An Assessment of Governance in the Slum Clearance Project in Addis Ababa: The Case of Arada Sub-City, Basha Wolde Chilot Area at Arat Kilo

Tesfaye Gebeyehu Admasu

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Arba Minch University
PO Box 21, Arba Minch University, Ethiopia
Tel: +251-911-33-69-82 *E-mail: shukkatesfu@gmail.com

Abstract
The objective of the study was to assess the nature of governance in slum clearance project in Basha Wolde Chilot area at Arat Kilo, Addis Ababa. Governance is assessed through measuring local peoples’ level of participation and evaluating the degree of transparency of local administrators in the slum clearance project in the study area. Data was generated with the dominant use of Interviews, and document review. Some case histories were drawn from the interviews made. Moreover, field observation was made to strengthen the data obtained through interview and document review. The results of the study revealed that local administrators at the kebele level lack transparency in disclosing the real information to the local residents during the design and implementation of the slum clearance project in 2011. Local administrators invited local peoples for only few meetings to ensure the fact that they are doing something and to at least retain some access to potential benefits. Nevertheless, the local people were not fully allowed to benefit from autonomous participation and the fruits of good governance. Therefore, the local people only enjoyed nominal level of participation which is against the quality of good governance discussed in the literature. The major actors of governance in the project seem local government representatives [from the design to implementation of the slum clearance project] and the local residents only enjoyed nominal role. This implies that the government assumes itself as the sole provider of infrastructural facilities, namely; housing by setting aside the civil society and the private sector which are also believed to be the important actors for providing services in the development literature.

Key Words: Participation, Transparency, Governance, Addis Ababa

1. Background and Justification
An inadequate master plan, poor housing facilities, environmental problems and shanty corners among others, characterize urban centers of developing countries (Potts 1997 cited in Gebre 2008). Oberai (1993) noted that rapid urbanization, the growth of large cities, and the associated problems of urban slums, environmental degradation, inadequate health services, unemployment and poverty have emerged a major socio-economic issue with potentially important political implications in many developing countries. In order to solve these problems and create conducive environment for investment, government authorities tend to re-order urban space which requires changes in urban land use. This process often causes the displacement [relocation, resettlement or clearance] of certain households, in most cases the powerless low income people Gebre (2008).

1 Corresponding Author. He has been working as a lecturer at Arba Minch University, southern Ethiopia since September 2007. He took his Bachelor Degree in Geography and Environmental Studies from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia in 2007. He completed his first Master Degree in Geography and Environmental Studies Specializing in Regional and Urban Planning in 2010 from the same University. He did his second Master in Development Studies Specializing in Urban Development and Urban Challenges in East Africa in 2012 [This was in a joint program undertaken by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway, and School of Development Studies of Addis Ababa University]. Since November 2013, He has been working as Research Coordinator of College of Social Sciences and Humanities of Arba Minch University. The author’s research interest include: urban land use, city governance, urban housing, rural urban links, applications of GIS and Remote Sensing techniques on urban study and so on.
The current trend in Ethiopia [post 1991 period] shows that upgrading urban slums; resettlement and relocation, construction of road, establishment of industries, and protection of the urban environment are some of the agendas included in urban policy. At a program level all the above mentioned policy issues are targeted at responding the agenda of the poor. But, the reality is that, though most developing countries have very attractive housing and resettlement policies and strategies, they do not put them into action. In line with this, Gilbert (1992) stated that by necessity, governments are building houses which cannot occupy the poor because of their extra ordinarily low income. Most commonly, the accommodation is occupied by the upper and lower-middle income groups. Oberai (1993) adds public investment misses the urban poor, with expenditure biased towards the higher income groups.

Complicated urban issues in developing countries are further fueled by rural-urban migration of people which exacerbate the pre-existing urban problems. Solving or minimizing such complicated problems highly demands government and stakeholders’ intervention in the formulation and implementation of urban policies. Some of these policies are urban housing and resettlement, urban upgrading, slum clearance and rehabilitation and so on. In the same fashion Devas (2004: 3), stipulates that city governance matters in addressing the problems of the poor. The actions of city government can make matters worse for the poor, through inappropriate and responsive policies and interventions, or they can be supportive, for example, by ensuring access to essential infrastructure and service. But much of the life-chances of the poor lies outside the control of city government, determined by the market and private business, by agencies of central state, or by the collective voluntary action of civil society. The ways in which these elements interact, and the power relationship involved, are critical for the urban poor as they seek to establish and improve their position.

Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, was founded in 1886 by Menelik II. The city is only 122 years old. There were three main factors that conducted the city to stay as the capital city of Ethiopia (since many cities have been capital cities along the history of Ethiopia): the introduction of eucalyptus (a tree that grows very fast and provides a lot of wood for energy and cooking), the proclamation for legalizing private ownership of urban land in 1907 and the completion, mainly by the French, of the Addis Ababa – Djibouti railway in 1917 (Tolon, 2008). Addis Ababa was emerged with a layout fit for defense but without any formal city planning. In the years following its formative age a number of “master plans” were made to “modernize” it. However, the plans have had little or sporadic influence. The city, true to the spirit of its early formative age, has continued to evolve spontaneously. Inevitably, the defiance of the implementation of the master plans was not without consequence. It has greatly contributed to the multi-pronged challenges that are now prevalent in the city (Elias, 2008). Following its formative age (mid 1880s-1930) the city has experienced three distinct government systems: capitalist-oriented (1930-1974), Marxist-oriented (1975-1991) and “free market”-oriented (1991-to date). During the two earlier regimes there was hardly any effort that could substantially change the socio-economic and physical condition of non-planned settlements. Little was also done long after the two regimes had gone. The long years of negligence has contributed to the current overwhelming backlog. Currently, it is estimated that 80% of the population of Addis Ababa is living in “slums” (Elias, 2008). UNHABITAT (2008) also ensures that the great majority of housing in Addis Ababa are slums. From the above paragraphs it can be understood that the current image of Addis Ababa is inherited from its history, basically from the housing and land policy, the country has undergone in the previous regimes.

Urban renewal, urban upgrading and slum clearance projects were carried out in the context of other developing countries in the years of 1960s (Doebele, 1987). Studies made during the 1960s have shown that slums were mostly subjected to demolition, upgrading and renewal because; they were believed to be sources of crime and recurrent violence. Ethiopia has started the process since 2000s. This may be due to the fact that Ethiopia has passed through consecutive conflicts with its neighboring countries and it has been busy in settling these problems. Besides, the country also had
a problem of well-articulated policies and strategies which were implemented on the ground with regard to slum renewal, slum upgrading and slum clearance.

Similarly, Elias (2008) also underlines the fact that Addis Ababa has begun to wake up from its hibernation from 2000s on. In the meantime, the city government of Addis Ababa was dissolved and the city’s administration style was restructured through decentralization [in the post 1991 period]. The city also begun to take huge measures to reduce the already existing slum and sub-standard houses particularly in the most dilapidated government owned kebele houses. Some of these measures include urban renewal, urban upgrading and slum clearance and so on. Cassainchis area, Lideta area, Sheraton area, and Basha Wolde Chilot area [Arat kilo] are core housing areas planned to be renewed by the city government of Addis Ababa (Elias, 2008).

This paper, therefore, is aimed at assessing urban governance in one of the slum clearance project at Arat Kilo with special reference to Basha Wolde Chilot area and its environs. Specifically the study tries to answer the following questions: Who are the major actors involved in the slum clearance project in Basha Wolde Chilot Area at Arat Kilo? What does local people’s [former residents of the already demolished area] level of participation in the slum clearance project look like? Was the slum clearance project in the specified area transparent to local residents?

2. Conceptual Literature

2.1. Conceptualizing Governance and Good Governance

Defining governance and good governance is quite elusive. Because, its definition varies from person to person, institution to institution, discipline to discipline and so on. The concept began to be echoed among scholars and development practitioners in the 1980s and its meaning and areas of focus has been inflated through time. This has made the issue to be a point of hot debate.

