

AN OVERVIEW OF URBAN PLANNING AND ITS IMPORTANCE

Dr. Akbar Ali*; **Dr. Sudhanshu Gautam****

*Assistant Professor,
Department of Public Administration,
Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota, INDIA

**Assistant Professor,
Department Of Public Administration,
SRD Modi College For Women, Kota, INDIA
Email id: sudhanshusy.2007@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

A river usually flowed through the city, to provide water, transport, and sewage disposal. The Romans had a very logical way of designing their cities. The concept of garden cities arose and several model towns were built. However, these were principally small scale in size, typically dealing with only a few thousand residents. More citizens calling for democratic planning & development processes have played a huge role in allowing the public to make important decisions as part of the planning process. These allowed substantial freedoms, yet enforce styles, safety, and often materials in practical ways. Many conventional planning techniques are being repackaged using the contemporary term growth.

KEYWORDS: *Freedoms, Contemporary, Egyptian*

INTRODUCTION

Urban planning designs settlements, from the smallest towns to the largest cities. Urban, city, and town planning integrates land use planning and transport planning to improve the built, economic and social environments of communities. Urban planning can include urban renewal, by adapting urban planning methods to existing cities suffering from decay and lack of in. As an organized profession, urban planning has only existed for the last 60 years. However, most settlements and cities show forethought and conscious design in their layout and functioning. [1]

The pre-Classical and Classical ages saw a number of cities laid out according to fixed plans, though many tended to develop organically. Designed cities were characteristic of the totalitarian Mesopotamian, Harrapan, and Egyptian civilizations of the third millennium. Distinct characteristics of urban planning from remains of the cities of Harappa, Lothal and Mohenjodaro in the Indus Valley Civilization (in modern-day northwestern India and Pakistan) lead archeologists to conclude that they are the earliest examples of deliberately planned and managed cities. Archaeological evidence suggests that many Harrapan houses were laid out to protect from noise and enhance residential privacy; also, they often had their own water wells for probably both sanitary and ritual purposes. These ancient cities were unique in that they often had drainage systems, seemingly tied to a well-developed ideal of urban sanitation. [2]

The ancient Romans used a consolidated scheme for city planning, developed for military defense and civil convenience. The basic plan is a central forum with city services, surrounded by a compact rectilinear grid of streets and wrapped in a wall for defense. To reduce travel times, two diagonal streets cross the square grid corner-to-corner, passing through the central square. A river usually flowed through the city, to provide water, transport, and sewage disposal. The Romans had a very logical way of designing their cities. They laid out the streets at right angles, in the form of a square grid. All the roads were equal in width and length, except for two. They were slightly wider than the other's. Bridges were also constructed where needed. The collapse of Roman civilization saw the end of their urban planning, among many other arts. Urban development in the middle Ages characteristically focused on a fortress. [3]

The ideal of wide streets and orderly cities was not lost, however. A few medieval cities were admired for their wide thoroughfares and other orderly arrangements. In the 1990s, the University of Kentucky voted the Italian town of Todi as ideal city and "most livable town in the world", the place where man and nature, history and tradition come together to create a site of excellence. Many cities in Central American civilizations also planned their cities, including sewage systems and running water. In developed countries (Western Europe, North America, Japan and Australasia), planning and architecture can be said to have gone through various stages of general consensus in the last 200 years. Firstly, there was the industrialized city of the 19th century, where control of building was largely held by businesses and the wealthy elite.

Around 1900, there began to be a movement for providing citizens, especially factory workers, with healthier environments. The concept of garden cities arose and several model towns were built. However, these were principally small scale in size, typically dealing with only a few thousand residents. It was not until the 1920s that modernism began to surface. Based on the ideas of Le Corbusier and utilizing new skyscraper building techniques, the modernist city stood for the elimination of disorder, congestion and the small scale, replacing them instead with preplanned and widely spaced freeways and tower blocks set within gardens. By the late 1960s and early 1970s, many planners realized that modernism's clean lines and lack of human scale also sapped vitality from the community. Modernism ended in the 1970s when the construction of the cheap, uniform tower blocks ended in most countries. Since then many have been demolished and replaced by more conventional housing. Rather than attempting to eliminate all disorder, planning now concentrates on individualism and diversity in society and the economy and this is the post-modernist era. Minimally-planned cities still exist and non-regulatory factors such as urban infrastructure and financing may be at least as important as zoning laws. [4]

