

/UPGRADING OF URBAN HISTORICAL DISTRICTS
A CASE STUDY ON LUXOR
EGYPT/

by

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B. Arch., Ain Shams University, Egypt, 1979

A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Department of Regional and Community Planning

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1985

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THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

SURAH XCIV

SOLACE

SOLACE

Revealed at Mecca

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

1. Have We not caused thy bosom to dilate,
 2. And eased thee of the burden
 3. Which weighed down thy back;
 4. And exalted thy fame?
 5. But lo! with hardship goeth ease,
 6. Lo! with hardship goeth ease;
 7. So when thou art relieved, still toil
 8. And strive to please thy Lord.
-

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TO EGYPT

PREFACE

Along with the preservation and restoration of historic buildings or areas, the surrounding urban environment must be upgraded if cultural understanding and tourism are to be promoted. Most developed countries -e.g. Italy, Japan - in the last thirty years have realized this fact and thus have concentrated their efforts on the upgrading of urban historic areas and districts.

According to the United Nations records, Egypt possesses a high percentage of the world's antiquities and monuments (**figure 1**). Since many of these historic buildings and areas exist in underdeveloped neighborhoods, this issue is one of great importance. A perfect example is Medieval Cairo with its Islamic monuments; another is the " City of a Hundred Gates", Luxor, which is located in southern Egypt and possesses the largest collection of Pharaonic monuments in the world, in addition to Roman, Coptic and Islamic monuments.

To initiate the research, the urban, social, and economic characteristics of Luxor were examined, as well as the neighborhoods surrounding the historic places and monuments. A method of scanning such environments is intended to contribute to reaching this goal. In addition, a detailed study of the residential structure of the surrounding urban or rural districts

and their population characteristics will be presented. This will allow a study of various proposals for upgrading the surrounding physical and cultural environment and integrating it with the restoration and preservation of the historic monuments in its vicinity. Enhancing cultural resources, which in turn can be used to promote tourism, is an important factor in the economic growth of Egypt.

**THIS BOOK
CONTAINS
NUMEROUS
PAGES THAT ARE
CUT OFF**

**THIS IS AS
RECEIVED FROM
THE CUSTOMER**

INTRODUCTION

As one of the oldest countries in the world , Egypt is of special interest to tourists. Because much of Egypt's national income depends on tourism (**figure 2**), the preservation of cultural and historical resources is vitally important and represents a significant problem for economic planners, which is compounded by the problem of poor conditions in the environments surrounding the tourist attractions.

To solve this problem, comprehensive research focusing on the following activities is needed:

1. research objectives,
2. problem identification,
3. goals and objectives,
4. evaluation criteria,
5. proposal for solutions,
6. solution application and implementation,
7. post-planning evaluation,

In this study only the first two parts will be discussed thoroughly.

To achieve the goals of the proposed research, a specific methodology to facilitate continuity has been developed:

1. relate research objectives to the observed situation,
2. provide structural information on the past and the present,

