

Appendix 6: Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Working Title: A Holistic Approach for Promoting Community Engagement in the Decision-Making of Risk-Sensitive Urban Planning and Development.

Introduction

I, Devindi Geekiyanage, a doctoral student at the University of Salford, UK, hereby kindly invite you to take part in my research study as an interviewee to collect the data required for my doctoral study. The focus of this study is to develop an institutional framework for empowering vulnerable communities in the decision-making process of risk-sensitive urban development projects. I have identified you as one of the potential participants who can contribute to my study's data collection. Therefore, I hereby kindly invite you to take part in my study as an interviewee.

First, I want you to know that taking part in the research is entirely voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep (and be asked to sign a consent form). You may choose not to take part, or you may withdraw from the study at any time. In the case of withdrawal, I, as the researcher, appreciate if it you could inform me of your reasons for the withdrawal but that is not enforced. If you wish to withdraw at a time after the data collection, all the information and data collected from you to date will be continuing to be used, however, your identification details will be removed from all the study files. In either case, you will not lose any benefits to which you are otherwise entitled, nor will you otherwise be penalized.

I request you carefully read and understand the research protocols and the other specific information provided below for the successful completion of this study. Furthermore, kindly note that these are only applicable to you if you agreed to take part in this research study. Before you decide to take part, please take as much time as you need to ask any questions and discuss this study with me as the interviewer, Prof Terrence Fernando as the main supervisor, Dr Kaushal Keraminiyage as the second supervisor, or with family, friends or any of your advisers.

The Research Study

1. Research Protocol

If you agreed to take part in this research study, you will be participating in an interview and a focus group discussion as part of this research study to develop an experimental framework to empower vulnerable communities to develop risk-sensitive and equitable urban developments and to support intervention and transformation of communities.

During the interviews, you will be asked questions about your background (i.e. general background if you are a community representative and professional background if you are an organisational representative), working relationships/willingness for participatory approach, challenges and barriers to community inclusive urban development projects, potential solutions to overcome any barriers and challenges opined, knowledge on

community engagement methods/tools, and opinions on community transformation and equitable resilience. This interview should take approximately one and a half hours.

Each individual may ask for their consent to record the interview or discussion carried out with them on the consent form.

2. Risks / Discomforts

Once you provided your consent to be a research participant and faced the data collection process, I ensure to keep your responses confidential, and I perceive little to no foreseeable risks to taking part in this study. However, your participation is entirely voluntary. You may skip over any questions for any reason, and you may stop at any time. Your responses will be kept confidential and your name or any other identifying information will not appear in any of my final products. When the results of the research are reported in interim reports, academic journals, conferences, or academic thesis, the people who take part are not named and identified. Any data used is constructed to preclude identifying participants.

3. General or Participant Benefits

In general, participants will not be entitled to any financial reward for taking part in this research study. However, the outcomes of the study including scientific research publications and presentations will be disseminated to participants upon their interest.

4. Information Handling Procedure

All information about you that is collected during the research will be kept strictly confidential, and any information about you which leaves the university will have your name and address removed so that you cannot be recognised.

Furthermore, the audio recordings of your interviews and discussions made during this research will be used only for analysis. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings.

5. Problems or Questions

If you have any problem or question about your rights as a research participant or any research-related concern, please contact the researcher at:

Mrs. Devindi Geekiyanage

Doctoral Student

ThinkLab

School of Science, Engineering & Environment

7th Floor, Maxwell Building,

The University of Salford, M5 4WT, UK.

T: + [REDACTED]

E-mail: M.d.hembageekiyanage@edu.salford.ac.uk

For more information on this study or any other issue, you may contact the supervisors of the research student at:

Main supervisor:

Prof Terrence Fernando

Director of the THINKlab

School of Science, Engineering &
Environment

7th Floor, Maxwell Building,
University of Salford, M5 4WT, UK.

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Second supervisor:

Dr Kaushal Keraminiyage

Reader in Quantity Surveying

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Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this information sheet.

Date: 18 June 2021

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RESEARCH PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Working Title: A Holistic Approach for Promoting Community Engagement in the Decision-Making of Risk-Sensitive Urban Planning and Development.

Participant's Consent

Carefully read each consent statement provided below and indicate your specific agreement with each statement in a 'YES' to accept or in a 'NO' to refuse.

I confirm that I have read the information sheet dated 18 June 2021 for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have these answered satisfactorily.	
I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason.	
I understand that the information collected about me will be used to support other research in the future and maybe shared anonymously with other researchers.	
I agree to allow audio/video recording during the data collection.	
I agree to take part in the above study.	

Signature of the participant:	Date:

Thank you for agreeing to take part in my doctoral research study.

Signature of the doctoral student:	Date:

***Please keep a copy of this document in case you want to read it again.*