Shelter for All: Access, Affordability and Quality of Life

Financing Nation-wide Low-income Housing in Urban Areas of Bangladesh



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Background

The urban housing stock by type of structures of the nation and that of Dhaka city is shown below with a comparison of 2001 and 2011 BBS data.

Urban Housing Stock by type of Structure

		Pucca	Semi-pucca	Kutcha	Jhupri
Total	2001	21.70	23.10	47.70	7.60
Urban	2011	34.66	32.32	30.47	2.57
Dhaka	2011	41.87	32.94	23.08	2.16

Source: BBS, 2011

- The above table gives a dismal picture of all urban areas.
 - More than 65 percent of the urban people are living in semipermanent and temporary shelters.
 - For Dhaka city 58 percent are living in temporary structures.

2

The overall urban housing scenario has the following deficiencies;

- Gross shortage of adequate or standard housing.
- More than 60 percent people live in semi-permanent and temporary shelters.
- As many as 40 percent of the urban population live in slum and squatter settlements.
- Public formal housing supply is very low and does not exceed even one percent.

Housing in urban areas consist of the following types

- Public housing constructed on government lands (housing of government employees) .
- Private housing on government allotted / leased lands.
- Private housing on privately owned lands.
- Private real estate development on privately owned land/Public land leased to private persons.
- Slum or squatter settlements on public/Private lands.

Housing Delivery System: Consists of the following subsystems;

- 1. Public Housing Subsystem
- 2. Autonomous Bodies
- 3. Cooperative Housing Subsystem
- 4. Private Formal Subsystem
- 5. Formal Individual Household Subsystem
- 6. Private Informal Subsystem
- 7. Slum Subsystem
- 8. Squatter Housing Subsystem
- 9. Informal Accommodation in Non-Residential Spaces
- 10. Homeless or Pavement Dwellers

Institutions conducting housing related functions (public & private) are;

Ministry of Housing & Public Works (MOHPW)
 National Housing Authority (NHA)
 House Building Research Institute (HBRI)
 Real Estate & Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB)
 House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC)

6.Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DBH)

Note: Other than HBFC & DBH many commercial banks provide housing loans to individuals and developer companies.

Slum Upgrading/ Improvement Programs

Slum upgrading / practice has been very slow and very little has been done compared to the need.

Components of Slum upgrading / improvement

a)Physical upgrading/ improvement,
b)Economic and Social improvement, including political empowerment.
c)Physical improvement components do not include housing upgrading/improvement

Housing Policy Awaiting Approval Since 1993
 Urban Sector Policy Awaiting Approval Since 2006

Gaps in Finance & Delivery of Urban Low Housing

Existing Financial System: Lacks the following;

- Access of households to formal credit for housingMobilization of Funds (National, International, Local)
- •Separate financing policy targeting LIG
- Accessibility to Commercial Banks
- •HBFC loan policies are above the limit of LIG
- •Govt./ Private schemes for LIG housing
- •Incentives for LIG households to save for housing
- •Infrastructure development with housing improvement
- •Innovative projects for shelter delivery to LIG

Delivery System

Both formal and informal sector are active in delivery of housing. They have the following deficiencies;

Formal sector:

- •Responds only to the needs of HIG and MIG.
- •Contribution to LIG is very inadequate compared to the demand/ need
- •Low cost housing is limited to govt. staff quarters and few donor funded pilot projects
- •Slum improvement projects do not provide permanent tenure/ offer tenure security

Informal Sector:

- •Lacks quality, provides below standard shelters, deficient in services
- · For squattors and slum tonomants thars is no socurity of tonurs and rant



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