In the mid 1980s, the concept was conceived as a useful way to re-acknowledge the important role of the state in development (Grindle, 2010). According to UNDP (1997), the major actors in governance include: the state, the private sector and civil society. World Bank (2007) defines governance as the ways through which public officials and public institutions acquire and exercise authority to provide public goods and services, including basic services, infrastructure, and a sound investment climate. Governance is also defined as the system of values, policies and institutions by which a society manages its economic, political and social affairs through interactions within and among the state, civil society and private sector. It is the way a society organizes itself to make and implement decisions (UNDP 2007). Governance encompasses the institutions, systems, “rules of the game” and other factors that determine how political and economic interactions are structured and how decisions are made and resources allocated. Good governance is also used to refer to normative concerns about what government should do—reduce poverty, for example, or maintain macroeconomic stability, or provide basic services (Grindle, 2010). From the above literatures it can be understood that the concern of good governance has shifted from the dominant role of the state to citizens’ participation in the decision making process and management of resources available.

2.2. Conceptualizing Participation

The meaning of participation is very wide and elusive. Its meaning and the approaches attached to it differs among scholars, disciplines, and practitioners and changes through time. Jennings (2000) noted that participation is often rendition of the organizational culture defining it. Some may use the term to denote active participation in political decision making. Development economists tend to define it in terms of equitable distribution of the benefits of a project. Yet others view participation as an instrument to enhance the efficiency of projects or as the co-production of services (World Bank, 1987). Some would regard participation as end in itself, whereas others see it as a means to achieve other goals (Jennings 2000; World Bank 1987). For Chambers (1997: 29) in Bailur (2007), participation is where “the positivist, reductionist, mechanistic, standardized package, top-down models and development blueprints are rejected, and in which multiple, local, and individual
realities are recognized, accepted, enhanced, and celebrated”. For Jennings (2000), participation is involvement by a local population and, at times, additional stakeholders in the creation, content and conduct of a program or policy designed to change their lives.

From the foregoing definitions and explanations it is possible to conceive that there is no a universally accepted notion about participation. But, all definitions make an intersection at a point where development thinking must reverse the old top-down flow of decisions to a bottom-up approach which gives full autonomy to the mass of the society and enable them to plan and do things in their own. In light of this idea, Elias (2008) has underlined the fact that scholars agree on the presence of types and ladders of participation. Though still there are slight differences in the levels of participation, the depth varies from lowest levels [token] to higher levels of participation [self-mobilization] (Elias, 2008).

Table 2.1: Levels/Forms of Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form/Levels</th>
<th>What 'participation' means to the implementing agency</th>
<th>What 'participation' means for those on the receiving end</th>
<th>What 'participation' is for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominal</td>
<td>Legitimation – to show they are doing something</td>
<td>Inclusion – to retain some access to potential benefits.</td>
<td>Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental</td>
<td>Efficiency – to limit funders’ input, draw on community contributions and make projects more cost-effective</td>
<td>Cost – of time spent on project-related labour and other activities</td>
<td>As a means to achieving cost-effectiveness and local facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Sustainability – to avoid creating dependency</td>
<td>Leverage – to influence the shape the project takes and its management</td>
<td>To give people a voice in determining their own development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformative</td>
<td>Empowerment – to strengthen people’s capabilities for decision-making and action</td>
<td>Empowerment – to be able to decide and act for themselves</td>
<td>Both as a means and an end, a continuing dynamic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.idrc.ca/en/ev2; Rigg, 2007

3. Research Methods and Materials

3.1. The Research Design

In the words of Neumann (2000) it is important to release the details of the research with the study design so that readers can determine for themselves the credibility of the study. The research design sought heavily depends on the kind of objectives and the nature of data needed. In spite of the objectives at hand and the type of data needed, therefore, this study entirely focuses on qualitative ways of data collection and analysis. In this study, both primary and secondary data were used. Primary data was obtained from local government representatives of Arada Sub City and former local residents of kebele 17 with in Arada Sub-city who currently reside in Jemo Number 1 condominium Site. Secondary data was collected by reviewing documents written about the project design and its implementation.

