



ABSTRACT

Given the acute housing shortage for the economically weaker and lower income segments in urban areas, there is a need to develop minimum standards that can be consistently used as a basis for providing housing for the economically weaker and lower income segments. This report attempts to develop minimum standards based on livability and adequacy criteria for housing for the economically weaker and lower income sections whether it is new construction or rehabilitation of existing dwelling units.

The motivation for this report is to:

- ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP various minimum broad sustainable criteria based on best practices for adequacy and livability of residential units that can be developed as minimum standards for housing for the economically weaker and lower income segments of the urban population
- EXPLORE whether the development standards can be consistently applied for developing housing projects based on the targeted size of the project and the targeted population that the projects are intended to serve
- PROVIDE a value added advantage with respect to livability, adequate services and amenities, community development, environmental preservation and growth management.

The objective of the housing projects for the economically weaker and lower income and sections should be not only to provide housing within the affordability limits of these income groups but also to provide housing that satisfies minimum adequate norms. The methodology for developing minimum development standards in this report attempts to achieve this objective by providing minimum standards for adequacy and livability. Once adequate housing is defined, then housing programs can be developed for making this housing affordable to various income groups.

Using the methodology in this report, minimum development standards can be developed for future housing projects by researching appropriate adequate and livability data and standards. These standards can then be used as minimum standards that can be added to and adapted on a case by case basis for various housing options and as frameworks for future housing projects.

At present, the ground realities of providing housing and basic services to the poor remains a challenge with low utilization of the existing services by the lower income and economically weaker groups. This report attempts to develop minimum standards as a future and targeted scenario when the existing services and programs for the lower income and economically weaker sections are appropriately utilized.