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## INDIAN URBANISATION IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT



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### ABSTRACT

In India cities, intense and rapid processes of urban development often coexist with the emergence of heritage awareness. The heritage values of archaeological remains, inherited buildings and urban areas shape cultural policies, which involved in the construction of national identities. Everywhere in the world, because of rapid urbanisation and extension outside of their ramparts and historical frameworks, cities have recently colonised larger territories. This form of colonisation has taken different shapes: urban sprat; and densification of peripheral areas; suburbanisation, which has absorbed villages and created new neighbourhood; and voluntarist policies, which have tried to manage urban extensions through the creation of satellite towns located a few kilometres away from the mincity.

After more than 25 years of liberal reform India is undergoing transition period in the development of a market economy and society, which brings along significant changes in the relationship between government and society. The market economy is now playing the most



important role in social life while the state-owned enterprises are facing further reform. The rapid growth of the market economy is accompanied by an equal rapid development of urbanisation, but his city management, or governance, is still permeated with the features of a planned economy.

According to the UN-HABITAT, 2006 Annual Report, in regarding to future trends, it is estimated 93% of urban growth will occur in Asia and Africa, mainly in two Asian countries India and China. By 2050 over 6

billion people, 2/3 of humanity, will be living in towns and cities. The blind forces of urbanisation, following along the lines of least resistance, show no aptitude for creating an urban and industrial pattern that will be stable, self-sustaining and self-renewing.

The developing world is witness to an unprecedented shift of human settlement to cities i.e. morphology of settlements from hamlets to metropolis. India is emerging as one of the fastest urbanizing countries in the world and has reached a staggering urban population of 285 million (2001 census). It is estimated that by the middle of this century or probably earlier, the country would be more urban than rural. The economic base of the nation through expanding industries, trade,

commerce and services has already shifted to the urban centres.

**KEYWORDS :** *Urbanisation; Urban Growth; Sustainable Urban Environmental Management; Urban System.*

### INTRODUCTION:-

In India cities, intense and rapid processes of urban development often coexist with the emergence of heritage awareness. The heritage values of archaeological remains, inherited buildings and urban areas shape cultural policies, which involved in the construction of national identities. Everywhere in the world, because of rapid urbanisation and extension outside of their ramparts and historical frameworks, cities have recently colonised larger territories. This form of colonisation has taken different shapes: urban sprawl; and densification of peripheral areas; suburbanisation, which has absorbed villages and created new neighbourhood; and voluntarist policies, which have tried to manage urban extensions through the creation of satellite towns located a few kilometres away from the main city. Because of these kinds of urban territorial expansions, architects and urban planners have to face new challenges associated with energy –related cities, the will of responsibly using natural resources, climate change and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Urban creations, which until recently had been confined to the field of empiricism and imagination, now required both scientific knowledge and traditional expertise. The main question posed by the intersection of two methods: traditions, which have been adapted to specific local conditions, and the experimentations of new practices which involve other disciplines. The paper analysed the conditions and conceptions under which projects emerge on urban transformations: the instruments of management situated at the interface of these scales; and the influence of cultural specificities, local models, innovative knowledge and indigenous knowledge-how. Objective of the study: The purpose of the study is to examine the urbanisation scenario, urban growth, sustainable urban environmental management and urban system in the global context. It also helps in understanding the architectural and urban practices which have been developed in the Indian urbanisation. This process might have operated in the Indian urbanisation. It will also be sought to be understood. The present study also focuses the market economy is now playing the most important role in social life while the state-owned enterprises are facing further reform.

**Methodology (Sources of Data):** The work has been done mainly based upon field observations and identification of several of city development history which found in the India. And I also take help from several printed materials which mentioned below as references.

**Result and Discussion:** The city is often designed and conceived by professionals, politicians, urban planners and architects, but it is also practiced, transformed, adapted and sometimes defended by its inhabitants. Inhabitants are involved in urban shaping in different ways. In western countries, their participation is often limited to political or residential choices, through the vote, some urban concepts emerge and are employed in policy-making, which sometimes engender short the residential choice, inhabitants exert an influence in the housing sector and choose among a relatively narrow range of housing solutions. The relation between the demand and the offer is ambiguous: the demand engenders the offer, or conversely.

