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The City of Al-Obour
A Study in the Geography of Industry
By Geographical Information Systems

A Thesis

By

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Summary

The current study starts with investigating the geographical aspects of Al-Obour city. The study finds out that it tends to urbanization to absorb the growing number of population of the great city of Cairo away from the agricultural land. What have contributed to its rapid are: its proximity to some factories affiliated to certain governmental ministries, its proximity to the industrial regions throughout El-Merg route, the enhancement of utilizing the spaces, and planning the facilities throughout the desert Cairo/Belbeis route. These facilities are constructed in parallel with the route as an avenue for urban development.

This is followed by demonstrating the industrial development in the region. It is noted that the industrial development in Al-Obour city has started since 1985. The period between 2003 and 2006 represents the peak of this development as for the number of factories has increased in addition to the area of utilized land for industrial purposes. Moreover, the investment has grown. From 2000 and 2008, the city has also witnessed a progressive development. However, the industrial zones of the northern industrial extension, the western industrial extension, B and C have not seen any progressive annual development.

Out of the geographical industrial distribution study of Al-Obour city, it is noticed the variation of the geographical distribution of the industrial sectors in the city. In spite of the emergence of the light industries in the industrial zones of the Northern extension and the small industries in the Western extension and within the B and C zones allowing the existence of the heavy industries to be found in the industrial zone A which accounts for a total of 396 productive factories with a labor force that amounts to 27367 laborers; with a total investments of LE 4128.7 million; with a total annual income of LE 3623.4 million.

The study also shows the basics of industry in Al-Obour pointing out they are all integrated and intertwined. This is because the availability of various components such as capital, man power, raw material and transportation represented in raw material, goods, power and markets. The city also enjoys the availability of the subdivisions of the industrial basics such as the government policy because of the state pays due attention to such new industrial cities. The government also tries to surmount the hurdles confronting industry like the price of real states. The government also sets a fixed price for each industrial product. This price must be

profitably correlated to the cost of production, transportation and retailers taking into consideration the purchasing ability of the inhabitants and projecting the location as a region of highly economic productive commodities.

The study also focuses on all sectors in the city with all its various volumes. This is because the scale of factories in the city varies ranging from micro, small, medium, large and mega industries. This variation provides several benefits that satisfy the various market demands especially for the local market. This leads to self sufficiency depending on the local products whether they are machined, handmade or both ways.

The study gives details of the industrial planning in the city. So, it studies the strength of industry in the new cities. It has been noticed that Al-Obour ranks the fourth among the industrial cities in 2008. This is followed by the industrial settlement in the city which proves to be spreading in all industrial sectors even though the government did not intervene in its settling. It is the open industrial-economy for the developmental purpose in general which has to this boom. The study also investigates the hurdles confronting industry in the city such as speculating the price of industrial real states in spite of the governmental regulations in this respect. The city also suffers from the rising rate of labor circle in addition to the problem related to commuting laborers as about 95.7% of them reside outside Al-Obour city. The study also examines the problem of rising prices of the raw material which has led to the high prices of the products. The study also investigates the industrial development future in the city. This shows that the numbers are: factories under construction are 56.5%, the expected labor force is 41.8%, investment is 21.9%, and the expected annual production is 16.4. These figures represent the total number of factories whether they are productive or still under construction. The study also shows the potentialities of Al-Obour as the open-door policy of the industrial zones of all volumes reflects the standard of industrialization in the city. It is also reflected in the labor wages in order to cope with the living standard of all the society classes in the region.

To study applied model, the study outlines a synopsis of the basic elements of GIS which are: firstly, the maps taken from various sources whether through satellite by remote sensing, avian through air, or paper based ones. Secondly, converting the maps drawn digitally is prepared for manipulation. Thirdly, a data base is obtained in order to classify, organize and analyze the geographical data in order to help take the suitable decision. This is followed by an applied model to select the best locations for setting up the industrial zones. This has led to find out a fifth zone to be situated at the East West of Al-Obour. Having done this, the applied model is investigated to select the best route for emergency cases. This has resulted in deducting a digital model that may help locate the accident site through the GIS which can be used to control the crisis.

Abstract

The current study investigates the urban orientation In Al-Obour city and its correlation with industry to absorb the overpopulation in the great Cairo province and to offer job opportunities. This is because industry has developed in the region since 1985. The period between 2003 and 2006 has witnessed industrial development. Moreover, the industrial zone of the north sector is distinguished with specific geographical distribution of light industries because of its proximity to the inhabited area. Then, the western, B and C zones are distinguished with the medium industries, whereas the heavy industry is located in A zone. The total number is 396 factories employing 27367 laborers; investing LE 4128.7 million. The annual production amounts to LE 3623.4 million.

Al-Obour benefits from the main and subdivisions basics of industry which correlate to the cost of production, transportation and retailers. The product cost also corresponds with its profit taking into consideration the purchasing capacity meanwhile keeping the prestige of the city as the most important producer of valuable economic production.

At Al-Obour, the volume of the factories varies to include micro, small, medium, large and mega projects. This offers several benefits that satisfy the various demands of the local and international markets.

In 2008, Al-Obour ranks the fourth among the powerful industrial cities including the various sectors of industries. However, the city confronts a number of hurdles such as the speculation of the real state, lack of skilful laborers, the rising trend of labor circle, and the difficulties of commuters who reside outside the city as they amount to 95.7% of the work force there.

The study suggests an applied model using GIS to select the best location for sitting up the industrial projects. This has led to putting forward a newly suggested industrial fifth zone in Al-Obour. GIS may also help formulate a digital model that may help in case of emergency by identifying the most suitable route to control and manage a crisis after specifying all the possibilities to choose the most suitable, immediate and correct decision.