MAIN EGYPTIAN EXPORT ITEMS

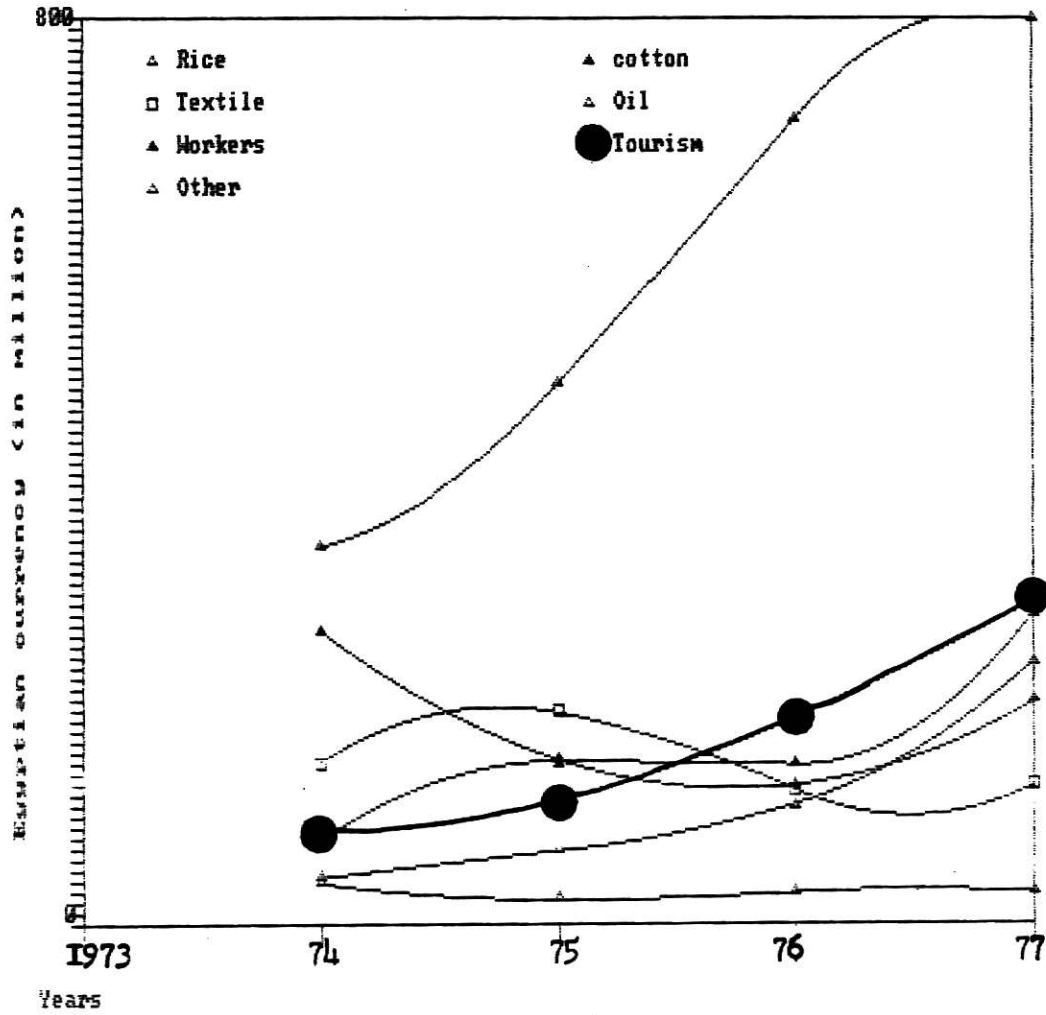


Figure : (2)

Title : EGYPTIAN NATIONAL INCOME FROM EXPORT ITEMS

Source : Central Bank, Ministry of Tourism, Mission estimate.

3. assess where more and better information is required,
4. formulate goals and objectives related to the situation and based on the available data,
5. establish criteria for evaluation,
6. apply established national and societal priorities to these criteria,
7. measure the extent of the environmental ills and well-being in the vicinity,
8. measure the gap between the current extent of environmental ills and a state of well-being,
9. indicate control mechanisms,
10. propose alternative solutions related to established goals,
11. measure the costs and benefits of each of the alternatives by which goals might be achieved,
12. measure the social costs and net returns on investment in socio-environmental programs,
13. improve understanding of what the future is likely to be,
14. contribute to the analysis of the socio-environmental changes.

This study will mainly deal with the issue of identifying the problems. Some of the following relationships will be taken into consideration in the various sections of this report:

1. interaction or interrelation between historic districts and their surrounding neighborhoods;
 - A. the negative and positive effects which occur as a result of this engagement,
 - B. the perceptions the parties hold of one another,
 - C. the economic and social relationship between both parties that form an organic place,
2. the effects of the historic areas on a neighborhood versus the effects of the neighborhood on the historic areas;
 - A. the balancing function between both effects,
 - B. Initiation of the touristic potential of a place without excessive interference with the existing population in or around the area,
3. the urban, social and economic impacts on the historic neighborhoods;
4. the factors that changed the style and standard of living in the neighborhoods,
5. the goals and objectives of the society in relation to the types of problems,
6. the implementation of a process that preserves this world treasure and has the greatest benefit for the resident population.

An outlook and scanning of the environment in addition to an urban and tourism plan is the main goal of this study to save this specific area from the deteriorated conditions that developed in the last decades. If such deterioration is allowed to continue, the fear is that it will destroy one of the finest monuments ever built, belonging to all humanity.

CHAPTER I

The Historic Features

Egypt, termed the "mother of civilization", took root in the Nile Valley and flourished for the astonishingly long time of some 3,000 years, longer than that of the Greeks or the Romans and longer than any Western or Eastern civilization has lasted since.