3.2. Sampling Techniques

In this study, the researcher entirely relied on non-probability sampling techniques, namely purposive sampling and its components like snowball sampling. In purposive sampling, the researcher uses his/her subjective judgment and attempt to select the sampling units that appear to be representative of the population (Nachmias and Nachmias, 2008). Snowball sampling is a technique of making initial contact with individuals to get the names and addresses of any other people who might fulfill the sampling requirement (Kitchin and Tate 2000). This is done intentionally by the assumption that it is the task of the researcher to select informants by taking into account the relationship between the objectives and the people to be interviewed plus the validity and the reliability of the information that is intended to be obtained (Kitchin and Tate 2000). For obtaining qualitative data, the number of samples will be dependent on the saturation of data to answer the objectives at hand. To this end, the researcher made interviews with the relevant people. Since governance and good governance is one of the serious issues which are highly related with politics, most informants were unwilling to provide their opinions freely and they suspect as if the researcher is a politician. In this regard, the researcher at beginning planned to interview people using available sampling technique. Unfortunately, most people refused to be interviewed. To solve this problem, the researcher made 2 informal interviews in Jemo Number 1 Condominium Site. Besides, he began to look for a person whom he knows and who is living in the site. Finally, he changed his sampling technique from available sampling to snowballing sampling and he formally interviewed 8 additional residents in the same site. Furthermore, 2 government representatives [whose task is related to the slum clearance project at Basha Wolde Chilot Area] of Arada sub-city local administration were interviewed. The researcher also tried to triangulate the result through document review.

3.3. Tools for Collecting Data

3.3.1. Interviews: Semi-structured interview was used. Because; it is believed that it allows for probing the respondents. In line with this idea, Nachmias and Nachmias (2008) pointed out that probes have two major functions: they motivate the respondent to elaborate or clarify an answer or to explain the reasons behind the answer, and they help focus the conversation on the specific topic of the interview. Therefore, the less structured an interview, the more important probing becomes an instrument for eliciting and encouraging information. This tool was used as the major sources of data for the purpose of this research.

3.3.2. Case Histories: Case histories were also drawn from some of the interviews. According to Odum (1929: 229) cited in Kothari (2004: 113) “The case study method is a technique by which individual factor whether it be an institution or just an episode in the life of an individual or a group is analyzed in its relationship to any other in the group.” Thus, a fairly exhaustive study of a person (as to what he does and has done, what he thinks he does and had done and what he expects to do and says he ought to do) or group is called a life or case history. Burgess (1949: 26) cited in Kothari (2004: 113) has equated the case study method with “the social microscope”. This method is very important to assess the process through which people were cleared from their old residential area, their level of participation, local administrators’ level of transparency and so on.

3.3.3. Document Review: The term documents cover a very wide range of different kinds of source. It may include personal documents in both written form (such as diaries and letters) and visual form (such as photographs); official documents deriving from the state and private sources; majority media outputs; and virtual outputs, such as internet sources (Bryman 2004; Creswell 2003). For the purpose of this research, document review (urban development policy document, an official report regarding slum clearance in kebele 17 of Arada Sub-City) was made. This tool also helped to enrich the reliability and validity of the data obtained from different sources.

3.3.4. Field Observation: Observation entails the systematic noting and recording of events, behaviors and artifacts’ in a social-setting (Marshall and Rossman 1995, quoted in Kitchin and Tate
This tool is important to make a look at the environmental aspects of the former and current residential areas. Thus, it helps to triangulate data collected through other tools discussed above.

3.4. Method of Data Analysis

For analyzing qualitative data, issues were organized around predefined themes in line with the objectives of the study at hand. Hence, related issues to a certain theme were fused together so that categories were formed [axial coding]. It also involves interpreting the data in the light of personal lessons learned, comparing the findings with past literature and theory, raising questions, and/or advancing an agenda for reform (Creswell, 2003: 205-206). Data analysis in this research was carried out as an ongoing process during the research work. This was done through analyzing the data obtained from interviewees immediately after the interview during the day time and refined later in the night time. This technique has made the analysis very easy and manageable.

