

Sustainable & Equitable Bhubaneswar City

(Report of the Seminar held on 17th & 18th November, 2015)

Facilitating Organisations :



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Consulting Organizations:



OCHA
Bhubaneswar



Executive Summary

Bhubaneswar, widely known as the temple city of Odisha, is also the capital city of the state. The modern city of Bhubaneswar was designed by the German architect Otto Konigsberger in 1946. Like Chandigarh and Jamshedpur, it is one of the first planned cities of India. Over years the city has grown manifold. Based on the survey conducted by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation in 1999 about one-third of city's population are living in slums and the slum pockets are distributed across the city. Slums are devoid of services, prone to all types of natural hazards, having poor living standard and high health risks. The number of slum pockets in Bhubaneswar has grown from 7 in 1971 to 377 in 2009. By the end of 2014 it has crossed more than 400 slum pockets. The demographic dynamics of Bhubaneswar poses multiple challenges which call upon concerted efforts towards sustainability. People's Vision of the City (PVOC) Programme being spearheaded by ActionAid is only a forum which collectivizes the thought processes of diverse stakeholders' affiliated with Bhubaneswar city in one way or other.

People's vision of the city is a citizens' campaign to plan and design socially just, equitable and environmentally sustainable cities. The programme is designed and initiated by ActionAid and Citizens Rights Collectives (CiRiC) as a part of the overall need to design and plan just equitable and sustainable cities. Since last couple of months the programme has been initiated in Odisha. As a part of this exercise several consultations had been organized separately by involving different categories of citizens. The consolidation of all the consultation proceedings had prompted ActionAid and its partner organizations for conducting a National level Seminar to reorient the issue of People's Vision for the city programme by involving a cross section of people to articulate their views in a common platform so that there would be stock taking of the programme in Bhubaneswar relative to other cities where similar programmes has already been commenced. Incidentally after the basic initiatives undertaken by ActionAid, the city has also been included under the "Smart City" programme of the Government of India. The two days Seminar on "Sustainable & Equitable Bhubaneswar City" was organised at Bhubaneswar on 17th and 18th November 2015.

In the inaugural session it was unearthed that on the top of massive urbanization, developing urban infrastructure in terms of housing and

other inter related social infrastructure requires massive investment which apparently seem to be a challenge for the planners and policy makers. Given a number of compulsions, the Govt. is confronted with the level of planning for slum development and rural development. Clean drinking water is a serious problem as most of the surface water resources are contaminated. The speakers and participants had raised concern for required vision of planners and people for this problem and the possible ways for people to contribute towards the solution of it. It was reiterated that Instead of massive development of Bhubaneswar City, there should be systematic development of many urban centres at least all block headquarters so that unwanted urbanization could be prevented.

In the first technical session it was discussed that the process of urban inclusion requires a changed process of Governance perhaps going to be touched upon by "smart city initiatives". Expanded economic activity in urban areas necessitates expanded people's responsibility. The importance of legislative process towards urban inclusion programme was highlighted. The "Word Sabha" being undertaken in the urban areas should have more representation of people from cross sections of the society so that a proper urban development mechanism could be ensured. Participation of citizens in the development process and planning is the key towards equitable and sustainable development. The declining economic base in rural areas in favour of urban economic base constitutes the necessary and sufficient condition for the present day urbanization. Notwithstanding the growing employment scope in rural areas due to the policy thrusts, people are moving to urban areas. Incidentally there is no employment generation programmes in urban areas. So to counter the tempo of migration, there should be a tolerable, acceptable and realistic migration policy.

The second technical session mostly discussed the rights issues of the slum dwellers in the context of many parts of India and World, the Millennium Development Goals in the context of urban poverty and social insecurity particularly in the context of slum dwellers. Urbanization problems in India was discussed on the top of four snapshots viz i. Slums are the source of solution and certainly it should not be bulldozed rather there should be city wide upgradation of slums; ii. Indian urbanization and more broadly Asiatic urbanization is special and unique where people construct their own house without much external support from

contractors, engineers and architects. iii. Construction of poverty line by the economists is based on false procedures and people living in slums know better measures to calculate poverty in their community. iv. Urbanization is basically a social transformation. Urbanization is firmly rooted against pathetic and inhuman situations which were viewed to be as urban dilemma. As significant majority of our people despite staying even in metro cities have a distinct socio cultural link with rural hinterlands, so the western type of city process or urban planning may not be sustainable. If the urban world and civilization want to survive and produce peace and happiness for their populace, they need different kind of growth, technology, energy, institute of economics , governance, vision, and, of course, a different type of "development". Both benchmarks and goals must change. So also the measuring yard-sticks for development should change. It was viewed that urbanization can't be sustainable in the long run and there should be rural renewal programmes so that people will not migrate to urban areas to search their livelihood under distress conditions.

The subsequent technical sessions discussed urbanization of Bhubaneswar in the context of smart city initiatives. Achieving sustainable development, increasing the quality of life of citizens, and improving the efficiency of the existing and new infrastructure constitute to be the important goals of smart city programme. Since 1961, the population of the city as well as density of population of the city has steadily increased. As per 2011 census data, population of the city stood at 837737 as against only 16512 in 1951. Similarly population density has also witnessed staggering rise to the extent of 5272 in 2011 relative to only 633 in 1951. From 1951 to 2001 the city has increased its population 40 times and the land area increased only to 5 times. During 50 years from 1951 to 2001, the municipality area has increased from 26.09 Km² to 137.7 Km². Bhubaneswar Development Plan Area (BDPA) covers an area of 419.1 sq.kms. BDPA comprises of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Khurda Municipality, Jatani Municipality and adjoining 122 Mouzas. It was discussed that the housing requirements in Bhubaneswar are changing due to high population growth and to accommodate more housing for this population, there is a growing need to assess the existing housing scenario and future housing demand. One of the projections stated that there would be 3000000 population with density of population to the extent of 7158 by the year 2030 in Bhubaneswar Development Plan Area. The existing 13, 70,000 BDPA populace growing

to 30, 00,000 by 2030, and an addition of 16, 30,000 people requires 3, 60, 000 dwelling units. Existing backlog is already around 15220 dwelling units. Qualitative shortage and obsolescence raises the total BDPA housing requirement in 2030 to 4, 31,915 dwelling units. LIG and EWS section counts more than 90% of the total housing shortage.

