance" and best known as the founder of the grassroots Grameen Bank, uses this

approach to uplift the villagers in Bangladesh by encouraging them to do small businesses that could help get their livelihood back on track. (Saxena, 2022)

Neither the less, the importance of providing job opportunities to the Youth. Hence, they argued that "youth leadership and skills development can contribute to lifting individuals out of poverty by improving access to work, increasing productivity, and fostering sustainable economic growth" (Saxena, 2022).

2.3. United Nations Sustainable development goals

The United Nations argued that "community development is a process designed to create conditions of economic, social progress for the whole community with its active participation and fullest possible reliance on the community's initiative (Lotz, 2019.)

In 2015, the UN (United Nations) set a vision for the next fifteen years till the year 2030; this vision aims to serve the whole world to help develop all developing countries to end poverty and fulfil human needs by reaching an entire sustainable planet. (United Nations, 2015) This vision will be implemented by working on seventeen goals that the UN targets; those goals fall under the umbrella of economic, social, and environmental development. The seventeen goals are translated into actual action plans and different project types in various countries all over the world, aiming to reach a satisfactory result of this agenda by the year 2030; many conferences and summits are held to help in achieving the seventeen goals, which are:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. (United Nations, 2015).



Figure 2. United Nations. (2015). The 17 goals. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

3. Analytical tool

As a result of the literature review, the main pillars conducted are five pillars which are Knowledge, Psychological, Social, Economic, and Urban. Those five main community development pillars are highlighted by most of the people who tackle the topic of development of the communities; also, they are the core of the Seventeen Sustainable development goals of the United Nations to the year 2030. Each pillar is divided into Sub-factors that should also be taken into consideration while working on the community development topic.

This part aims to conduct a tool tackling the five main pillars of development and their sub-categories in more detail; this tool is to be used as a design tool for new community development projects or as an analytical tool to analyse the projects that are already done and need more development.

3.1. Knowledge pillar

Knowledge and education are fundamental pillars in development; they enable community members to make decisions. Especially when it is about the most important values, like freedom, respect, peace, democracy, human rights, diversity, or gender equality; they enlighten their thoughts and make a big difference in their behaviour, to understand a community to develop it you should focus on all the knowledge resources within the community and work on them.

3.1.1. Formal Education

- **Schools:** Schools are the first gate of knowledge a person can access; they are considered to be the base of any future learning; in some communities, people don't get the proper school education because of the quality of the schools, according to Omodan, T. C. (2023). most of rural schools across the globe are often described as disadvantaged or under-resourced, typically marked by inadequate facilities, shortages of qualified teachers, and limited access to both educational and social services, which leads to a massive deficiency in the development of those communities.

- Universities and academies: According to, Hindes & Bakker "higher education institutions perform well in the provision of the relevant multidisciplinary knowledge base, but falter when it comes to developing the competencies essential for effective application of that to the world; of work." (Hindes & Bakker, 2004).
- Vocational schools: Vocational training is a precondition for countries to transition from low to high value-added production, directly affecting the community's economic level.
- Libraries: While studying the knowledge dimension, you should tackle the accessibility of the community people to books or knowledge resources in general, which should be available in different library typologies. Studying the knowledge resources such as libraries will give you an overview of the knowledge dimension.

3.1.2. Non-formal education

Non-formal education plays a vital role in addition to formal education in enhancing the skills and knowledge of the community. According to UNESCO (2006), "Non-formal education has always been part of the solution for marginalized and vulnerable population groups because programs are based on an integrated approach that takes into account all the factors influencing the opportunities and life-chances of different population groups, and the role played by education systems themselves in the process of social inclusion and cohesion." (Kotzé, D. A. 2012).

- Training centres: Training centers are where adults can get knowledge; the quality and availability of those centers will ensure a complete knowledge system within the community.
- Art and Crafts centres: Some communities can be developed upon exciting talents; art and crafts centers are where these talents can be discovered and expanded; the location and quality of those arts and crafts centers and their productivity will indicate the knowledge and creativity level within the community.

3.1.3. Technology

- Internet access: In a rapidly changing world, primary education is essential for an individual to access and apply information. Nevertheless, ICTs in the global village should be included. The Economic Commission for Africa has indicated that the ability to access and use information is no longer a luxury but a necessity for development. Unfortunately, the use of ICT in many developing countries, especially in Africa, is still low (Adomi, E. E., & Kpangban, 2010).