Urban Planning process focused on top-down processes by which the urban planner created the plans. The planner would know architecture, surveying, or engineering, bringing to the town planning process ideals based around these disciplines. They typically worked for national or local governments. Changes to the planning process over past decades have witnessed the metamorphosis of the role of the urban planner in the planning process. More citizens calling for democratic planning & development processes have played a huge role in allowing the public to make important decisions as part of the planning process. Community organizers and social workers are now very involved in planning from the grassroots level. Ozawa and Seltzer (1999) advocate a communicative planning model in education to teach planners to work within the social and political context of the planning process. In their paper "Taking Our Bearings: Mapping a Relationship among Planning Practice, Theory, and Education," the authors

demonstrate the importance of educating planners beyond the rational planning model in which planners make supposedly value-neutral recommendations based on science and reason . Developers have also played huge roles in development, particularly by planning projects. Many recent developments were results of large and small-scale developers who purchased land, designed the district and constructed the development from scratch. [5]

Sustainable Development and Urban Planning:

Beside above Sustainable development and sustainability influence today's urban planners. Some planners say that modern lifestyles use too many natural resources, polluting or destroying ecosystems, increasing social inequality overheating urban heat islands, and causing climate changes. Many urban planners therefore advocate sustainable cities.

However, sustainable development is a recent, controversial concept, which turns urban development to be "development that improves the long-term social and ecological health of cities and towns." Sustainable city's should include features such as compact, efficient land use, less automobile use yet with better access, efficient resource use, less pollution and waste, the restoration of natural systems, good housing and living environments, a healthy social ecology, a sustainable economy, community participation and involvement and preservation of local culture and wisdom. As they always have, urban planners try to implement widely accepted social policies and programs. Sustainability must be widely supported by society before planning can realistically modify actual institutions and regions and real implementations are often complex compromises. [6]

CoSGOP in Urban Planning:

Collective effort like (CoSGOP) Collaborative Strategic Goal Oriented Programming, which is a collaborative and communicative way of strategic programming, decision - making implementation and monitoring oriented towards defined and specific goals. Furthermore, it is to be based on sound analysis of available information, shall put emphasis on stakeholder participation, is expected to create awareness among actors, and shall be oriented towards the management of development processes. It was derived from goal oriented planning (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit - GTZ 1988). Goal oriented planning was originally oriented towards the elaboration and implementation of projects based on a logical framework approach which was useful for embedding specific project in a wider development frame and defining its major elements. CoSGOP introduced a new approach which characterized by communication with the active involvement of the stakeholders and those who are to be affected by the program, strategic planning based on the identification of strengths and weakness, opportunities and threats, as well as on scenario building and visioning; the definition of goals as the basis for action regarding the improvement process; long-term flexible programming of interventions by the different stakeholders. [7]

CoSGOP is not a planning method but a process model. It provides a framework for communication and joint decision-making in a structured process characterized by feedback loops and it facilitates a learning process of all the stakeholders involved. Important elements of CoSGOP are, Analysis of stakeholders, which is oriented towards identifying stakeholders their perception of problems and their interest and expectations. Analysis of problems and potentials, which does not only include an overview of the problems but also of problems and potentials as

perceived by various stakeholders. Development of goals by improving priorities and alternatives with defining goals and objectives needed for development with intensive communication and an active participation of the concerned stakeholders. Specification of an improvement programme and main activities based on clear priorities defined with the stakeholders. Assessment of possible impacts of the improvement programme and their implementation. Continuous monitoring of improvement activities, feedback and adjustment of the programme, as monitoring and feedback are key elements of learning process. For monitoring success and failure not only, the technical and economic information is relevant but also the perception of the stakeholders. [8]

‘Urban Planning’ the Present Scenario:

Collaborative Planning arose in response to the inadequacy of traditional public participation techniques to provide real opportunity for the public to make the decisions affecting their communities. Collaborative planning is a method designed to empower stakeholders by elevating them to the level of decision-makers through a process of direct engagement and dialogue between stakeholders and public agencies designed to solicit ideas, active involvement and participation in the community planning process. Active public involvement helps Planners create better outcomes by informing them of the public’s needs and preferences and by using the public’s local knowledge to inform projects. When properly administered collaboration can result in more meaningful participation and better, more creative outcomes to persistent problems than traditional participation methods can achieve. [9]

It enables planners to make decisions that reflect community needs and values; it fosters faith in the wisdom and utility of the resulting project, and the community is given a personal stake in its success. Successful collaborative planning is dependent upon a number of interrelated factors: the process must be truly inclusive with all stakeholders and affected groups invited to the table; the community must have final decision-making authority; full government commitment - of both financial and intellectual resources - must be manifest; participants should be given clear objectives by the Planning staff who facilitate the process by providing guidance, consultancy, expert opinions and research; and facilitators should be trained in conflict resolution and community organization.

