



INDIA'S URBAN TRANSFORMATION ON URBAN POLICIES AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract

Urbanization may be defined as a process by which villages turn in to towns and towns turn into cities. The process of urbanization has been firmly connected with the cycle and example of financial improvement in the country. In spite of the fact that the urbanization in India couldn't be made sense of completely by the course of financial advancement, it is decidedly connected with the last option. The extraordinary development in populace, joined by mechanical and monetary development has improved urbanization. Urban communities are the central marks of chances. Consequently there is generally a development of populace to urban communities. This presses existing offices of lodging and infrastructural offices other than prompting clog. In this way, the circumstance in our urban communities has become unmanageable and that's just the beginning disturbing with the developing disparities emerging out of logs in acclimation to fast and broad urbanization.

Keywords: Planning, Policy, Technology, Urbanization, Urban Transformation.

Introduction

Today, a big part of the world's populace lives in metropolitan regions. By 2050, 70 % of the populace will be metropolitan. India has been seeing huge urbanization. Over the sixty years since autonomy, India's populace grew three-crease from 350 million of every 1947 to 1210 million in the year in 2011. During a similar period, the metropolitan populace developed practically 4.6 overlays as quick - from 62.4 million to 286 million. Level of urbanization expanded from 27.81% in 2001 Enumeration to 31.16% in 2011 Evaluation. In this manner, the Free India has been urbanizing exceptionally quick. The process of urbanization has been firmly connected with example of financial turn of events in the country. Albeit the course of urbanization in India couldn't be made sense of completely by the course of financial turn of events, it is decidedly connected with the last option. In this way, the fast expansion in urbanization and monetary improvement has prompted extreme ecological debasement that sabotages the natural asset base whereupon reasonable advancement depends. The financial aspects of natural contamination, exhaustion and debasement of assets has as a matter of fact been dismissed when contrasted with the issues of development and development. India has been no exemption for this overall peculiarity; rather, the patterns in natural weakening in India, as a result of the significant expansion in its populace, have been undeniably more noticeable when contrasted with other creating economies. Metropolitan advancement in India is as of now going through an exceptionally unique stage, the level of populace in metropolitan focuses itself having expanded from 14 % during the 1940s to around 33 % in 2000. The uncommon challenge of such a metropolitan shift has brought about Indian urban areas deteriorating into ghettos and vagrants camps. The quick extension of urban communities has carried with it intense issues of climate bringing about the corruption of personal satisfaction.

India's Urbanization: an Overview

A city isn't simply a spatial or building plan. It's a progression of commonly collaborating frameworks of which physical part is one. India's urbanization is no special case for this. It was constantly alluded to as the 'nation of towns' and one whose spirit rested in towns. To such an extent, that twisting around towns was considered 'PC'. Consequently, for quite a while, it helpfully disregarded the steady metropolitan change and its rising requests. The perception of Ahluwalia (2017) is significant. She

brings up that the "political economy of improvement in India has remained overwhelmingly worried about the improvement of provincial regions certainly expecting that metropolitan regions can deal with themselves." Not just that, in any event, for making the procedure for the improvement of economy their job has been neglected, Ahluwalia states.

With the advent of the 20th century, India embarked into the era of rapid urbanization. In a hundred years between 1901-2001 its share of urban population increased from 11 to over 28 percent and total urban agglomeration increased from 1827 to 4386. As per the Government of India 2011 census, the total number of cities in India is 7,933 which include both the statutory and census towns. The year 1981 experienced the highest annual growth rate of urbanization which was 3.83 percent. World meters, which calculates real-time data, estimates India's urbanization in 2019 as 33.6 percent while the total urban population is estimated to be 460,249,853. The percentage decadal change in India's urban population vis-à-vis the rural population has also been significant.