3.1.4. Equality

- Gender equality: In some communities and as a result of poverty, some families give more education preferences to the males than the females, and others prevent females from having access to any source of knowledge; they believe that females will end up as housewives and they better get married, which lead to undeveloped communities.
- Social equality: Unfortunately, the quality of education is directly related to the quality of schools in the community, and not all the community can afford those types of schools, so it is essential to uplift the quality of education in the governmental school to ensure that all social categories have a similar or nearby level of knowledge.

3.2. Psychological pillar

3.2.1. Physical activity & public health

Recent studies have carefully considered public health while designing, and urban planners have started to emerge in the public health field in their work, especially in the relationship with chronic diseases like depression and obesity.

Obesity is correlated with low physical activity; one of the moderate types of this activity is walking or biking, so if the city is well prepared for walking or biking, it has an apparent effect on the public health of the people living there.

Frank, L., Engelke, P., & Schmid, T. encourage creating a physical activity-friendly environment by analyzing three main aspects: the transportation system, the urban design characteristics, and the land-use patterns. (Frank, L., Engelke, P., & Schmid, T, 2003).

Earlier meta-analyses have shown that depression tends to be more common in urban areas than in rural areas among adults and older adults in developed countries. (Xu C, Miao L, Turner D, DeRubeis R., 2023).

3.2.2. Lifestyle

The design of the community has an evident influence on human behaviour; the way that towns, cities, and suburbs are designed and built significantly impacts the people working and living in them. The physical elements that shape the community have a noticeable influence on their daily lifestyle, the problems they face, and what amenities they enjoy are a direct product of how communities are designed (Frank, L., Engelke, P., & Schmid, T, 2003).

3.2.3. Maslow's hierarchy of needs

Abraham Maslow (1954) worked on a large body of research on human motivation; He suggested a hierarchy of human needs based on two groupings: deficiency and growth needs. Each lower need must be met within the deficiency needs before moving to the next higher level. Once each of these needs has been satisfied, a deficiency is detected, and the individual will be able to deal with and solve this deficiency. It is often illustrated as a pyramid with the survival need at the broad-based bottom and the self-actualization need at the narrow top. This five-stage model can be divided into basic (or deficiency) needs (e.g., physiological, safety, love, and esteem) and growth needs (self-actualization). Therefore, we need to analyse community development according to those dimensions (McLeod, 2007).

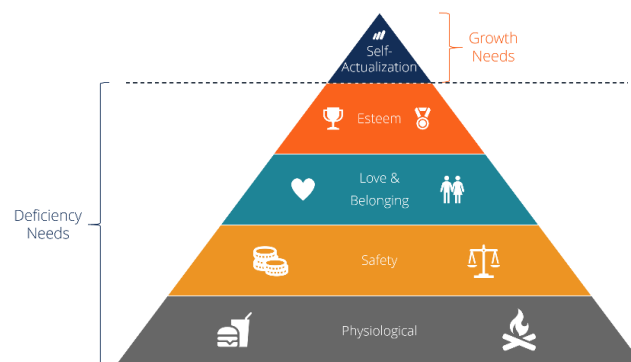


Figure 3. Corporate Finance Institute. (2018). Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Corporate Finance Institute. <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/management/maslows-hierarchy-of-needs/>

3.3. Social pillar

"Persons who are socially engaged with others and actively involved in their communities tend to live longer and be healthier physically and mentally" (Leyden, K. M., 2003). The social dimension is one of the main dimensions that should be considered while trying to understand/ analyse a community to develop it.

3.3.1. Ideologies

Each community has its traditions which are inherited from the elders; some communities are affected by those traditions, which lead to particular beliefs and thoughts within the community and the neighboring ones; this culture may include a specific outfit or unique food recipes which can be used as a dimension for community development, to approach any community with the aim of development you should understand and take into consideration those social aspects.

3.3.2. Social Structure

Studying the social structure of a community helps to understand the social setting that influences collective actions in development. Analyzing this point should be covered for all the social scales, starting from the family scale and moving to the community scale. For example, a community with charge persons is much easier to develop than one that is not structured. Understanding the family structure will help you decide on the potential family member to work on more for development.

3.3.3. Equality

Women should be on equal feet with men; while developing a community, we should study and maintain this equality through actions and choices; some communities neglect the role of women; they believe that women are by nature less intellectually and physically incapable than men. This belief affects the development of the community. On the other hand, other communities understand and appreciate the role of women in development and start some small women empowerment movements and projects.

