ABSTRACT

Since the announcement of the HDB’s Main Upgrading Programme (MUP) in 1989 by the then Minister for National Development, Mr S Dhanabalan, the demonstration precincts of the MUP and 14 precincts in the first three batches of the steady phase have been officially completed. Feedback from the grassroots leaders and the residents living in these precincts has been generally very positive and encouraging.

The MUP upgrades the older estates to a level compatible with the newer housing estates. The upgraded estates not only have a character of their own with improved physical living environment, the residents in these estates can also continue to establish strong social and community ties. They are therefore able to enjoy a better quality lifestyle without being uprooted from their familiar environment.

Although MUP has a positive impact on the lives of these residents concerned, it has also created some problems for the Town Councils, HDB Branch Offices and others who are involved in the MUP. For instance, the Town Councils are now saddled with the problem of maintainability and higher maintenance cost. As for the HDB Branch Offices, their concerns are the increased workload and the strains imposed on their resources.
This dissertation aims to find out the MUP’s polling trends, evaluate the impact of the MUP on the physical living environment and social/community ties of the upgraded precincts as well as its economic impact on the residents. It also attempts to find out how it has affected the Town Councils and HDB’s Branch Offices during and after the MUP.

To achieve the aims of the study, a comprehensive review of literature was undertaken. Discussions and interviews with Town Councils and HDB officials, with Residents’ Committee members, project managers etc, were carried out.

Finally, recommendations are made to improve future MUPs in terms of the polling procedures and methods, cost control, design and maintenance aspects at the initial stage of the upgrading works and more active participation and involvement of the residents in the MUP.