Percentage Decadal Change in Urban Population in India

Not only that, the urban population of India is way ahead of the combined population of East Africa, West Asia, Western Europe or the total population of Brazil and US separately. Economic un-sustainability is a major concern arising out of lack of a wide spectrum of employment opportunities and high cost of living. Most of the jobs in the cities in recent years are white collar jobs. But despite the visible socio-economic disparity Indian cities are emerging as the highest contributors to GDP. As per McKinsey (2014) report 'Understanding India's economic geography' there was 54 metropolitan cities in India in the year 2012. They accounted for 40 percent of the GDP. The report estimates by 2025 India will have 69 metropolitan cities. Together with their hinterland, they will account for 54 percent of the country's incremental GDP from 2012-2025. India urban population for 2021 was 498,179,071, a 2.15% increase from 2020. India urban population for 2020 was 487,702,168, a 2.29% increase from 2019. India urban population for 2019 was 476,786,386, a 2.34% increase from 2018. India's urban deficit can be identified at all levels. Just for meeting the shortage of 110 million units of housing by 2022, as per the KPMG report (2017) on India's Real Estate, the estimated expenditure would amount to USD 2 trillion (INR130 trillion). Not only this, any modern intervention (as in the case of smart cities) will require lots of supportive technologically advanced infrastructure. Hence, for the supportive urban infrastructure, including utility services, will require another USD1.0 -1.5 trillion (INR 65 – 97 trillion) by 2030.

Methodology

The study is based on data collected from secondary sources which include various publications by government agencies as well as non-governmental organizations/bodies. The data from various NSSO rounds and various Censuses (Registrar General of India) has been used for the collection of relevant and reliable statistics.

Challenges of Urbanization in India

India's metropolitan demography has changed at an uncommon speed. It positions among the best ten nations of the world which will have the biggest extended decrease in the provincial populace during 2014-2050. It normally demonstrates a sharp ascent in metropolitan populace. It isn't just provoking immense interest for metropolitan space and conveniences yet additionally sending cautioning signs of the unending foundation shortage. Absence of a devoted pool of expert metropolitan chiefs (organizers, creators, architects, and directors included), monetary crunch, thorough and cutting edge vision are a portion of the undeniable difficulties confronting India's metropolitan revival. Metropolitan

shortcomings at three fronts to be specific: (1) foundation, (2) money and (3) administration answerable for the metropolitan issues. However they stay the essential necessities of a city. Be that as it may, with regards to brilliant city, the new desire for metropolitan restoration, these administrations are expected to be expanded with brilliant mediations in the type of ICT framework, innovation, and plan also. The majority of the urban communities are not completely prepared at this point to move to the next direction. Like wherever else, urban communities in India to have developed from an easy to a more mind boggling metropolitan framework. It's noticeable in its demography, framework, plan, foundation, the board, etc. Marshall (2012) checks metropolitan development out as a consistent cycle that applies as much today as before. That is, developmental urbanism isn't some simple noteworthy cycle that was superseded by present day town arranging. The difficulties these development presents are humongous. The gap among request and supply perseveres notwithstanding the desire and verbalization to improve what is happening. Bholey (2016) writes: "The question unavoidably emerges - where is the gap, whether at the arrangement or at execution level? A vote based constitution that India has, sustains the ideal of social consideration in words and soul. Great administration and palatable administration conveyance are a portion of the essential assumptions for individuals from the public authority. In any case, changing over soul into activity is many times preferable said over finished."

Urbanization through the Plan Period

The 1st Five Year Plan (1951-56) took a gander at urbanization according to the viewpoint of "multiplication of work camps brought about by rustic to metropolitan relocation". Subsequently, the lack of lodging and the inflationary idea of land costs were taken into thought. This prompted a few critical drives, for example, making the Service of Working and Lodging, Public Building Association, Town and Nation Arranging Association and Lodging Board (Sharma, 2014). Subsequently, during 1951-1960 several schemes to meet the housing demand viz. Subsidized Housing Scheme for Industrial Workers and Economically Weaker Section (1952), Low Income Group Housing Scheme (1954), Subsidized Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers (1956), Slum Clearance and Improvement Scheme (1956), Village Housing Project Scheme (1957), Middle Income Group Housing Scheme (1959) came into existence.

The 2nd Plan (1956-61) noted and raised a concern about the rising price of urban land and the speculative buying besides high rentals particularly in big cities. The plan attributed it to the growing industrialization. To counter the problem the theme of regional plan and emphasis on preparing urban master plan was introduced for the first time under the 2nd plan period. To make up the deficit of urban housing scheme for construction of housing for the low-income group was proposed. The Slums Area (Improvement and Clearance) Act was passed in 1956. It recognized slums as any area where houses are unfit for living, where buildings are dilapidated, the area is overcrowded and their arrangement and design is faulty. In short, habitats which are "detrimental, to safety, health or morals." The concern for the marginalized and need for the development of the roadmap for future development was obvious in this plan.