3.3.4. Social life

Social life is one of the main dimensions that should be considered while working on social development; it helps to understand how life within the community goes. For example, is it more outdoor or indoor-oriented? , it is also essential to study the nature of the places which encourage more social interaction in the community.

3.4. Economic pillar

3.4.1. Job opportunities

- Workplaces are the main economic and productive spots in any community. Therefore, to understand the economic conditions of any neighborhood, you should check the quality and distribution of the workplaces and their productivity.
- The existence of international companies indicates whether this community is economically developed; also, you can measure the community's economic development by observing the startups and small business opportunities in it.
- Most people living in poverty lack access to the resources or knowledge needed to start microbusinesses, so communities that provide these opportunities will be more economically developed than others.

3.4.2. Poverty Rate

- Average income
- Goods prices
- Subsidized products
- Access to microloans

The WMI (Women Microfinance Initiative) applied the microloans concept in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and many other African countries; they mainly provide microloans to women to start a small business to help them improve their economic state; after each project, they annually do a statistic tackling the effect resulted from those loans, and they found that.

- Incomes increase 100 - 400% after the first six months.
- Savings increase by 500%.
- Women prioritize spending their income on education, food, and healthcare for their families.
- 75% of women report improved reading, writing, or arithmetic skills.
- Women in rural Uganda are buying land and building permanent houses.
- They are opening bank accounts and using ATM cards.
- Domestic violence has decreased - husbands and wives are working together (Women's Microfinance Initiative, 2008)

3.5. Urban pillar

As the urban features of the community highly affect the residents' quality of life and daily routine within this community, it is essential to study each aspect of the community to understand and have a clear impression of the community. Also, it will help in many design decisions.

3.5.1. Land uses

- Residential: UN habitat ensures that "everyone has a fundamental human right to housing, which ensures access to a secure, safe, affordable home" they have another perspective on housing as they see that housing is not just a roof but its grantees better live and better future, as housing is more precondition for education, social services, and even employment (UN-Habitat, 2012).
- Landmarks: Urban space has signified elements like a landmark. Landmarks are defined as a reference to people to help them to orient themselves in an unfamiliar environment. There are many typologies of landmarks like historical, skyscrapers, city landscapes, etc. The distribution and quality of those landmarks affect the perception of the community and its development; landmarks can be one of the sources that bring money to the community if this landmark is very well known, also it considers as an image to the community.

3.5.2. Mobility

- Infrastructure: Streets are the link between the different parts and activities of the city; they also connect the private with the public domain. These linkages encourage social interaction and exchange. The street design significantly contributes to the quality and characteristics of the community; hence appropriately designed streets create healthy, safe, and quiet environments.
- Walkability: People living in walkable communities can build social bonds, have better health, and have a more secure environment. Walkable cities provide a network of walkable streets with enough furniture, suitable sidewalks, and activities and services. As a result, those walkable communities offer a better lifestyle for their residents.

3.5.3. Quality of public life

In their book *How to study public life*, Jan Gehl recaptures it as an essential planning Dimension. Jan Gehl defined public life as "everything that takes place between buildings, to and from school, on balconies, seated, standing, walking, biking, etc. it is far more than just street theatre and café life." (Gehl & Svarre 2013).

Tools to study public life:

a) Direct observation

It is easy to document people's behavior by naked eye observation; you can also use a camera or any other aids to focus on specific situations or freeze some moments to analyze the case more deeply.

b) Asking basic questions, "what, who, where, how many?"

These fundamental questions can help you understand and get documentation about a specific activity and give you substantial knowledge about who goes where or not in assigned public spaces.

For example, asking the “who” question can help you know if women usually use this public place, which can hint at the sense of security in this place, if a specific age range uses a particular area, and so on.

c) Mapping, Tracing, and tracking

This is an example of how working in public spaces can improve public life, improve people's way of life, and create more job opportunities and entertaining activities in the city.

3.5.4. Urban Density

Urban Density is usually measured as the ratio of housing units and people over a unit of land, such as hectares, square miles, or acres; it can also be counted as floor area ratio (FAR).

According to the book *The Urban Design*, density determines the accessibility of people to work, services, recreation, and even the accessibility of people to people; it fosters urban relationships. Interaction with a large number and variety of people is the core of communities. Indeed, the interactions are the basis for the existence of social organizations (Macdonald, 2007).