3.5. Ethical Considerations in the Field

Ethics in research work stands for what the researchers should do and should not do...It will be primarily concerned with the responsibility of the researcher to research participants with regard to matters of privacy, informed consent and harm (Dowling, 2000: 25-26). By behaving ethically, we maintain public trust. From that position of trust, we may be able to continue research and to do so without causing suspicion or fear amongst those people who are our hosts...Not only is it important that we feel sure we can depend on the integrity of colleagues’ work but trustworthy work helps ensure the continuing support of agencies up on whom we depend to fund our research” (Hay, 2010: 37). Therefore, respondents were told in advance the purpose of the study; the benefits of the study to their locality; and the information obtained from them will be only used for the research purpose ahead of the data collection process. Besides, as much as possible, respect was shown to the respondents. Interviewees were also told the fact that they can withdrew from the interview session in the middle of the interview and/or to jump answering some questions if they feel discomfort. Hence, trust and confidentiality will be developed.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Governance in the Slum Clearance Project at Arat Kilo: Transparency and Participation

According to Arada Sub City government representatives, at the beginning, the Sub City’s administration has made an inventory, i.e. it identified and registered the households who own private or kebele rental house in Basha Wolde Chilot Area at Arat Kilo [kebele 17 of Arada Sub City]. Then, they made need assessment on the number of bed rooms that the local households are looking for by taking in to account the financial capacity of an individual (monthly salary and/or other income) and by considering those households who are able to afford down-payment for houses in the would-be resettlement area at Jemo Number 1 condominium Site. The size of households’ current private ownership or rental dwelling [at Arat Kilo] was also considered. In this case, the smallest option available to households is studio type dwelling [which only has two compartments: a saloon and a toilet]. Later on, however a studio dwelling unit is modified to have three compartments: a saloon, a kitchen and a toilet]. Those people who are not able to afford for condominiums have the option to get another kebele rental house considering the size of their ownership in their old residence at Arat Kilo. One of the government representatives noted that “In my opinion I do not think that the local administrators are fully transparent about the issue of slum clearance due to the fact that people are very sensitive and the government wants to clear the area for investment safely. Even, if you look at the number of meetings made, it does not suffice the very nature of popular participation”.

Besides, local people’s level of participation is also assessed through reviewing Arada Sub City’s project office draft plan prepared as a guide on: how to demolish the area [kebele17 of Arada sub city]; how to create common understanding with the local people; and the exact time to implement the plan and so on. In the planning phase, the project office has come up with twelve tasks
[chronological] to be accomplished in the course of the slum clearance project. From the implementation checklist shown in Box 3.1, it can be conceived that the project office of Arada Sub City did not make any need assessment about the slum clearance project which is planned to be implemented at Arat kilo. But it has come up with its own agendas endorsing the rights and obligations of the two parties [local people and the project office]. Then, the project office has called local residents for creating awareness on the already decided issue [demolishing the houses of slum area dwellers and resettling them in to another kebele house or condominium housing at Jemo Number 1 Site]. This was done under the pretext of upgrading local people and the area. But, there is a hidden fact that the government needs the area for another investment. Interview results have shown that the local peoples at Basha Wolde Chilot Area made only a four hour meeting with the project office [once and for all] and were forced to follow the situation and decisions through their representatives. Even, the numbers of their representatives were only three. Therefore, it can be concluded that the local peoples’ level of participation from problem identification to implementation is very negligible [only nominal level of participation].

Box 3.1. Slum Clearance Project Implementation Checklist Identified by government representatives

| 1. Making discussion with local people; |
| 2. Election of representatives for local people; |
| 3. Making discussion with local peoples representatives; |
| 4. Informing the decisions to local peoples through their representatives; |
| 5. Collecting data on the legality of local residents; |
| 6. Letting local people to choose between kebele rental house and condominiums; |
| 7. Screening local people’s choices; |
| 8. Giving special concern for physically disabled people and people with medical evidences; |
| 9. Giving certificate of ownership for the already chosen households; |
| 10. Making sure that local people have paid for electricity and water before they leave; |
| 11. Transporting local peoples who are in need; and |
| 12. Making sure those local peoples have left their old residence. |

Furthermore, local peoples’ level of participation in the slum clearance project at Arat kilo is also assessed based on interviewed households and the case histories narrated from the interview during the field work.