The 3rd five-year plan (1961- 66) also laid emphasis on housing and urban and rural planning. It allocated Rs. 142 crore or 14.2 million for housing and urban development. Its salient features were to recognize the importance of towns and cities in India's balanced development. It was during this plan period that adopting a regional approach for urban planning was advised. Besides, it highlighted the need for the preparation of a master plan for bigger cities, urban land regulation and controlling land prices for proper urbanization. Housing for lower income group, plantation workers, MIG housing, rental housing, removal of slums were some of the major recommendations for inclusive urban



development. These recommendations still survive in their new avatars viz. Rajiv AwasYojna, PradhanmantriAwas Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana (for rural housing).

The emphasis of the 4th plan (1969-74) was on achieving balanced urban growth by easing the pressure on big cities through scattering urban populations in smaller urban centers. Hence, regional studies of the areas in the vicinity of metropolitan cities including Delhi, Mumbai, and Calcutta (now Kolkata) were undertaken. Besides, government-funded special grants to speed up the development of new state capitals namely Chandigarh, Bhubaneshwar, Bhopal, and Gandhinagar. While regional and urban development initiatives remained at the core, the fourth five-year plan included development of 72 urban centers. Not only that but the plan also stressed upon the need to mend urban legislation and identify the statutes coming in way of urban development. For providing loan to state housing boards and urban development authorities Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) was set up in 1970 which played a major role in supporting urban housing needs of the poor and disadvantaged sections.

The 5th plan (1974-79) stressed upon controlling land prices in order to develop the medium and small town and augmenting their services. In 1975, Taskforce on Planning and Development of Small and Medium Towns was also set up. It was supposed to examine laws relating to local administration and urban development. Besides, the taskforce was also expected to suggest suitable modifications in the laws so as to assist in the planned growth of small and medium towns among others. Addressing the infrastructure deficit of cities having a population in excess of 300,000 was also emphasized under this plan and to achieve that Integrated Urban Development Programme (IUDP) was launched. Housing being a priority checking urban land price was a great challenge. Hence, in 1976 the government launched the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act (ULCRA), 1976. It was one of the major steps towards planned urbanization in India.

“The focus of the 6th Plan (1980–85) was largely on the development of small and medium towns and provision of basic services in urban slums.” Improvement in the condition of basic urban amenities such as sewage, sanitation, etc. Was underscored in the plan which is a challenge for the proposed smart cities too. However, it was the introduction of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) meant to provide basic infrastructure and services to the cities having less than 1000,000 population which was a major policy direction under the plan.

The 7th plan (1985-90) which concluded at the onset of India’s economic liberalization, provided scope for the private sector in urban development and paved way for their entry into housing and real estate. Thus, as per the plan, the role of government was confined to the mere mobilization of resources for housing, making provision for low-cost housing for economically weaker sections and acquisition and development of land. The first ever National Housing Policy (NHP) was also introduced in 1988 to eradicate the problem of homelessness. To salvage city like Delhi which was reeling under the population pressure National Capital Region (NCR) Planning Board was set up. The purpose was to divert the pressure on the cities of the adjoining states namely Haryana and UP. Today NCR is a huge urban agglomeration comprising of cities like Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida, and Ghaziabad among others. As per the notification NCR includes the whole of NCT Delhi and certain districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The total area covered is about 30,242 sq. kms. And the population is 37.03 million (as per 2001 census) (Report of the Study Group on NCR Policy Zones, Demographic Profile and Settlement Pattern, 2001). Managing this geographical spread and population remains a big challenge for urban planners and policy-makers.

The 8th plan (1992-97) saw the promulgation of the 74th constitutional amendment. The amendment paved the way for the creation of elected urban local bodies (ULBs) and thus the decision making with regard to urbanization was decentralized. Autonomy in terms of economic planning made it possible to find alternate resources of finance, use institutional finance and issue market instruments such as municipal bonds to meet capital investment requirements. It was a big milestone toward economic empowerment.

The 9th plan, (1997-2002) which coincided with 50 years of India's independence, was considered a bridge between fast economic growth and improvement in the quality of life of the people at large. Consequently, its outlook was described as "Growth with Social Justice and Equity". The need for greater fiscal autonomy to the ULBs was also highlighted in the India Infrastructure Report (2001). In the report, Mathur (2001) also suggested the need of developing innovative strategies by the ULBs to finance urban infrastructure and services so that 'the existing funds available from plan allocation could be supplemented by accessing the capital market.' The market-friendly initiative of allowing 100 percent FDI in infrastructure projects viz. road, the mass rapid transit system was also introduced during this plan itself. Repealing Urban Land Ceiling Act-1976 in the year 1999 was yet another major step towards integrating urban development with economic growth. Launch of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) in Dec. 1997 was a step towards ensuring inclusive urban development.

