



Building Inclusive Cities - Issues Relating to Urban Economies & National Urban Livelihood Mission – A Critique

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Abstract

India is a rapidly growing economy with more than 50% of youth population. The cities can generate new jobs, new opportunities & new livelihood means for these young urbanites. But Indian urban centers are recording a growth which is not only asymmetrical but also imbalanced. India can thrive well on urbanization if urbanization is planned accordingly. The Indian National GDP count escalates to a new height if the growth of urban centers could be channelized in a more premeditated approach. This needs a comprehensive planning towards economy. The Indian economic scenario is being subjected to lapses in the field of infrastructure, transportation & housing. Countries across the globe have paid great attention to the urbanization hence their urban economy is a boost to the development of the country. India being as an emerging economy needs to decipher the dichotomy between urban centers & sketch strategically in planning urbanization towards reaping paramount economic growth. The Societal alterations involving rich & the poor, resident & migrant, men & women population needs a multi-faceted approach.

Keywords: urban India, inclusive cities, economic growth

Introduction

India is on the threshold of great urbanization as the current pattern of urbanization is largely taking place on the periphery of presently over populated cities urbanization has become unplanned & outside the purview of city codes & by laws. This is adding to the burden of policy makers as living in urban areas has become a menace world over. (United Nations expert group meeting on building inclusive societies 2012).

Key Indicators

1. The unprecedented growth of cities is leaving local / municipal governments with critical infrastructure shortages & service gaps. The gap in infrastructure is so enormous that investment is estimated at 827 US billion over the next 20 years with 2/3 of this required for urban roads, traffic support etc.
2. The urban air pollution was projected to become the top



environmental cause of premature mortality by 2050 .

3. urban pollution which caused 620.000 pre mature deaths in 2010 which was a six fold increase since 2001.

4. Recent studies have shown that the cost of environmental degradation largely driven by sprawling cities is enormous & is reducing the GD by 5-7 % or about 80 billion dollar annually. (The Report On Urban Poverty UNDP 2014) .

5. nearly 44 % of India's rapidly growing carbon emissions have urban origins emanating from transport industry buildings & waste. This highlights the potential benefit of a new model of urban development. (The Report On Urban Poverty UNDP 2014).

6. India provided roughly 28 billion dollars on input subsidies to nitrogenous fertilizers & electricity for pulping agriculture & water in 2010 which was costing high on budget.

7. potential greenhouse gas emission reductions on 200 million tons of CO₂ carbon di oxide equivalent per year have been estimated from more use of fertilizers in china alone & close to 100million tons if CO₂ per year from more efficient use of water in India. India has imported more than half of new coal requirements in recent years (specially in 2014) (Rudra Prakash Pradhan- Does

Infrastructure Play An Important Role In Urbanization 2013).

These & such other related causes are making urban infrastructural collapse as governments are finding it difficult to control urban expansion. The infrastructure which mainly includes transportation such as construction of subways , metros lanes ,bus terminals ,rail junctions - Every year 350-400kms of metro construction is necessary to meet the demands of urbanization which calls for heavy capital investment in infrastructure. Besides health care which is causing lot of problems in urban areas has to be attended. The educational spread, social service sector inequities, environmental patterns etc call for building of inclusive societies. (United Nations expert group meeting on building inclusive societies 2012).

National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM): The Govt. of India announced new urban poverty alleviation scheme namely National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), which replaced the old scheme of SJSRY.

The Objectives: The NULM is launched with the objective to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable



basis, through building strong grassroots level institutions of the poor. The mission would aim at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner. In addition, the mission would also address livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, and social security and to the urban street vendors for accessing emerging market opportunities

The Funding Process

The NULM will be funded by Government of India and State Government in the ratio of 75:25

Components Of NULM -The major components of NULM are as under:

1. Social Mobilization And Institution Development (SM&ID)
2. Employment Through Skills Training & placement (EST&P)
3. Self-employment programme (SEP)
4. Support to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV)
5. Scheme of Shelter For Urban Homeless (SUH)

In the 12th Five Year Plan, NULM will be implemented in all the cities with a population of 100,000 or more as per 2011 Census and in cities/towns having District Headquarters. As per above criteria, only 22 towns (all 21 District HQ

towns and Bahadurgarh being above one lakh population) of the State will be covered under NULM.

1.The entire exercise of socio-Economic & caste census-2011 (SECC-2011) for both the areas (rural and urban has already been completed in the State and the fresh lists of urban poor are expected from the Government. These listed categories have to be addressed immediately.

2.The Department is in process of deciding the procedure for providing qualitative skill training to urban poor with the assistance of Technical Education boards, ITI, Higher Educational institutions etc

3. The Administrative Approval for the construction of Shelters at four towns (Hisar, Yamunanagar, Rewari and Thaneshar) has already been communicated. These shelters should afford a living standard for urban poor.

4. The ULB s has already initiated the action for the identification of Street Vendors & other such categorized business people.

Challenges

1. Initiated the action for the identification of poor & marginalized section of all areas needs to be analyzed in a new direction



2. Urban weaker sections are roughly migrant laborers hence the programs to alleviate them have to be stepped up.
3. The procedure for providing qualitative skill training to urban poor is full of challenges.
4. The entire exercise of socio economic census survey listing the new weaker sections in urban areas is a more rigorous activity which needs an integrated approach.
5. The attempt of inclusiveness will become a success if it is devoid of internal contradictions India a multi plural society there are multitude of limitations the inclusive society building should become a top priority it should be viewed as a national strategy for nationalism building. It is furtherance of the concept of Nationalism political freedom & socio- economic emancipation. Urban India which has been breeding ground of economic disparity, income disproportion, imbalanced life styles, inconsistent health diminutives need to be addressed immediately.

Conclusion – Thus the Indian urbanization which is considered a bane now can become a boon if mechanisms are mastered for optimal benefits. Countries across the globe have paid great attention to the urbanizations hence their urban economy is a

boost to the development of the country. India being an emerging economy need to solve the dichotomy between urban & metro center & plan strategically in planning urbanization towards reaping best economic growth. The governments should phase out direct agricultural input subsidies & redirect the savings to pay for the provision of social goods & provide more direct support to low income farmers.

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