The frequency of these kind of transformations show that there is a gap between projects, as they are imagined and realised by architects and decision makers, and realities of daily urban life which are often neglected by experts and politicians. Inhabitants also convey the sense of urbanity in some areas of the city, especially in new neighbourhoods which are often planned, designed and built in a short time, to the detriment of the quality of public spaces and architectures. Inhabitants are able to

rapidly appropriate these places and bring civilisation and sociability.

It was assumed that four categories of objects play a part in shaping built forms. : a) People, b) Urban and Architectural Types, c) Media and d) Building.

**a) People:** The circulation of people, especially professionals in the architectural and urban fields, engenders a complex set of dynamics, namely, the transmission of knowledge and experiences; the contact with other cultures and contexts; and the transformations of urban forms and inherited architectural and urban practices.

**b) Urban and Architectural Types:** The circulation of architectural and urban types on a global scale subverts the relations between built forms and social practices. On the one hand, new practices, influenced by inherited local types. On the other hand, it is necessary take the structural or cyclical conditions into account-the rooted local practices and inherited environments that remain after the importation occurs.

**c) Media:** New media weakens the traditional connections between the centre and the periphery at the regional, national and international scales. Do they standardise the architectural and urban vocabulary or do they play an active or even innovative role in the design and renewal of the projects.

**d) Building:** Some ephemeral types of buildings circulate in particular contexts. Several forms of mobile architecture, such as temporary emergency housing, are models that circulate either at the scale of a single territory or from one regional to another. Do these forms have an impact on local construction practices? Do architects integrate elements of 'traditional' forms and techniques in these types of projects?

After more than 25 years of liberal reform India is undergoing transition period in the development of a market economy and society, which brings along significant changes in the relationship between government and society. The market economy is now playing the most important role in social life while the state-owned enterprises are facing further reform. The rapid growth of the market economy is accompanied by an equal rapid development of urbanisation, but his city management, or governance, is still permeated with the features of a planned economy. This means that the government can one-sidedly decide how a city soul be developed, with little or no rights for other parties to change this development. Indian urban planning lacks the amount of perfect planning that may be desirable for a system that allows agency by various market parties, and primarily serving the government, leads to a blueprint.

The pattern of urbanisation is informal development, which is most common in India. Although this pattern is approach in centralised decision making, and not only brings along a rapid growth of the urban population but also a modernisation of the urban constructed area as well as a more and more globalised economy, 'informal development' also neglects the demands of other market agencies and usually leads to serious urban problems, among others in the areas of the environment, traffic and social issues. In urban planning and even in Indian political atmosphere, the reconstruction of the relationship between government and market has become a most important topic.

There exists a pattern of 'informal urbanisation' in India, this type of development as an example suburb urn of Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai metropolitan city, lacks government guidance. In contrast to 'formal development', the driving force behind 'informal development' is endogenous, coming from the activity of local private sector or persons.

The decision-making process of urban construction in West Bengal is more democratic in nature, with more participants, than that o other cities in India many important public buildings were

realised with funds rose by the citizens. Although the weak government leaves room for more consideration for a wide variety of demands from the market and society, it has also faced many public problems, most notably the degradation of the environment. A better way to sustainable urbanisation would be to clarify the relationship between government and society, and strengthen the role of the government in developmental control and governance.

It may be pointed out that many of the urban centres that served as the field sites were important cities with historical linkages to each other that stretched back centuries, and challenged us to consider how these long-standing connections might be being reconfigured or reinvigorated in the present. It is also notable that incomplete infrastructure projects in Indian cities as the striking architecture of 'global cities' like Dubai and Singapore have on visitors and residents alike, in a global context.

In this article focussed on processes of urban development and urban economy differentiated between various economic and social factors that lead to seemingly similar urban features, following different processes of development.

**CONSEQUENCES OF UNBALANCED URBANISATION:** Unplanned urban growth, for instance cause growth of slums and squatter settlements, varying affects on environmental degradation and increased burden on existing infrastructure. The general problems which are the by-product of certain kind of urbanisation characteristic of low income countries are shortage of houses, critical inadequacies in public utilities viz. Power, water, health facilities, sanitation, deteriorating urban environment, unemployment, congestion, acute poverty and slum proliferation.