From box 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, it can be inferred that the process of slum clearance project relatively lacks creating common understanding [transparency in its real sense] with former residents of Arat Kilo. Residents did not make enough direct participation [they actually made little or no discussions] during the implementation of the project. Mostly, they follow what is going on in the area through the so called ‘representatives’. During interview, informants also witnessed that they do not have trust even with the ‘representatives’ and they do not think that they have voted these representatives. According to the memorandum of understanding document signed between the project implementation office and ‘representatives’ of the residents, the total number of ‘representatives’ were only 3. Interviewees also feel that there were some biases during the allocation of condominium houses in the new site. Government representatives, however, do not think that there are problems of equity. As can be seen from the case histories summarized in box 3.2 and 3.3, the level of participation in the slum clearance project varies from one household to the other. This may be a reflection of individual’s willingness to participate, the political, economic and social outlook of an individual, and the degree to which the local administrators are transparent in disclosing information and the extent to which they encourage local residents to participate.
Box 3.2. Case History of Household ‘A’

We lived at Arat Kilo for more than 20 years. We came to this Jomo site in March, 2011. We like the location of our old residence despite its crowdedness, poor quality houses. We heard about the demolition of the area in the form of rumor since the coming of mayor Arkebe to power. But, the local administrators were not able to tell us the real situation. At the beginning, we did not think that the government planned to clear us from Arat kilo and resettle us somewhere. We were looking for upgrading the area, because the local administrators also told our representatives like that. My level of participation is negligible. I do not remember a time which I made much direct participation with regard to slum clearance project. The only day I went to the local administrators’ office was to draw a lot. Even, I am not happy with that, because; it seems that the local administrators are biased in providing those houses to us. The ground floor, 1st floor, and 2nd floor were not available when I draw my lot. That is why I am living in the 4th floor here in Jemo site right now. Therefore, I do not think that the local administrators are transparent and treat everybody equally. At least for the time being, as you see, this is environmentally a better place to live in than our former one. For instance, currently, you cannot feel bad smell, both liquid and solid wastes are better managed, good social networks of Ikub and Iadir are transformed from Arat kilo to here (Jemo site), because most of the former Arat kilo neighborhoods’ came here with us. For your surprise, I currently call two of my old neighbors’ for coffee ceremony because; we are in the same site but, on a different building block. On the other hand, shortage of transportation accessibility and too much cost on transport, students schooling, are serious problems.

Source: Interview with a local residents at Jemo Site, 01/11/11

Box 3.3. Case History of Household ‘B’

I am one of the peoples who are cleared from Arat Kilo. Before I left it, the local administrators invited the whole kebele residents for creating common understanding on the slum clearance project planned to be implemented in Arat Kilo. But, the meetings we made are not more than two. Then they obliged us to make a choice between the kinds of house we wish to get as replacement, but they did not let us to make a choice of sites. The choice of a house also considers one’s own income. Since I am working as a daily worker/servant, in other people’s house, I earn small amount of money. Hence, I have chosen one bed room. In the meeting, the local administrators also told us the maximum compensation for an individual who has a 3*3 room is estimated to be 15,000 Ethiopian Birr. To this end, the local administrators’ let us to make a choice on our own [to take the money or to register for a house. Then after some time, they called us to draw a lot. Unfortunately, I have got a one bed room dwelling in the second floor at Jemo site. The worst thing is that I am not currently living in my house because; I could not afford the monthly payment. Besides, I have two children to feed and educate. Therefore, I have rented my house for 1,450 Birr and I am living in another smaller house which I rented from another person in Hanna Mariam area. Before I was resettled, in Jemo site, I have been living in a congested, low standard kebele house around Basha Wolde Chilot area at Arat Kilo only paying 23.50 Birr per month. Moreover, I had good social network, but now I am detached from those networks. Currently, I work as a servant in Kotebe area to earn additional money to secure my ownership and feed myself and my two children’ and educate them. In my opinion, compared to the previous administrative systems, this is a better one [EPRDF]. Because, there is participation in some meetings, and by now, the local administrators are inviting us continuously to take loan from micro-credit and organize ourselves in groups. But, I and most people fear the interest rates to be returned.