In order to carry out comprehensive urban reforms, the 10th plan (2002-2007) introduced some major policy push. Launching of the flagship scheme Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHPA) was one of them. The scheme was meant to provide "Basic Services for Urban poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)" and "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". It was run in a mission mode and identified 65 cities on the basis of their population and cultural significance to be covered under BSUP. While it remained a major scheme of urban rejuvenation in recent years, its larger benefits remained confined only to some major states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, UP, West Bengal and Rajasthan which also received a more central allocation for IHSDP and BSUP.

The urban development agenda under the 11th plan period (2007-12) began with the urban population base of 331 million. It was envisaged that during the plan period 36.8 million people would be added to the existing number. Thus, it was an additional absorption of 7-8 million people per annum in the cities for which planning was required. The strategy of urban development included the following measures: strengthening urban local bodies through capacity building and better financial management; increasing the efficiency and productivity of cities by deregulation and development of land; dismantling public sector monopoly over urban infrastructure and creating conducive atmosphere for the private sector to invest; establishing autonomous regulatory framework to oversee the functioning of the public and private sector; reducing incidence of poverty and using technology and innovation in a big way.

India's planning era came to an end with the 12th five-year plan (2012-17). Planning Commission itself was replaced by National Institution for Transforming India popularly known as NITI Aayog in 2015. India now has a policy think tank at the place of the policy planning agency. Nevertheless, from the perspective of urbanization, it was significant as it envisioned smart cities and their role as being the engines of growth for the nation. As per the vision of the Planning Commission "cities must provide

world class infrastructure and services at affordable costs to give a competitive edge to the economic activities they host.”

Smart Cities: India’s Vision for the Cities

The intervention of emerging technology for urban transformation and to use them to create modern cities did not seem to be a priority under the centralized urban planning till the 11th plan period. However, it was clearly articulated during the 12th plan period when India acknowledged the need to revive its cities into smart cities and make them modern and contemporary. Smart cities are being envisioned as India’s cities of the future. The nation which woke up to its urban challenges and the need to rejuvenate the ailing system recognized the need to adopt a completely transformative process. Thus the idea of a smart city was adopted as an opportunity to leverage IT integrated technology for urban upkeep, maintenance, governance and improving service delivery.

Transformation of urban India is now being recognized as the need of the hour. Various steps are taken in the direction by putting in place several schemes and programmes such as JNNURM, AMRUT, Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart City Mission, etc. are meant to bring about the much needed transformation. Smart City Mission is the most ambitious policy of them all. While it carries on the welfare spirit of the plan period, it is also trying to find new ways to increase efficiency and improve service delivery through the integration of technology.

Conclusion

Successive metropolitan plans in India to a great extent seem to be a prompt reaction to the arising metropolitan necessities of the day. They no question prevailed with regards to taking care of the issues to a degree. Nonetheless, they didn't imagine the eventual fate of urbanization nor might they at any point configuration long haul vital intercessions to accomplish metropolitan change. While the idea of beginning metropolitan plans was more receptive as they resolved the quick issues, the vision of the brilliant city looks more proactive and advanced. India could have awakened to its metropolitan difficulties and objectives a little late in the day, yet it awakened at a time when its financial development, mechanical capability, abilities and involvement with metropolitan administration are significantly better when contrasted with the underlying days of the arrangement time frame. So changes can be anticipated at a lot quicker pace. Change is a long challenging cycle, regardless of whether it's financial, political or metropolitan. The intricacy of the general public is what frequently ruins and postpones the cycle. Bertolini (2017) notices "Accomplishing groundbreaking change despite intricacy is a troublesome and apparently incomprehensible errand. Improvement in every part of the framework both empower and requirement improvement in different parts." Metropolitan change in India is additionally encountering early stage troubles. Nonetheless, moving from the concentrated time of arranged improvement to the decentralized, even confined period of participatory improvement itself is a significant groundbreaking cycle in India's urbanization. Presently, it's likewise being supported by different plan also, mechanical mediations.

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