Egypt's most spectacular monuments, unsurpassed by those of any other people of ancient times include the Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1798 but in effect remaining lost until was finally deciphered by the French scholar and epigraphist Francois Champollion in 1822. The Stone, which bears an inscription in Greek and two forms of Egyptian writing, is the largest and most intriguing history book in the world. These leftover monuments are, for the most part, either tombs or temples for the two great life forces of this ancient civilization were the River Nile and religion. Both were inextricably intertwined and permeated the lives of all its people. Modern historians have accepted as universally sound a system of dating first introduced by Mareto, an Egyptian priest who lived under the early Ptolemies, which grouped the kings, or Pharaohs, as they are now known, into thirty-one dynasties of reigning families.

The Old Kingdom (ca.2686-2181 B.C.) was the period during which the great pyramids were built from the III to the VI dynasties.

The Middle Kingdom (ca.2133-1786 B.C.) saw Egypt's political and economic strength expand and artistic expression reach a new peak, particularly in the XII dynasty.

The New Kingdom (ca.1567-1080 B.C.) was the period in which political power was at its height from the XVIII to the XXI dynasty, during which history's first empire was born. 1/

Between 332 and 323 B.C. Egypt was ruled by Alexander the Great, then turned to Ptolemy I and his successors until 30 B.C. From this date Egypt became a Roman state until the year 300 A.D., when the first Christians changed most of the Pharaonic and the Roman temples into churches, thus changing the nature of life in Egypt.

Until the year 300 A.D. Thebes, or Luxor City, was one of the most important in Egypt and at various times served as the capital city. From 300 A.D. Thebes, was divided into smaller villages, starting the decline and deterioration of the city and its rural surroundings. Little physical planning was undertaken during these periods; hence only scattered structures remain, in various locations throughout the city.

In the middle of the 8th Century, when Islam came to Egypt, new Luxor was established and the name was officially changed from Thebes to Luxor. This name came from the Arabic word "ELKOUSOUR," which means "the palaces," reflecting the numerous palaces existing in the city at that time.

1/ The World Bank, "Staff Appraisal Report, Arab Republic of Egypt, Tourism Report", April 26, 1976. page 67.

A new method of planning related to Islamic beliefs and values was applied to the city. This was reflected in the appearance of mosques and other Islamic services, which affected the structure of the city and the condition of the leftover monuments and edifices. This period lasted until the early 19th Century, when Luxor began to take its place as an important archaeological site (**figure 3**).

Luxor is the most important archaeological site in Upper Egypt, visited in 1977 by some 183,000 tourists. Located about 670 km. south of Cairo, it contains the remains of the magnificent temples and tombs built primarily by the Pharaohs of the New Kingdom (16th-11th century B.C.). On the east bank of the Nile are the great temples of Luxor and Karnak, -they have been justly described as "the greatest open air museum in the world"-. On the west bank the remains of the mortuary temples of Queen Hatshepsut, Seti I, Ramses II and Ramses III, the Colossi of Memnon, and the royal tombs in the Valley of the kings (62 tombs) and the Valley of the Queens (14 tombs) and in the hills and cliffs nearby over (400 tombs) of the Nobles. 2/

The Influence of Age on the Existing Situation of the City

The different periods in the city's long history have left their imprint on its structure, culture, social life and economy. Physically the city is stretched along both sides of the River Nile but mainly on the eastern bank in the northern and the southern direction, imposing upon the agricultural land without taking any advantage of the surrounding desert.

2/ The World Bank, "Staff Appraisal Report, Arab Republic of Egypt, Tourism Report", April 26, 1976. page 10.