- Density of people
- The density of the built environment
- Agglomeration of services and public facilities.

Eduardo Lozano argued that “proponents of denser and more compact cities suggest that greater densities have positive spillover effects in supporting transit, reducing car usage, providing various environmental benefits, enhancing local economic development, and promoting greater social interaction.” (Richard T. LeGates, Frederic Stout, Michael Larice, 2012).

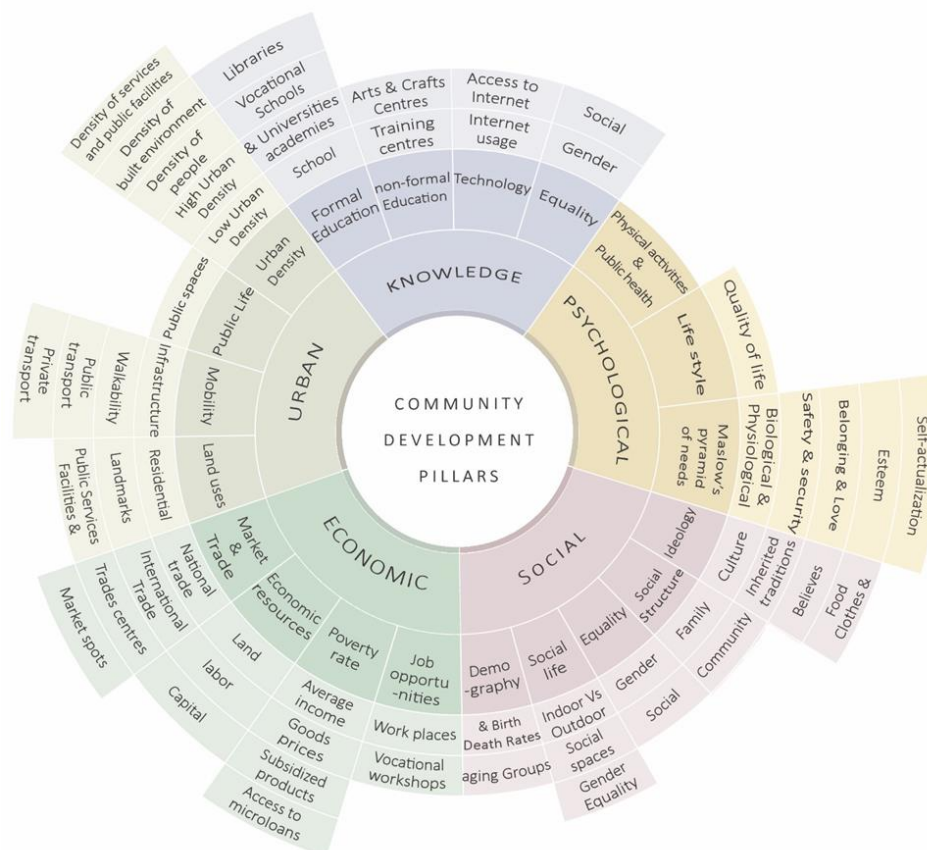


Figure 4. Community Development Pillars (source by Author 2022)

Figure 4 shows the collective analytical tool in its final form with all the subdivisions and aspects that should be studied in any community that needs to be developed covering the most critical dimensions, the five pillars are interdependent, and the improvement of one affects the others; for example, the modification of public space affects the social life of the neighboring residents and creates more job opportunities in the area.

4. Al Asmarat district Case Study

4.1. General Information about Al-Asmarat

Al Asmarat district is a residential project inaugurated by President El-Sisi in 2016; it is part of the government initiative to end the problem of the slums in Egypt. It's located in the El Mokhatam area in Cairo between the Martyr's axis and the ring road; the total size of the project is 188 acres, divided into three phases Asmarat 1, 2, And 3, Asmarat phase one is approximately 65 acres in an area containing 6258 housing units, one primary education school and 240 commercial shops till date, Asmarat phase two is about 61 acre with having 4722 housing units and 110 retail shops, and Asmarat phase tree is approximately 62-acre offering 7440 housing unit.