There are various aspects of planning like, urban aesthetics, in which Towns and cities have been planned with aesthetics in mind. In developed countries, there has been a backlash against excessive human-made clutter in the visual environment, such as signposts, signs, and hoardings. Other issues that generate strong debate among urban designers are tensions between peripheral growth, housing density and new settlements. There are also debates about the mixing tenures and land uses, versus distinguishing geographic zones where different uses dominate. Regardless, all successful urban planning considers urban character, local identity, respects heritage, pedestrians, traffic, utilities and natural hazards. [10]

Planners can help to manage the growth of cities by applying tools like zoning and growth management to manage the uses of land. Historically, many of the cities now thought the most beautiful are the result of dense, long lasting systems of prohibitions and guidance about building sizes, uses and features. These allowed substantial freedoms, yet enforce styles, safety, and often materials in practical ways. Many conventional planning techniques are being repackaged using the contemporary term growth. There are some cities that have been planned from conception,

and while the results often do not turn out quite as planned, evidence of the initial plan often remains.

Safety is a major concern because cities have often grown onto coastal and flood plains with risk of floods and storm surges. Urban planners must consider these threats. If the dangers can be localized then the affected regions can be made into parkland or green belt, often with the added benefit of open space provision. Extreme weather, flood, or other emergencies can often be greatly mitigated with secure emergency evacuation routes and emergency operations centres. The rapid urbanization of the last century caused more slums in the major cities of the world, particularly in developing countries. Planning resources and strategies are needed to address the problems of slum development. Many planners are calling for slum improvement, when urban planners work on slums; they must cope with racial and cultural differences to ensure that racial steering does not occur. [11]

Urban decay is a process by which a city, or a part of a city, falls into a state of disrepair and neglect. It is characterized by depopulation, economic restructuring, property abandonment, high unemployment, fragmented families, political disenfranchisement, crime, and desolate urban landscapes. Starting in the 1990s, many of the urban areas have been experiencing a reversal of the urban decay, with rising real estate values, smarter development, demolition of obsolete social housing and a wider variety of housing choices. Areas devastated by any disaster challenge urban planners. Resources are scarce. The existing population has needs. Buildings, roads, services and basic infrastructure like power, water and sewerage are often damaged, but with salvageable parts. Historic, religious or social centers also need to be preserved and re-integrated into the new city plan. Urban Reconstruction Development plans must also work with government agencies as well as private interests to develop workable designs.

Very densely built-up areas require high capacity urban transit, and urban planners must consider these factors in long-term plans. Although an important factor, there is a complex relationship between urban densities and car use. Transport within urbanized areas presents unique problems. The density of an urban environment increases traffic, which can harm businesses and increase pollution unless properly managed. Parking space for private vehicles requires the construction of large parking garages in high-density areas. This space could often be more valuable for other development. [12]

Good planning uses transit oriented development, which attempts to place higher densities of jobs or residents near high-volume transportation. Increasing road space is not an effective way of relieving traffic jams as latent or induced demand invariably emerges to restore a socially tolerable level of congestion. Declining satisfaction with the urban environment is due to continuous migration to smaller towns and rural areas (so-called urban exodus). Successful urban planning supported Regional planning can bring benefits to a much larger hinterland or city region and help to reduce both congestion along transport routes and the wastage of energy implied by excessive commuting.

Environment and Urban Planning

Environmental protection and conservation are of utmost importance to many planning systems across the world. Not only are the specific effects of development to be mitigated, but also attempts are made to minimize the overall effect of development on the local and global

environment. This is commonly done through the assessment of Sustainable urban infrastructure. In most advanced urban or village planning models, local context is critical. Environmental planners focus now on smaller and larger systems of resource extraction and consumption, energy production, and waste disposal. A practice known as Arcology seeks to unify the fields of ecology and architecture, using principles of landscape architecture to achieve a harmonious environment for all living things.