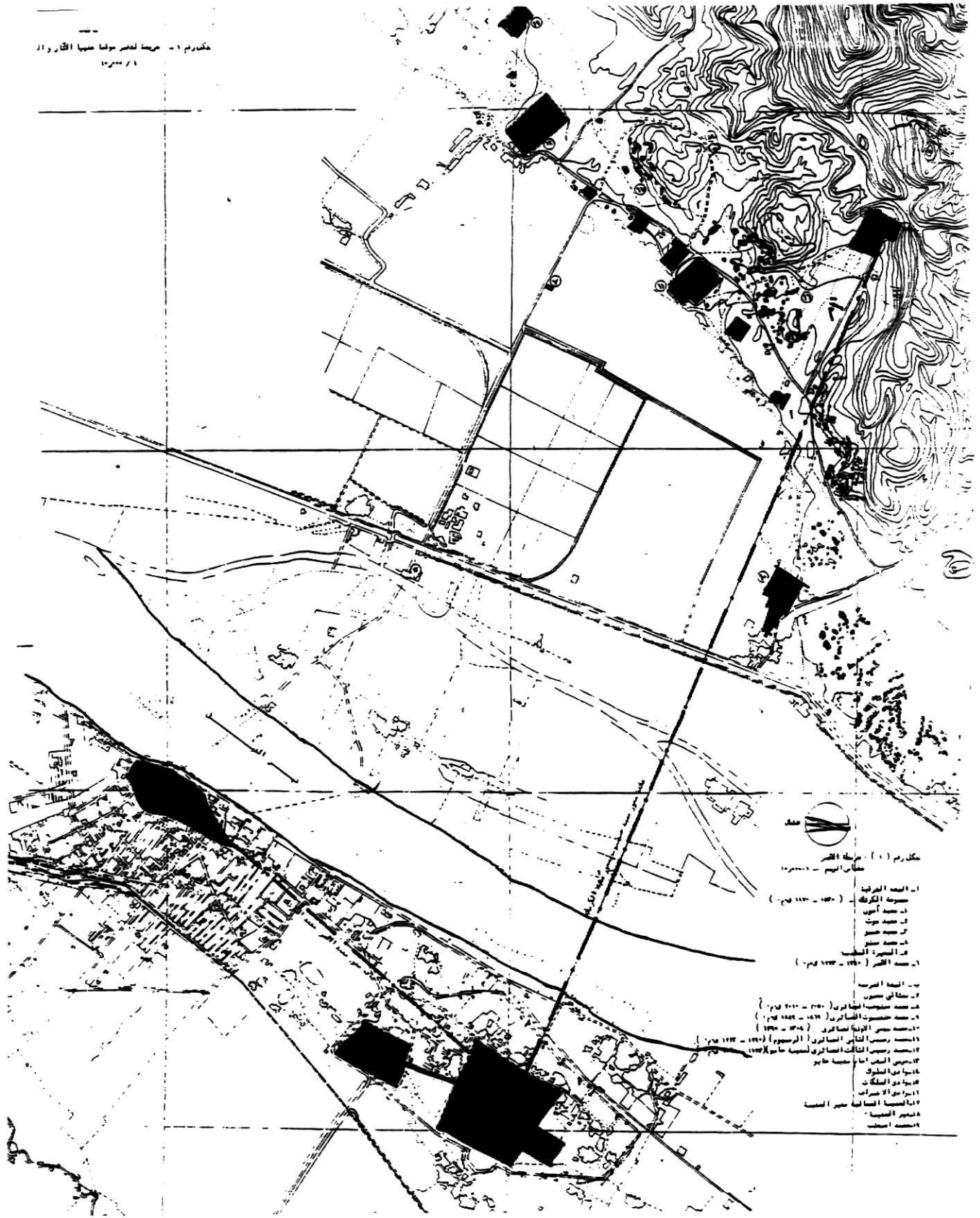


Figure : (3)

Title : LUXOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Source : Ministry of Tourism, Luxor Office 1980

This increase in the city's structure is highly concentrated in the area between the temples Luxor and Karnak.

Culturally, the city was made up from diverse backgrounds extending from the ancient Pharaohs, Greeks, Romans, Christians and muslims. All these cultures together form the existing Egyptian culture, which appears to be highly significant in Luxor City.

Socially, religion plays an important role in Luxor. The city is built on strong family relations which are expressed in a hierarchical system where each family has its head and strong members, as is the tradition in almost all Egyptian cities.

Economically, the society is mainly rural depending on agriculture and its products as the base of support for the whole family. Along with the increase in population and the slight decrease of agricultural land, the economy has been oriented towards tourism since the beginning of the 20th Century. These influences will be discussed further in the following chapters.

CHAPTER II

Design of the Research

The design of the research is strongly related to the objectives, namely the identification of problems resulting from the presence of historic sites in the vicinity of Luxor.

The following diagram (**figure 4**) explains the design of the research and its sequence. As the research progresses new information may have an effect on the findings.

This chapter will mainly deal with the identification of the different tools that may give better surveying results for this research and facilitate the problem identification process later on. Also the study of the various contradictions in the society is necessary to achieve better surveying results.

