

► **RESEARCH INFORMATION**

Key Words: Socio-anthropology; Technical innovation, arena, conflicts, Burkina Faso

INTRODUCTION / CONTEXT

The housings in Burkina Faso, a landlocked country having limited natural resources and experiencing harsh weather conditions, are mostly built in local materials. Indeed, about 69.4% of the houses have their walls in raw earth as opposed to the remaining 13.8%[1]. In fact, the very high cost of building materials (cement, steel, metal sheet, aggregates), whose domestic market is dominated by a few large importers, challenges the vast majority of the population.

Nevertheless, this population remains skeptical about the strength and durability of earthen constructions. The "local" contrary to the "imported" has a negative image in Burkina Faso. This results into middle-class houses being currently constructed in concrete blocks contradicting on the aesthetic and thermal points of view. Therefore the necessity to understand the constraints of the diffusion of a material (earth) which offers certain advantages in terms of thermal comfort and to study the conditions of popularization of these materials in Burkina Faso.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify the strategic groups, the current challenges to the use of this material and to analyze the ways of disseminating the CEBs to a wide majority within the population in Ouagadougou;
- Analyze representations related to the BTC (expressions, contexts and frequencies of these representations) both among users and among non-users of this material.

METHODOLOGY

The cornerstone of this doctoral thesis is based on a socio-anthropological approach theorized by (Jean Pierre-Olivier de Sardan ;1995) [2]. It is based on a qualitative approach using tools such as the Focus group, the semi-directive interviews, and the direct observations) which are carried out within the strategic groups in the arena of CEB. In addition, a further quantitative analysis (questionnaire) will be carried out within the population of the city of Ouagadougou. Similarly, a map representation approach will capture the geo-spatial diffusion mechanism of CEB constructions in the urban and suburban area of the city.

CONCLUSION (PERSPECTIVE)

This research seeks, through empirical work, to understand the mechanisms and the representations that revolve around the arena of construction with CEB in the city of Ouagadougou. It also aims at understanding the socio-spatial logics of the implementation and dissemination of constructions and the related issues in the sector. This will help to analyze the perception of strategic groups about this local construction technique in the context of Burkina Faso.

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► **REFERENCES**

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[2] *Sardan, J- P. O. (1995), Anthropologie et Développement, Essai en Anthropologie du Changement social, Paris , Karthala, 224p*

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► Fig. 1: centre de médecine traditionnelle et des soins intégrés de Ouagadougou



Source: field research, February 2017

► Fig. 2: Village Opéra de Loango , Architect: Francis D, KERE



Source: field research, february 2017