Asmarat is a resettlement area; the competent executive authorities decided to provide housing in Asmarat for those affected by the demolition of their homes in their original areas. This allocation was determined by the Unified Building Law and its executive regulations and Law No. 10 of 1990 on expropriation (Ezzeddine, I. (2024, July 18). It hosts about 20000 families; the target residents of the project are the people who were living in the slums of Ezbet Khair Allah, Tal Al Aqareb, Mansheyet Nasser, Al Doweiga, Qaleat Al Kabsh, Al Mawardy, Istabl Anter, and Maspero Triangle.

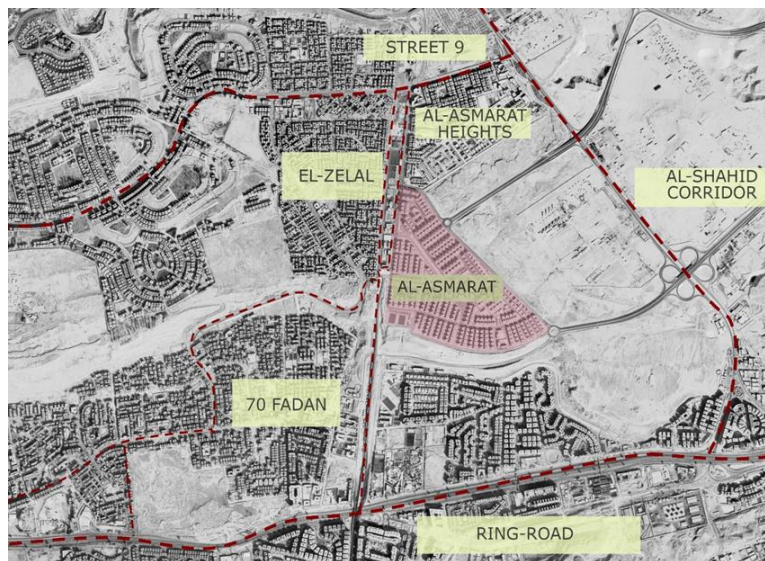


Figure 5. Al-Asmarat Location and surroundings. Source (google earth, edited by Author)

4.2. Knowledge pillar

4.2.1. Formal education

- Long live Egypt schools:

It has five branches in Al Asmarat district. Long live one was turned to be for kindergarten and primary students, and Long live two is now hosting female preparatory students only.

a) Quality: Each school has an average of ten classes that host an average of 550 students; as per the interviews conducted, the parents are not satisfied with the education quality offered, as they claim that this is because the teachers are not well paid.

b) Typologies: They are government schools that serve all age groups.

c) Availability: The schools were founded and started working in 2016; all the students who live in Al Asmarat area have the right to join different schools according to their age and gender.

d) Affordability: The fees vary from 200 to 500 L.E. according to the school grade.

The school also hosts different types of educational activities and events like, Al-Qara'iyya project مشروع القرائية: It was implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Education to address the weakness of writing and reading for students in the first grades of the elementary stage in Long Live Egypt School in Asmarat district. (Elmasri, 2020), Also, many reading and writing empowerment initiatives for women take place in school classes.

4.2.2. Non-Formal education

- Training centers: The ready-to-wear Chamber established a permanent training center for women in Al Asmarat. The Chamber had earlier announced a plan to train girls from the age of 18-30 from the residents of the Asmarat neighborhood, who have the desire to obtain a job opportunity in the ready-made garment sector through a program that lasts for two weeks only, but generally, the residents there complains that there is no enough workshops to accept them, which will be considered in the planning of Al- Asmarat phase four. (Salah, 2021), Quality: Dr. Mohamed Abdel Salam, President of the Chamber of Readymade Garments and Furniture Industries, said that the training given to girls would qualify them to work in factories according to the numbers and specializations required (Salah, 2021).

4.3. Psychological pillar

4.3.1. Physical activity & public health

There are many types of physical activities in the district; one is walking exercise. The residents prefer to walk to save transportation money, but the experience is not so pleasant, as there is no urban public furniture and no shading.

And as noticed from the interviews, the government is trying to pay more attention to the kids and the coming generations; they offer sports activities to both genders, and they are trying to engage them in so many activities and champions like kung-Fu, karate, and football.

4.4. Social pillar

4.4.1. Social life

- Social interactions spaces: Through observation and taking photos, it is evident that people use the corridors between the buildings to socialize as this space is near their residential units; also, it is somehow shaded by the buildings; they even use them for their social occasions and celebrations like weddings, engagement, also kids use those spaces for playing with their neighbors, and as a result of the topography people use the steps as seating element.