This research depends upon several methods to penetrate the physical, social, economic and cultural environments. The findings will provide the required data to help with problem identification . These methods of scanning the environment can be categorized as follows:

1. Plans of different periods:

These physical plans will help in giving a fairly good understanding of the population and its expansion, and the physical growth of the city in the last century (**see figures 19,20,21,22 appendix [1] pages 69-72**).

OBSERVATIONS WHICH LED TO RESEARCH

IDEA WAS BUILT IN MIND

AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

DESIGNING THE RESEARCH

AND

GATHERING DATA TOOLS

GATHERING INFORMATION, DATA AND SURVEY WORK

ORGANIZATION PROCESS OF THE GATHERED DATA

ANALYSIS OF DATA GATHERED

*** PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION ***

CONCLUSIONS



Figure : (4)

Title : THE RESEARCH PROCESS

**** End of this Research Limit and scope.

2. Aerial views of the existing situation:

A 1985 aerial view provides information for development of a physical survey of the city on the most recent map and also shows the distribution of the city's structures. The physical survey identifies:

- A. conditions of the buildings,
- B. heights of the buildings,
- C. use of the buildings & the land,
- D. the congested areas,
- E. the physical points of adjacency between the buildings and the monuments,
- F. the physical relationships within the city including its entrances, main routes, and arteries.

3. Observations and photos:

Several photos on a field trip in June, 1985, were taken in sequence. The physical survey was carried out by external visual inspection of the buildings, streets and open spaces in the area.

The sample for this survey was selected from the same "sampling frame" of the social survey, so that the characteristics of the inhabitants could be related to the physical characteristics of the dwellings.

The Old Karnak village, which is close to the Karnak temple and a part of the City of Luxor region, was selected to be the sample studied as it is highly integrated with the surrounding historic site, the Karnak Temple.

4. * Structured Interviews:

The preparation of a survey form is difficult, especially in a highly closed social society where the privacy of each individual family is firmly established and the level of education is fairly low. The method of personal interviews was chosen, which often results in the most accurate data, since the researcher can note non-verbal responses along with the answers. Also it is easier to modify the procedure during the interview on an individual basis.

After an observation process, a sample from the male group was selected according to their existence on the site and their importance as well-known persons in their community.

Interest groups concerned with the city of Luxor were identified in five main categories to help in gathering the various opinions from different points of view. These categories can be summed up as follows:

- A. citizens of the Luxor region and specifically those who live in the Old Karnak village.
- B. foreign tourists selected at different sites in the city.
- C. government personnel who can be categorized as:
 - 1) personnel from the Ministry of Tourism [Luxor department].
 - 2) Egyptologists from the Egyptian Monuments Organization.

* see appendix [4]

- 3) Tourism police.
- 4) City Council personnel.
- 5) The famous Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy who has had experience in Luxor is described in his book "Architecture for the Poor".

For each category a different short questionnaire was established. Due to time limitations and the duration of each interview, only a small number from each category could be interviewed. While this method may be statistically unreliable, the results are very interesting from the different points of view that appear in the responses, which will be discussed later in this research.

5. Various demographic studies of the area:

The available updated demographics for the City of Luxor and its region related to the research were gathered, mainly:

- A. population demographics,
- B. housing condition demographics,
- C. tourism and tourist demographics,

These demographics gave some clues about population growth, the percentages of the sexes, and job availability and percentages. Housing conditions will help in determining the possible directions for ways of upgrading and enhancing the structure and infrastructure of the city.

Tourism demographics will help in verifying the trend in the last decade for tourist attraction in the area and the capacity of the services to fill the gap or meet future demands.

CHAPTER III

Data Preparation and Organization

To achieve the maximum benefit, a wise preparation of the data is needed at this stage. This process needs a method of tabulating data related to the objectives, i.e. each required finding is related to the corresponding data; for example,

The population growth is shown by:

1. demographics,
2. maps of various periods,
3. trend of growth in services, jobs and facilities.

Also the growth tendencies and the physical direction of the trend are revealed by:

1. maps of the last century,
2. growth direction of the city,
3. attraction poles in the city.

Data Analysis

This is an important part of the research which will give insight into the society and its current conditions. The best method or methods of analysis here may mean the one that fits the studied environment and gives the best results from the available gathered data.

Interview Analysis

Five male personnel was selected from the citizens of the Old Karnak village were interviewed and these interviews were recorded.

