

Vibrant Khayelitsha - Vitalizing the Urban Structure for the Segregated Society of Khayelitsha, Cape Town

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ABSTRACT

31.6 percent of the world's total urban population lives in slums. These populations live in the settlements that are both illegal and extralegal. Despite the poverty, illegality of the settlements, and lack of property ownership, this kind of settlements has a community power that can be explored as a potential. Their economic activities are in informal sectors that feasible to be developed to improve their life condition as much of rapid urbanization taking place in the cities of the developing world is in these sectors.

Khayelitsha is the second largest township in South Africa after Soweto in Johannesburg. It has approximately 1.2 million inhabitants. The majority of around 70% lives in informal dwellings. Most of the people who are in formal employment are either unskilled or semi-skilled. The formal sector within Khayelitsha itself is very small and consequently does not provide enough job opportunities for residents. The lack of job opportunities in the formal sector and its location in relation to Khayelitsha has resulted in the mushrooming of the informal sector. However the main problem for Khayelitsha is unsustainable development, low spatial and physical qualities, low human, physical and financial capital, and uneven distribution of basic provisions and insecurity of tenure. All these problems need to be solved by strategies and spatial interventions that will empower the community itself to improve their own life quality.

As a goal to make Khayelitsha as a vibrant spot of Cape Town in the future, it needs some stimulant that can be found inside local potential itself. Creative economy is one of the scenarios to be proposed as many cities all over the world are increasingly using creative culture for their redevelopment or revitalization programs. It will be a catalyst to generate economy sector in this community.

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