In urban planning, sound is usually measured as a source of pollution. Another perspective on urban sounds is developed in Soundscape studies emphasizing that sound aesthetics involves more than noise abatement and decibel measurements. Light pollution has become a problem in urban residential areas, not only as it relates to its effects on the night sky, but as some lighting is so intrusive as to cause conflict in the residential areas and paradoxically intense improperly installed security lighting may pose a danger to the public, producing excessive glare.

Urban Planning and JNNURM:

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was a massive city-modernization scheme launched by the Government of India under the Ministry of Urban Development. It is named after Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. The aim is to encourage reforms and fast track planned development of identified cities. Focus is to be on efficiency in urban infrastructure and service delivery mechanisms, community participation, and accountability of ULBs/ Parastatal agencies towards citizens.

It was launched in 2005 as the first flagship scheme of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. JnNURM implemented by MoHUPA has two components e.g. Basic Services for Urban poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) which aimed at integrated development of slums through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to providing utilities to the urban poor.

The Mission was initially for a seven year period i.e. up to March 2012 which was extended up to March 2014 for completion of the already approved projects. During March 2013, the Mission period was extended by one more year i.e. up to March 2015 to complete ongoing works. 65 Mission Cities identified based on urban population (Census 2001), cultural and tourist importance was covered under BSUP and the remaining cities were covered under IHSDP (887).

Under BSUP, project cost is shared in the ratio of 50:50 for cities with population more than 1million (as per Census 2001), 80:20 for other smaller Mission Cities and 90:10 for North Eastern and Special category States. Entire cost of construction of Dwelling Units (DUs) and associated infrastructure was shared as per the above mentioned sharing pattern without any limitation. Under IHSDP, project cost is shared in the ratio of 80:20 for remaining smaller cities and 90:10 for North Eastern and Special Category States. Cost ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh per DU including cost of infrastructure was applicable for projects taken up under IHSDP Scheme.

The two components of JnNURM were mandated to pursue 3 key pro-poor reforms, namely (a) earmarking of 25% of municipal budget for the urban poor for provision of basic services including affordable housing to the urban poor; (b) implementation of 7- Point Charter, namely provision of land tenure, affordable housing, water, sanitation, education, health and social security to the poor in a time-bound manner ensuring convergence with other programmes and

(c) reservation of 25% of developed land in all housing projects, public or private, critical for slum improvement.

Objective of JNNURM

Focused attention relating to infrastructural services in the context of integrated development is to be covered under the mission.

Make efficient and increase self-sustaining capabilities of cities as per the sector proving infrastructural services by securing the linkages between asset creation and asset management.

Ensure adequate investment of funds to fulfill deficiencies in the urban infrastructural services.

Planned development of identified cities including peri-urban areas, out growths, urban corridors, so that urbanization takes place in a dispersed manner

Scale up delivery of civic amenities and provision of utilities with emphasis on universal access to urban poor.

To take up urban renewal programme, i.e., re-development of inner (old) cities area to reduce congestion

Provision of basic services to the urban poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply and sanitation, and ensuring delivery of other existing universal services of the government for education, health and social security.

As of 2012 Gujarat led the tally for the state level reforms, being the only state to have achieved all 10 reforms required by the mission. Five states have achieved 9 out of 10 reforms: Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Public disclosure and community participation laws have initially progressed slowly, with only five states managing to enact them as part of the reform agenda as of 2009.

However, as of 2012 community participation laws have been enacted by 22 out of 31 states, and public disclosure laws were enacted by 27 states. 20 states had decentralized the responsibility for water supply and sanitation from the state level to ULBs, and 19 had done so for city planning functions. Visakhapatnam, Surat and Pune had the distinction of having accomplished all 8 city level reforms.

Importance of Urban Planning:

Urban planning is the art of giving shape, design, and structure to cities and towns. It involves various processes like arrangement and designing of buildings, transport systems, public spaces as well as good amenities. Nowadays, it has become a much-needed discipline because cities are getting overpopulated day by day and resources are getting scarce. Because of continuous threats of global warming and environmental catastrophe, it is important to take the measures. That's why urban planning has become significant as it helps in finding the solutions to use the land and infrastructure in the best possible way.