Source: Interview with a local residents at Jemo Site, 15/11/11

As can be seen from the case history presented in box 3.1 and 3.2, the introduction of slum clearance project in the study area has resulted in a number of opportunities and challenges. Despite Basha Wolde Chilot Area [kebele 17 of Arada sub city at Arat Kilo] was not clean environmentally [unhygienic] and most of the houses are of substandard [dilapidated] former
residents of this area opt for in situ upgrading than relocation to their current residential area [Jemo Number 1 Condominium Site]. Because, most of the dwelling units in these areas were kebele rental houses for which residents pay a very small rental fee compared to private rental houses in Addis Ababa. Besides, residents were highly integrated through an age old social institutions of the country, namely; ikub³ and idir⁴. Nevertheless, there are tendencies of relocating these institutions [but these social institutions might not be as strong as the former ones] with the people because; most former residents of Basha Wolde Chilot Area were relocated to Jemo Number 1 Condominium Site of Addis Ababa. Furthermore, the former location at Arat Kilo has a better geographical advantage in terms of job creation, transport accessibility in time and cost, children’s education, access to information, an excellent access to market and so on. According to interviewed informants, the new residential area at Jemo is very clean environmentally and comfortable for living. Nevertheless, there are evidences that some households of old residential area are not able to afford for the monthly mortgage [box 3.3].

**Box 3.4. Environmental Aspects of Old and New Residential Areas**

![Partial View of the already cleared area at Arat Kilo](image1.png) ![Partial view of Jemo residential area [site No 1](image2.png)

Source: Field Survey, 30/10/11

Above all, from the foregoing discussions, it can be concluded that the level of good governance measured through participating local residents and through transparency of the local administrators is found to be far away from sprit and characteristics of good governance indicated in the conceptual and theoretical literature. As indicated in table 2.1, it seems that the local administrators were inviting local peoples for only few meetings to ensure the fact that they are doing something and to at least retain some access to potential benefits.

Consequently, former residents of Arat Kilo [the current residents of Jemo Number 1 Condominium Site] were freely asked to conceptualize the meaning of good governance. Accordingly, the respondents’ definition of good governance is summarized hereunder in box 3.5:

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³ Ikub is another age-old voluntary association of people/individuals/families/friends for a common goal “pooling money to do something with it”. Every member of ikub is subjected to contribute money daily/weekly/monthly so that the collected money is given to one of the member through the lottery method. The situation continues until all the members of ikub get back their money in its pooled manner.

⁴ Idir is voluntary association(s) of people/household heads of a given town primarily aimed to facilitate funeral ceremonies. Every member of the association is subjected to contribute some amount of money monthly. This money is mostly meant for mourning and related activities. A recent study by Elias (2008) revealed that there are tendencies of using this money for securing housing for the members of the association in Addis Ababa.
Box 3.5. The Meaning of Good Governance According to relocated peoples from Arat Kilo

- Full participation which satisfies peoples interest;
- Making need assessment before making decision at higher levels of administration;
- To let people to attend meetings personally and make decision on matters which concern them;
- Being transparent in providing service to the local community;
- Satisfying the majority of the local people in the civil service;
- Democratic way of service provision irrespective of ethnicity, race, political outlook, gender and so on;
- Making balance between peoples demand and government supply of basic services.

Source: Interview with a local resident at Jemo Site, 01/11/11

4. Conclusions

The issue of governance and good governance is very wide and too sensitive and desires very rich data and the use of many indicators to assess it. However, the researcher only used transparency and local people’s level of participation to evaluate the level of governance in the slum clearance project at Arat Kilo, Addis Ababa. Therefore, the researcher does not think that this material provides full-fledged information on the issue of good governance, nevertheless; it provides an insight to the issue under concern at that micro-level. In the study area, divergent views were obtained. The slum clearance project implementation ‘representatives’ of Arada Sub City have made attempts to make the project to be transparent and participatory and this was done through the identification of project implementation checklist as indicated in box 3.1. But, practical realities have shown that the slum clearance project which was carried out at Basha Wolde Chilot area of Addis Ababa is proved to be pseudo participatory and pseudo transparent to the peoples concerned [the old residents of Basha Wolde Chilot area who are currently residing in Jemo Condominium Site Number 1]. Because, informants have witnessed that they enjoyed only nominal level participation.

Acknowledgement

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References


