

Abadi - Source – City Symbioses

Researcher: M. Zeeshan Zaheer, Assistant Professor at Department of Architecture & Design Comsats Lahore, M. Arch (Honors) DIA Germany, B. Arch (Honors) NCA Lahore, Founding Partner at Dynamic Design n Build.

Abstract

A common notion that I have come across while reading about slums(katchi abadian) and informal settlements is :*“Slums(katchi abadi) are the problem of failed policies, governance, corruption in appropriated regulations, dysfunctional land markets, unresponsive financial system and fundamental lack of political will.”* I would detach from this concept of looking down at slums as a failed group of community, in a trial to work around this problem. I believe that, emerging slums are not a concern ; in fact, they are cause of a bigger concern that is being ignored; our cities are rapidly growing and right along with it are the energy, resource, ecological and social concerns.

This paper is giving me a chance to focus on a partially marginalized colony beside FCCU known as F.C. Abadi, located in Gulberg Lahore. In this paper we will look into this Abadi, it is 90% Christian community with an elected minority seat representative in our major political parties. I believe that by tapping into this Abadi’s geographic location of being virtually connected to FCCU and its inherent demographic potential, it can be helped to become an integral stake holder for the city, and essentially city will be of the gain.

As a conclusion, a cross-diploma program will be developed for FCCU and F.C. Abadi, with logistic and administrative backing of FCCU. In this system F.C. Abadi will get an opportunity to become a pilot project that smartly integrates its skills in a symbiotic relationship with the growing city. Whereas, the FCCU will act as an incubator for formalizing informal settlements. So we are actually aiming at solving multiple challenges with this approach. One of the expected outcomes is that, the Abadi inhabitants would be able to get sovereignty to earn from their jobs and eventually this will equip them to improve the living conditions for themselves, and also depending on the outcome of this system, this beta “Abadi-Source Symbiosis Program” beta-prototype will be applied on other Abadi’s that have eligible potential and a foundation to back it up.