Figure 6 Social activities outdoors between the buildings Source (By Author, 2022)

4.5. Economic pillar

4.5.1. Job opportunity

- Workplaces:

- a) Availability: there are some commercial shops where they can work, but they are not enough for them, and their rent is high to seven thousand per month, as the shops are sold in auction by the government and the owners rent them to residents with high rental fees.



Figure 7 Commercial shops on the ground floor Source (By Author, 2022)

- b) Quality: typical ground floor shops in residential units with average size.
 c) Distribution: their distribution is random, but they are somehow clustered together in different spots.
 d) Microbusiness (startups): the government prevents the families from having microbusinesses in their homes or any place not planned for the business. Families, especially women, start working on sewing machines in their homes as a startup business.

4.6. Urban & Environmental Pillar

Al-Asmarat district is mainly a residential-oriented project; it aims to provide human residential apartments for people with low income who used to live in slums, so the majority of the buildings in the project, it aims to afford humanly residential apartments for people with low income who used to live in slums, so the majority of the buildings in the projects are residential buildings with typical apartments, and the area of the apartment is almost 75-meter square.

The buildings in phases one and two consist of six floors without elevators, each with six apartments. However, in phase three, the buildings consist of ten floors with two elevators, and each floor consists of six apartments; the residents of phase three complain a lot about the maintenance issues of the elevators. There are several problems with the elevators; sometimes, they have to take the stairs to the tenth floor, which is not easy for most of them, but all the apartments are typical in the area, and room distribution is in all phases, each building group forms a residential cluster with different names; each has different elevation color, as shown in the coming figures.

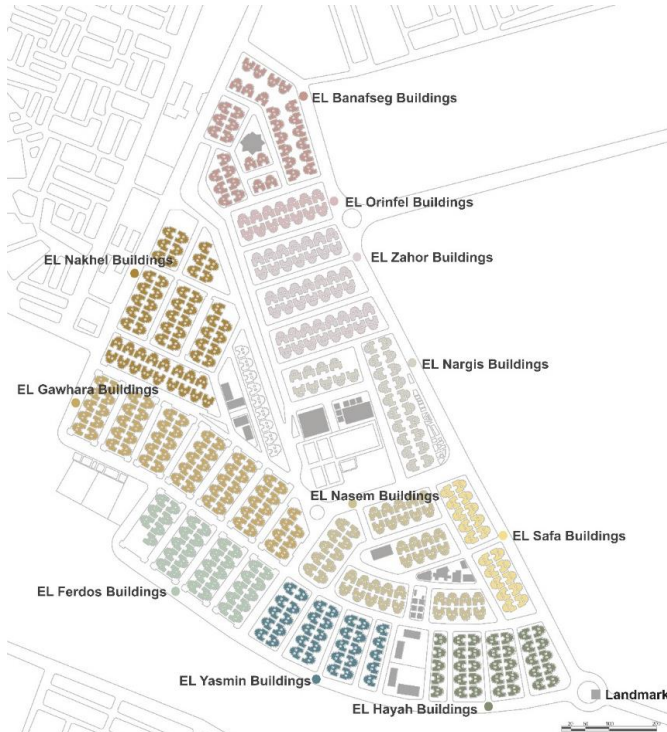


Figure 8 Names of each building cluster

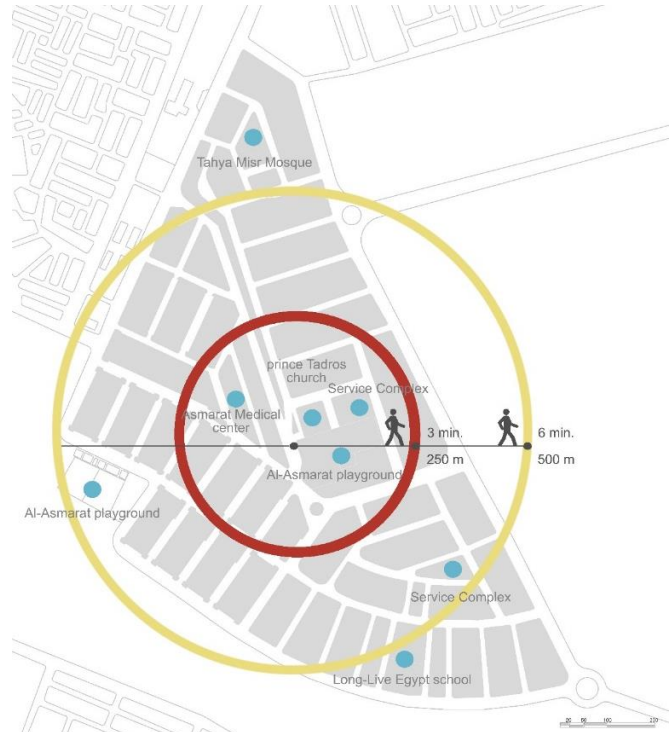


Figure 9 Walkability diagram & primary function
Source (by Author, 2022)

