

Assessment of a Planning Project Using a New Technique at Jordan

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KEYWORDS Quality of Life. Domains. Transportation. Planning. Inhabitants

ABSTRACT Zarqa City faces a major problem in its urban planning and design. Four main obstacles surround the city. From the north the location of heavy industry such as the Jordanian Refinery, the thermal plant for producing electricity and the purification unit to treat the wastes of the capital Amman and Zarqa are situated. From the west the natural barriers of steep mountains, where the slope reaches more than 30%, exists. From the south the City of Amman boundaries reaches Zarqa. And from the east the military camps is located. The current figure of population is around 838,250 inhabitants and there is no place for the city to expand. The only solution to expand the city was to demolish the military site existing to the eastern section of the city to facilitate its eastward expansion. This was begun in the year 2002 and a new project named “New Garden City” is proposed. This proposed project would start in the year 2006 after the completion of the infrastructure. This study will examine the “New Garden City” project design and its future impact on the quality of life of Zarqa’s people. Middle Eastern countries in general and Jordan in particular started to examine the quality of life concept in detail at the beginning of the 21st century. Quality of life means measurement of people’s satisfaction and the quality of the environment in which they live. The need to measure the quality of life of a city or a district is considered a vital part of the growth and urbanization process that is happening at an incredible rate at Jordan without the ability to control or analyze it. This has been achieved by applying Delphi and Concept Mapping techniques. Several conclusions are reached at end assuming that this new project will improve the quality of life of people of Zarqa but to a certain level.