



# Evaluation of the Sustainable Aspects In Housing Sector To Overcome Housing Stress In Northern Iraq

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## ABSTRACT

*Northern Iraq as part of Iraq, has been witnessed a great population increment last few decades. However, housing stress in Northern Iraq has risen due to that. Environmental, economic and social sustainability became crucial in the movement towards a more effective built environment and community nowadays. This research seeks to evaluate the presence of sustainability aspects (environmental, economic, and social) in housing sector, which makes them acquired and affordable for low income earners in Northern Iraq. Housing projects as case studies were investigated in Erbil, the capital of Northern Iraq. The research examined, the presence of sustainability aspects. Field observations checklist have been prepared based on the theoretical analysis through literature review and applied to collect data on the case studies. The results demonstrated that applying the aspects of sustainability for the buildings is weak and not clearly familiar in Northern Iraq. The study concluded that, the housing projects focusing on the case studies not sustainable. The findings show that the application of sustainable principles in the housing projects at Northern Iraq is very weak. It is highly recommended to achieve sustainability, because it is the significant way to produce acquired and affordable housing and overcome the housing problems, socially, environmentally and economically. The recommendations have been suggested to formulate new ways for implementing sustainable principles in the housing sector to overcome housing stress in Northern Iraq.*

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## 1. Introduction

The building of house can be seen as the most significant investment one can make for his family. Hence, the house has many considerations for a human being in the different levels of his life, such as economic level, social level, and even on psychological and safety levels. The housing sector of every country is a very important part of the country's economy this is true because bloomed and developed housing sector is an indicator of a strong program of a countries investment and it is a milestone for future economic growth and social cultural development (Joseph, 2006).

Nowadays, the world is getting aware of climate changes, global warming and natural resources depletion on the earth. They try hard to achieve sustainable development (Chiu, 2004). The sustainability in term of design and construction solutions could be applied to support the low-income people, and solve the housing demand problems, as well as promote social, economic and environmental aspects of

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