Despite that, Al Asmarat district is a relatively walkable district which pedestrians can cover in six to ten minutes' walk; nevertheless, the lack of all those aspects makes the walking experience not pleasant at all and requires a lot of adaptations solutions from the pedestrians to enhance the existing situations. Also, there are no traffic lights or crossing signs; people are moving randomly in the streets which makes it not safe for pedestrians.

5. Conclusion

5.1. Case study's conclusion

In conclusion of applying the analytical tool to study Al Asmarat as a community development project, I conducted that the district has many strengths as well as weaknesses, which that may be because the government overlooked some aspects; furthermore, many aspects can be considered as opportunities to work on to develop the area more and more, and this also without neglecting the factors that threats the development process, so I used the SWOT analysis on the diagram to explain the founded conclusion.

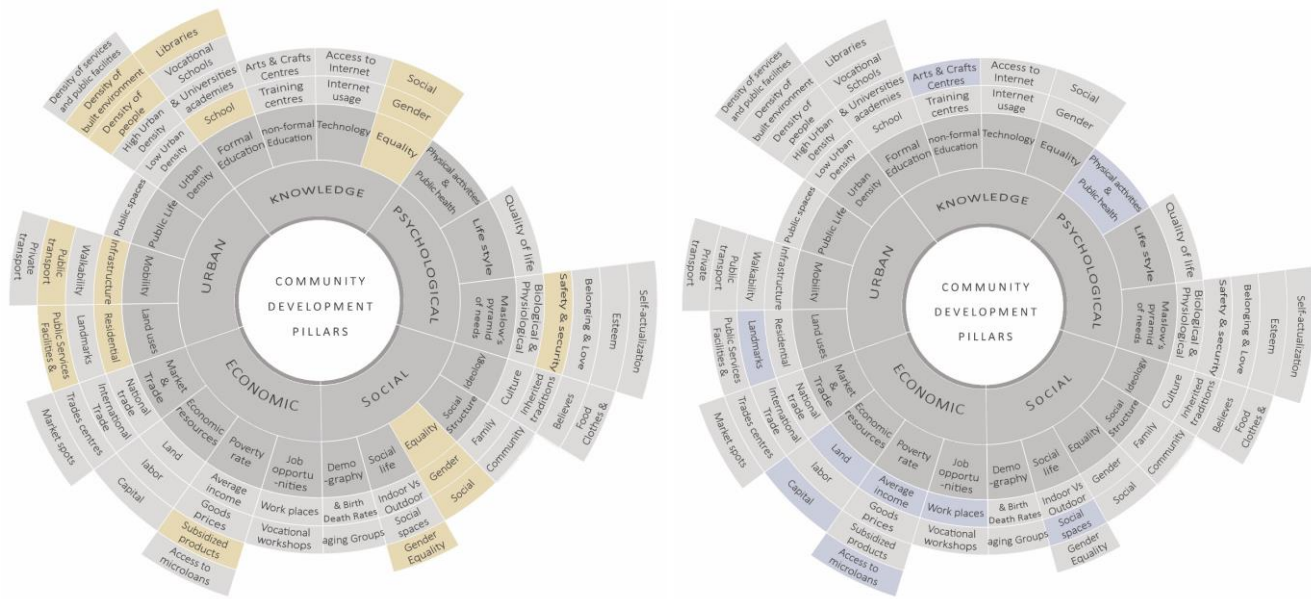


Figure 10 Strength Factors in Al-Asmarat

Weaknesses Factors in Al-Asmarat

Source (by Author, 2022)