Certain limitations were taken into consideration:

1. the privacy of the citizens and their closed social community,
2. the level of education, which is fairly low,
3. the impossibility of interviewing women,
4. the hierarchical family system, as the head of the family is considered to be the most important person to be interviewed.

These limitations should be considered; otherwise a questionnaire and/or an interview might be impossible or might fail in obtaining the results desired.

Significant issues that were raised in the interviews included the following:

1. the citizens are not willing to move or leave their land or property unless a fair compensation is provided, namely the up to date price and the value of the income from land usage,
2. tourism is the source of life for the city,
3. an increase in agricultural land is essential,
4. there is concern about the monuments and the citizens knew quite well the real value of these antiquities,

5. there is a proposed bridge which might be built 7km. south of the existing city, but it will not be of great benefit for the citizens unless a convenient transportation system is supplied,
6. the price to cross the River Nile now is fairly high,
7. there are no services whatsoever on the western bank, e.g. hospitals, schools, etc.,
8. tourist facilities and services are required at the historic sites, e.g. rest rooms, restaurants, transportation system etc.,
9. it is forbidden to build or rebuild any structure on the western bank, according to the laws enforced by the ministry of agriculture and adopted because of its concern for preserving agriculture land; also they are related to the concern of the Egyptian Monuments Organization,
10. building on the eastern bank is highly restricted for the previously mentioned reasons,
11. the citizens believe that no change or deterioration took place or is going on related to the monuments and specifically the temples,
12. there are not and will not be enough jobs offered in the city or the region, as long as it is forbidden to establish any type of industry in the city or its surrounding region,

In addition to the interviews, an important article in Egypt's most popular newspaper EL AHRAM (dated 8-16-1985) which was written by one of the famous Egyptian journalists, Ahmed Bahaa El Din. Indicates Luxor's problems have been raised as a public interest issue in the last couple of years. The article is translated as follows:

In relation to the decision of transferring Luxor to a separate governorate, this has reminded me of an important story that happened about 10 years ago, when Dr. Zaki Hashim, the minister of tourism at that time, had decided to sponsor an international competition for re-planning and reconstructing Luxor. A fair amount of international as well as local firms were interested and I was on the committee headed by the famous architect Hassan Fathy, in addition to a number from each ministry which has a certain interest in Luxor, e.g. Egyptian Monuments Organization, Tourism and others. A conference was held at Luxor City and a public hearing was held at that point. A sole representative of the citizens made the most important comments which turned everything upside down, he said: "We want to ask you only one thing: why don't you take the buried Pharaohs and their tombs and remove the stones of the Karnak temple and take it to Cairo!" We were shocked and then he continued: "Nobody comes to Luxor except to see the tombs of the Pharaohs and their temples. Nobody wants to ask us about our living conditions. We are the people living

ص ١٨ ١٩٨٥/١٦

يوميات

وحديثي بالأمس عن قرار تحويل
الأقصر إلى محافظة . ذكرني بحادث
طريف . فيه عبرة منذ عشر سنوات
تقريبا . وكان الدكتور زكي هاشم
وزيرا للسياحة . تقرر عمل مسابقة
عالمية لإعادة تخطيط وبناء الأقصر .
وتقدمت لذلك بيوت مصرية وعالمية .
وكنت عضوا في لجنة التحكيم التي
راسها المهندس العالمي حسن فتحي .
وارسلنا وزير السياحة إلى الأقصر .
اللجنة وممثل لكل هندسي مشترك .
وممثل لكل وزارة لها صلة بإعادة
تخطيط المدينة . الآثار . الثقافة .
السياحة . إلى آخره .
وانعقدنا في مؤتمر لذلك بصفة
أيام . واشترك فيه ممثل عن أهالي
الأقصر .

وعندما جاء الدور على المتحدث
باسم أهالي الأقصر .. وقف وقال :
ان لنا طلبا واحدا منكم هو : ان
تأخذوا معكم الفراعنة المدفونين في
وادي الملوك ! وان تفكوا احجار
الكرنك وتعيدوا بنائه في القاهرة ! ..
وبهتتنا جميعا ! واستطرد الرجل
- لا احد يأتي إلى الأقصر الا ليبحث في
امور المقابر والتوابيت والمعابد . ل
يات احد يسألنا عن احوالنا نحر
ابشر اهل الأقصر ابدا