

# HOME-BASED ENTERPRISES TOWARD A PRO-POOR URBAN DESIGN APPROACH

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## Abstract

In our daily life, we walk through areas inhabited by poor people where home-based enterprises are noticeable. A home is thus one of few resources where poor generate income through active home-based enterprises. In this context, the term "Home" is used to refer to a dwelling unit and/or its associated including any adjacent areas. The "Home-Based Enterprises" which considered as a sub-group of the informal economy and have significant effect in the life of the poor. Some studies have encouraged a fundamental re-thinking of the informal economy, being important in developing countries where population and demand for jobs, goods and services growing too quickly for the formal sector to cope with. However, this sector has significant costs as well as benefits. As the informal economy in Egypt covers a wide range of activities and plays a significant role in reducing poverty, there is a need to re-consider HBEs activities in light of their positive contributions that offset their effects on urban spaces. This paper is concerned with Home Based Enterprises (HBEs), their major characteristics as well as the effects that their activities have on residential urban space. It also calls for pro-poor urban design strategies, which must be planned to serve of the fight against poverty. The need to change the perception and poverty is explored. Awareness among planners that home sphere is more than a consumptive asset for its purposes is hoped to be raised.