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# **Development of Small and Medium Cities in Upper Egypt "Problems and Available Opportunities"**

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**Abstract:** In Egypt, the residential activities concentrating in a limited number of cities (Metropolitans) which suffering from great growth either in its urban layout or its resident's size. This happened as a result of accumulated factors during last years. The most important factors are the continues immigration from the rural area, the permanent increasing of population, and the concentration of most urban activities and public services in the Egyptian metropolitans. The regarding of the metropolitans affected the small and medium cities which represent 85% from the total Egyptian cities. On the other hand, the Egyptian metropolitans represent only 15% from the total Egyptian cities. The small and medium cities could be include a big percentage of urban areas citizens and partially participate to release some metropolitan problems.

For a long time, The Egyptian Government disregarded the establishment of urban regulations for development and direction the investments to the small and medium Egyptian cities specially in Upper Egypt. This leads to deterioration the urban activities and appearance many problems in the fields of urbanization, social, and economical. So, these cities became expulsion of its population. Therefore, many negative appearances reflected on urban growth and all over life activities in these cities. During last years, the practical planning solutions to face city problems were temporary solutions without a comprehensive planning view.

The research problem is that the small and medium cities in Upper Egypt suffering from many urgent problems in many fields; urban, social, and economic. This happened as a result of disregarding these cities during last years. Therefore, these problems affected city rules such as unbalancing the distribution of city sizes, and expulsion its population.

The research aims to show the most important problems and to limit the available opportunities in small and medium cities in Upper Egypt. The research attempts to understanding of the cities existing situation which leads to the ability of progressing and developing these cities. The research also aims to suggest a group of policies could be help to improve the urban performance and achieve urban development for small and medium cities of Upper Egypt regions.

The research consists of four main parts; the first one shows general information of small and medium cities in Upper Egypt and the second part contains the most important problems of these cities. The third part of the research contains the available opportunities and the fourth one contains the suggestion policies. The research ends with a summary.