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SURVIVING URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMMES: CASE STUDY OF A TRADITIONAL URBAN VILLAGE IN KUALA LUMPUR

Sharifah Mariam Alhabshi

INTRODUCTION

A village is a community of people or human settlement relatively clustered and smaller than a town. It is a term often used to denote communities that are small and subsistence based, local, rural and fundamentally traditional particularly, tied to some socio-cultural heritage. In light of the nature of the village under review, has witnessed some form of developmental transitions, this paper rather refer a village to a community that is still closely tied to its cultural and traditional values however, situated and coexisting within a metropolitan area. The portrayal of a village in this paper is coherently in tandem with Qi Changqing et al. (2007 28) description of an urban village which they referred to as “rural enclaves inside large cities or in their peri-urban areas characterized by high building densities, poor building quality, irregular streets and open sewage”. Physically these are areas surrounded and overshadowed by skyscrapers, transportation infrastructures, and other modern urban constructions.

In such areas, rental is relatively cheap and hence, attracts the poor and transient who come from the rural areas to make a living in the city. The deplorable living standard often breeds social problems such as crime, drug addiction, alcoholism and prostitution. Such areas are not regulated by the city authorities particularly due to opposition from the local inhabitants who do not want any infringement to their simple traditional ways of life and most importantly, because such areas do not generate income, less attention is paid to them by city councils. In addition, most of these areas are under facilitated yet overcrowded and buildings are haphazardly arranged, roads are narrow making it...