India is the fifth largest producer of global warming gas and emissions (U.S.A leads the race). The problem of pollution is more savers in big cities like, Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai. In India, urban areas are more developed and industrialized than the rural areas and this attracts still more people to the urban areas. Thus there is more pressure on facilities like transport services, housing and drainage facilities, as well as more production of other goods required by the urban population, which in turn results in the release of large amounts of wastes and pollutants. The rapid growth in urban population, which affects patterns of production and consumption, is a principal sources source to sustain the basic human needs for survival and also the conversation of raw materials into products and services. Urban centres and mega cities in particular cause many environmental problems like the declining and contaminated water supplies, accelerating atmospheric pollution and enormous qualitative of solid & liquid waste for disposal. Due to large migration of population to urban areas the threat to the environment because inevitable and it not only lead to environmental degradation but also the increasing vulnerability to infections disease and congestion.

Moreover, people who are living in slums are under conditions of multiple deprivations. They tend to experience the highest rates of unemployment, under-employment, mal-nutrition, morbidity and mortality. Some other facts are that the crime and social unrest is high in the slum areas. In consequence, the long standing presumption that living conditions are better in larger cities than in the countryside is only true where efficient city management and governance occur. Unfortunately, they are lacking in many countries included India.

### **POLICY IMPLICATION:**

According to the UN-HABITAT, 2006 Annual Report, in regarding to future trends, it is estimated 93% of urban growth will occur in Asia and Africa, mainly in two Asian countries India and China. By 2050 over 6 billion people, 2/3 of humanity, will be living in towns and cities. The blind forces of



urbanisation, following along the lines of least resistance, show no aptitude for creating an urban and industrial pattern that will be stable, self-sustaining and self-renewing. Neither the blotting-out of the landscape nor the disappearance of the city is the climax stage of urbanisation. Rather it is the farsighted and provident balancing of city populations and regional resources so as to maintain in a state of high development all the elements (social, economic and agricultural) necessary for their common life. In India policies towards urbanisation have traditionally been negative and since independence no government has ever made any sincere effort to implement a uniform and coherent urban reform policy for better management of the concurrent issue. This must be changed so that the process of urbanisation is regarded as a positive force in the development of country, policies concerned with urbanisation and urban development must pay special attention to increase the access of the poor to urban incomes and amenities so that they also take advantages of urbanisation. These should be a mechanism for sustainable urban environmental management so that the urban environment will be supportive to the needs of a rapidly increasing urban population. The urbanisation is allows a supportive force for economic and social development and it should be welcomed; indeed we must seek out creative and sustainable ways to accelerate it in the interest of both common masses and environment.

**STATUS OF URBAN INDIA:** The developing world is witness to an unprecedented shift of human settlement to cities i.e. morphology of settlements from hamlets to metropolis. India is emerging as one of the fastest urbanizing countries in the world and has reached a staggering urban population of 285 million (2001 census). It is estimated that by the middle of this century or probably earlier, the country would be more urban than rural. The economic base of the nation through expanding industries, trade, commerce and services has already shifted to the urban centres.

India is at a critical juncture in the process of urbanisation. In 2001, only 1/3 of the country's population was living in urban areas. Nonetheless, even at such a low level of urbanisation, the total urban population is very large. If urban India was to be considered a separate country then it would be the fourth (4th) largest country in the world.

In 1991, of the 20 largest cities in the world, three (Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi) were from India. In 2001 6 of the 20 largest metropolises in the world were from India. Hence the task of urban development is daunting and requires special attention, although India did not face an 'urban explosion' like some other countries, the sheer magnitude of the urban population demands the attention of shelter, civic amenities and public health. Moreover, faster and sustainable growth of cities is imperative for faster national development.

India is a 2nd largest urban system in the world. The larger urban centres have experienced faster demographic growth as compared to smaller order settlements. In the smaller towns that are mostly rooted in their regional economy, population growth is low and fluctuating over time and space. Thus, there exists a dual urban structure in India where in the larger cities are integrated with higher order system and are part of a growth dynamics, which is, by and large, absent in smaller town.

Even though the level of urbanisation is relatively low in India, the contribution of urban economy to national economy is significantly high. The role of urban areas as engines of growth has increased much significantly as compared to the population. Thus cities are emerging as engines of productivity and economic growth and poverty reduction efforts will be increasingly determined by the productivity of towns and cities.

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