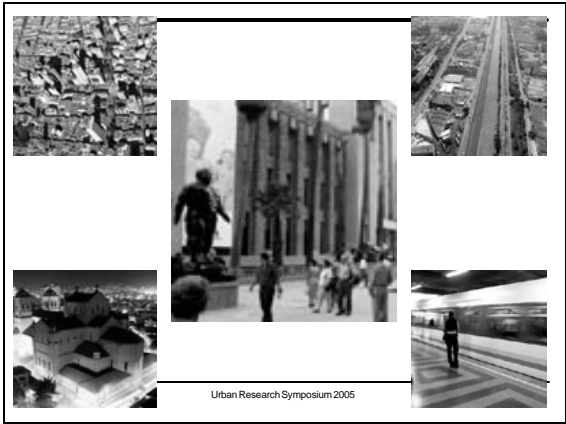


Approaches to the Regularization of Informal Settlements: the Case of PRIMED in Medellin, Colombia

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Background (National)

- Colombia, one of the most urbanized countries in Latin America
- Multiple elements of political violence involved in migration
- Generalized social and economic crisis since the mid-1970s lead to serious levels of social decomposition (poverty went from 32% in 1980 to 66% in 2,000)
- Increased armed struggle in last two decades

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Background (Medellin)

- Armed conflict moves to cities
- Informality, labor downgrading, criminal economy supercede formal economy / regulations
- High levels of insecurity especially in the 'informal city' make room for criminal, alternative 'powers'
- Armed groups bring in security but often become authoritarian and predatory themselves
- Natural disasters
- De-industrialization
- Increased migration from rural areas of conflict
- Increased poverty

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Diagnosis/Formulation

- Two cities in one
- Absence of state and its institutions
- Socio-economic and political isolation of the state
- Perception of 'no future'
- Need to incorporate informal to formal city
- Need to bring in state in a positive manner
- Need for comprehensiveness
- Need to counter criminal culture and reintroduce faith in social institutions and the law

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Urban Strategy

- Pacification through 'stick and carrot,' state authority and improvements-opportunities
- Focus on informal city: pacification, incorporation through aided self-help
- In Medellin coordinated between the city and the Presidential Advisory Committee Consejeria.
- PRIMED
- Social Programs for youth
- Promotion of urban citizenship
- Establishment of cultural, sports, educational and other groups/NGOs

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Policies of Intervention in the Informal City

- 1950-1970s (marginalization): discouragement of informalization, promotion of market housing (public housing), evictions, calls for compliance
- 1970-1990 (Self-help): less repression, insistence on normalization, discouragement of new settlements, natural disasters force interventions, bring up issue of settlement in high-risk areas, limited experimentation
- 1990-today (social crisis): comprehensive pilot demonstrations to address areas of conflict, physical incorporation, prevention of risk, planning

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Overall Objectives

- For PRIMED: Improve quality of life within sustainable approach
- Program : incorporate informal to formal city and achieve peaceful coexistence

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PRIMED—Specific Objectives

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Intra- and Inter-institutional Cooperation | 4. Home Improvement and relocation |
| 2. Community Participation | 5. Legalization of land tenure |
| 3. Neighborhood Improvement | 6. Mitigation of geological risk |

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PRIMED's Approach

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation | <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptance and support of <i>de facto</i> settlement process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> Separation of functions (Planning and coordination by PRIMED, implementation by corresponding institutions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiation with affected parties through NGOs | <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontracting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthening of local NGOs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on larger geography, physical improvements | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> De-politicized (?) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Building | |

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Specific Program/Policy Results

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1, 3, 4 & 6 a great success | <input type="checkbox"/> Large questions: culture of cooperation, impact of physical improvements on large issues such as income poverty, jobs and criminality, addressing systemic questions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 & 5 limited success | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High visibility and positive perception of institutions involved | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great satisfaction on the part of program participants | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improvements on quality of life from phys. work | |

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Overall Program/Policy Results

- Community building around physical improvements may be short-lived; immediate-result-oriented
- Impact on incorporation may be cosmetic
- Still top-down, autocratic?
- Need for an equally comprehensive, large-scale *social* intervention
- Impact on armed-conflict, criminal economy?

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Overall Program/Policy Results

- Excellent, short term approach to physical problems
- No clear next steps (in terms of community self-determination, social incorporation, maintenance of improvements)
- Depending on political whim
- Expensive funding, foreign debt?
- Undoing past (and future) political alienation (from neglect, clientelism, stigmatization, a failing economic model)

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Main Lessons

- Can be done when political will is behind
- Sustained, long-term, comprehensive intervention can make a major difference
- Community involvement in decisions and implementation can provide skills, jobs and contracts effectively integrating residents to urban economy and society
- Clientelism, ad-hoc or short-term crisis interventions, and repression won't do it

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