Urban planning is the forward-thinking process whereby towns, cities and urban areas are laid out based on a set of objectives defined by the state or territory in conjunction with local councils. Urban planning affects our transportation system, infrastructure, the layout, and prescribed densities of our residential, commercial, and industrial areas and more. Without such

planning, our cities quickly become inefficient and uninviting for residents and businesses alike. Large population lives and work in cities, and they choose to do so because access to healthcare, education, and efficient infrastructure positively affect their quality of life. With all these facilities and services available and easily obtained, the public is better able to contribute to the economy and national productivity.

Due to more work opportunity, better education facility, and many other reasons, the population in the cities of developing countries is increasing more and more. In order to accommodate a large population, there have to be some early plans. That's why authorities should always make proper planning. This will be made by keeping certain factors in mind, such as the needs of citizens, appropriate expansion of infrastructure, and efficient measures during emergency situations. Utilizing the resources through urban planning, the city would have a strategy to develop its economy as well as livability conditions.

Not only the expansion of residential areas, but urban planning also ensures good transportation, health care, and judicial system. Thus, the city will grow rapidly without having negative impacts on its economy and citizens.

If an urban area is badly planned, residents face traffic congestion, inadequate infrastructure, unaffordable housing, and are vulnerable to climate change, fire hazards, and flooding. The city and its infrastructure become unsustainable and ultimately hinder the growth of the population and economy. Urban planning also affects our national parks, ecological diversity, heritage sites and natural resources by ensuring that cities and towns are arranged so they don't encroach on these areas. By creating and enforcing laws to protect these unique attractions, they will always be around for our children and tourists to appreciate.

While much of our urban planning has been reactionary, the goal is to enact planning regulations with a view for the future. By conducting censuses, state governments can predict the changing demographics and growth of the population. Successful urban planning prepares for such changes by ensuring access to quality, affordable housing.

Urban planning also needs to ensure ecological sustainability by prohibiting development that will destroy wildlife habitats such as those of our koala population. Environmental sustainability also refers to minimizing carbon emissions by building cycle paths and promoting public transport by making it widely available. Well planned cities are also water sensitive, ensuring minimal water waste. Each state and territory will have their own objectives when it comes to urban planning and rightly so. Their ecologies, population, economies, and heritage are all unique. To this end, it is also crucial for local councils to collaborate with their respective communities to ensure their needs are met. Communities will often argue for the preservation of heritage sites, planning

which promotes social cohesion such as inviting public spaces, and urban regeneration.

To ensure that your property development project is both successful and not halted in the initial phase, you need to be mindful of your state's urban planning objectives and the needs of the community. Both a city and a community are likely to object to projects which don't consider certain essential aspects of urban planning. The most crucial factors are sustainability, water sensitivity, urban renewal, climate change, heritage, and conservation. With the right amount of

planning, creativity, and detailed scheme maps, it's easier to get on top of your property development project.

Quality of life is the major concern of every human being when they move to a city. The other two issues are employment and accommodation. Though the cost of living is higher, the opportunities are also great. To make it easier, the city manager must have rules and regulations for the proper distribution of land, public spaces, and the infrastructures. Due to increasing density in nearby cities, city management is creating several attractive points of interest in the city. The authorities are also regularly updating the traffic regulations due to constantly increase in the number of vehicles. All these measures are ultimately improving the quality of life of the people.

Global warming has created some major issues for our planet and the inhabitants. Having an early idea of natural calamities has become very important for those who do city management. They are trying to have the prediction of all such calamities to make long-term strategies and later achieve them by making short-term actions. They keep the citizens as well as the visitors safe from all possible disasters that the world is facing today. Minimizing the risks for the betterment of everyone has only become possible because of urban planning.

By constantly following the advice provided by the World Health Organization, urban planners ensure that the citizens live a safe and healthy life. They suggest the inhabitants pay attention to their lifestyle. Authorities create a better environment and provide sufficient areas in the public park for senior citizens to exercise and have leisure time. They keep machines to collect garbage and unwanted materials to keep the city clean and healthy for the citizens.

To conclude, with the growing population, cities will always need urban planning. That's why it must be implemented all around the world, especially in developing countries. They will always come across challenging conditions and things will become even worse without urban planning. Not only the official and the management should be responsible, but every citizen should act sensibly towards the betterment of the society, city, and the country. Urban planning is not only about planting trees and picking up the garbage, but there are also thousands of aspects that urban planners cover. That's why it has become so important for cities these days.

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