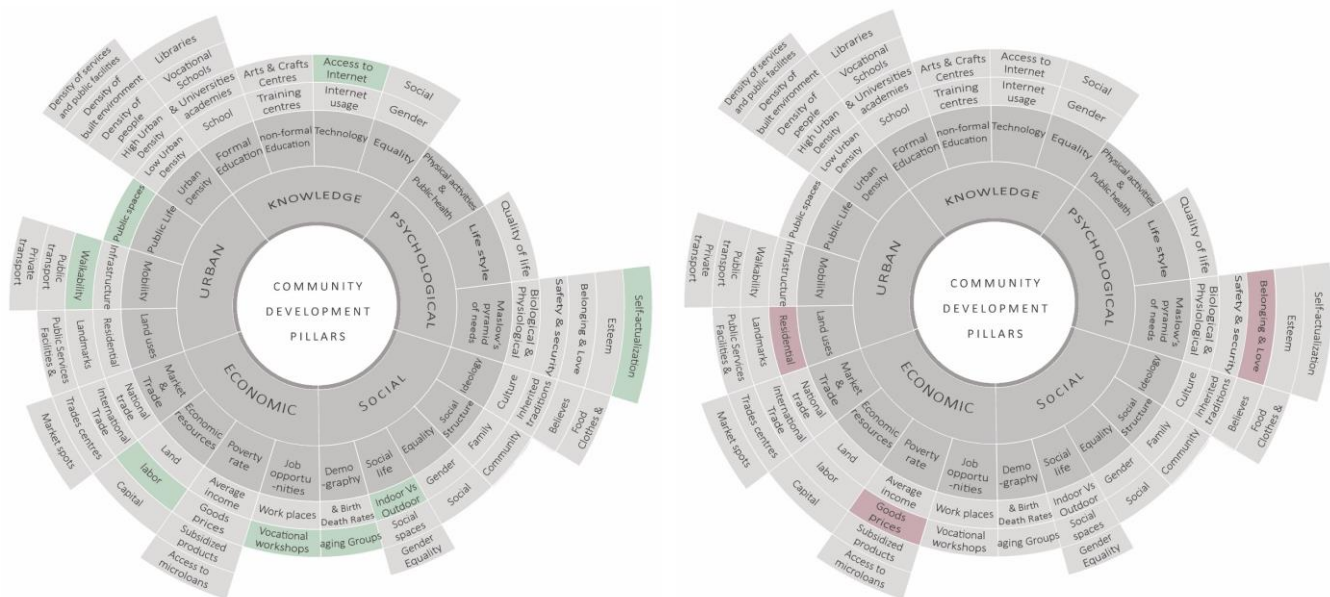


Figure 11 Opportunities Factors in Al-Asmarat

Threats Factors in Al-Asmarat

Source (by Author, 2022)

5.2. General Conclusion

After the study of the different pillars of development and conducting the tool, and after applying the tool application on Al-Asmarat case study, I found that:

- The five pillars are interdependent; if you neglect one pillar, it will affect all the other pillars; for example, if the knowledge pillar is overlooked, this will narrow down the job opportunities and affect the economic state of the individual, which will lead to low self-esteem and bad

psychological and social conditions, which will automatically reflect of the existing urban environment.

- The government overlooks some aspects as the psychological aspect of the national development projects, which leads to the lack of satisfaction of the users.
- The users should be part of the development process, either by studying their lifestyle and needs or by self-involvement in the development process; otherwise, they will change a lot after living by their means of adaptation, which will affect the actual image of the project.
- People resist any "change" because they fear the "unknown." Hence, the process of development and change requires cautious handling and needs highly skilled workers who know how change and development take place and have the skills to work with the people to induce them to change.
- No one model fits all, so the excessive standardization of the housing units' area and standard room distribution does not work for all families.

5.3.suggestion for further studies

- Community Participation and Governance
 - Focus: Examine the extent and effect of community participation in planning and post-relocation governance in Al-Asmarat.
 - Rationale: Community development thrives when beneficiaries are co-creators, not just recipients. Investigate bottom-up approaches versus top-down planning.
 - Question: How has participation (or lack thereof) influenced residents' sense of ownership, satisfaction, and social cohesion?
- Comparative Case Studies of Other Relocation Projects
 - Focus: on comparing Al-Asmarat with other similar national or international relocation projects, especially those also targeting informal settlements.
 - Rationale: This could help identify best practices and common challenges in community development for marginalized groups.
 - Examples: Maspero Triangle project (Egypt), Favela upgrading in Brazil, Slum rehabilitation in India.

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Conflict of Interests

The authors declares no conflict of interest.

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