

Chapter-1

An Empirical Urban Study Research Methodology for Determining the Influence of Social Cohesion on the Quality of the Urban Environment: A Case of the City of Nairobi, Kenya

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Abstract

This chapter shares insights on a practical, well-sequenced research methodology and its application in sustainable growth management of an emerging city. It presents a rational sequencing of research design, assembled to probe a practical problem with a distinct theoretical dimension. This problem is captured in the form of succinct study objectives, research questions, and hypotheses. Pertinent theoretical and conceptual frameworks are abstracted from the overarching body of theory. They provide a practical, real-life platform and a specific body of theory upon which to apply the methodology. Essential aspects of a research methodology that are given prominence here include research design, pilot surveys, sampling design, and data collection. Suitable instruments of statistical analysis of the interactions of surrogates or variables of concepts are advanced here. The critical concepts analyzed cluster around the primary ones of social cohesion, social sustainability, environmental sustainability, and the resulting model for sustainable urban growth.

Keywords: environmental quality, social cohesion, research methodology, urban sustainability