In the context of urban livelihood it was stated that equitable distribution of resources and livelihood creation should be an integral part of smart city programme. There is urgent necessity of skill development of children remaining with parents living in slums. Town vending zones need to be created in large scale keeping in view the requirements of the vendors in all parts of the city. Most of the urban problems are attributed to development imbalance. Despite Supreme Court's direction for recognizing transgender community as special category, nowhere either at society level or at Govt. level they are fairly treated. Trans gender's vision is never taken into account at any public discourse.

While wrapping up the seminar, it was stated that since 2002 ActionAid has been continuously engaged itself in the campaigning process of urban sensitization programme for the sake of an inclusive and plural society. It has continuously influenced local bodies for better decision making process for the benefits of citizens. In this context People's vision for the Bhubaneswar city, the process is just the beginning and ActionAid will further intensify its meeting process by considering different types of action groups.

There is need for Housing Continuum, Rights Continuum and Justice Continuum. It is appropriate that all the dynamics of inclusion need to be considered in the context of inclusive city programme. On the basis of certain parameters there is need for preparing urban monitors. It was indicated that an alternative model for Bhubaneswar which requires some basic and issue based ground research works for bolstering the current thought process. In the name of smart city programme, resources should not be wasted. City making is an art which requires involvement of community, activists, Artists/ Designers and most prominently academicians, the four actors. However equity in the system of justice and governance should be ensured. There should be the sole responsibility of a group of people regarding urban vision making exercise. Every time in all possible consultations civil society should come with alternative ideas for the successful planning exercise.

INTRODUCTION

People's vision of the city is a citizens' campaign to plan and design socially just, equitable and environmentally sustainable cities. The programme is designed and initiated by ActionAid and Citizens Rights Collectives (CiRiC) as a part of the overall need to design and plan just equitable and sustainable cities. Since last six months the programme has been initiated in Odisha by ActionAid in collaboration with NIDI and CCWD, two Odisha based leading NGOs. As a part of this exercise several consultations have been organized separately by involving different categories of citizens. The consolidation of all the consultation proceedings prompted ActionAid and its partner organizations for conducting a national level seminar on this emerging issue of People's Vision of the City (PVoC) programme by involving a cross sections of people to articulate their views in a common platform so that there would be stock taking of the programme in Bhubaneswar relative to other cities where similar programmes have already been commenced. Incidentally after the basic initiatives undertaken by ActionAid, the city has also been included under the "Smart City" programme of the Government of India. Rightly speaking, the seminar is at the point of intersection between People's Vision of the City Programme in terms of governance and inclusive city based on equitable distribution of resources and smart city programmes. This seminar unravels the issues and possibilities in terms of people's thoughts in line with people's vision of the city programme and explores the dreams of people in line with "Smart City Programme" of the Government of India being implemented by 'Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation'.

The two day Seminar on "Sustainable and Equitable Bhubaneswar city" was organized at Bhubaneswar on 17th and 18th November 2015.

Objectives of the Seminar

In the opening remark on the broad theme of the seminar "Vision to make Bhubaneswar a sustainable city", after the welcome address to the guests and participants, Mr Ranjan Kumar Rout mentioned briefly about the objectives of the seminar in the context of ever growing city of

Bhubaneswar soon after its creation in 1950s. The demographic dynamics of Bhubaneswar poses multiple challenges which call upon concerted efforts towards sustainability. People's Vision of the City Programme being spearheaded by ActionAid is only a forum which collectivizes the thought processes of diverse stakeholders' affiliated with Bhubaneswar city in one way or other. It was also mentioned By Shri Ghasiram Panda of ActionAid that in the context of aforesaid background the seminar on sustainable and equitable Bhubaneswar city had covered various themes for discussion by involving a cross section of participants from various walks of life including intellectuals, social researchers, scientists, environmentalists, architects, urban planners, politicians, activists working for the rights of urban people, general public, representatives of different community based organizations like Auto Rickshaw Association, Slum Dwellers Associations, Rag Pickers Association, NGOs specifically working on urban issues, etc.

The details of the list of participants is shown in Annexure-I. The various sessions encompassing a gamut of issues covered for discussion is shown in Box-1 alongside.

	Inauguration
Technical Session-I :	Sustainable and Equitable City- Governance, Inclusion and Equity
Technical Session-II :	Urban Sustainable Development Goals and SMART City
Technical Session-III :	Impact of Climate Change and Possible Strategies
Technical Session-IV :	Sustainable City- Physical and Social Infrastructure Development
Technical Session-V :	Urban Livelihood, Employment Guarantee and Skill Building
Technical Session-VI :	Urban Commons: Public Services and Spaces
	Valedictory

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was presided by Shri Kirtee Shah, President of Ahmadabad based Habitat Forum INHAF and other guests were Shri Bhawani Charan Patnaik, freedom fighter and noted columnist in Odisha; and Shri Er. Dilip Sahu, a Bhubaneswar based city development activist. Welcoming the guests to the dice Mr Ranjan Kumar Rout undertook the responsibly of ice breaking by stating that there has been tremendous urbanization process in Bhubaneswar during last six decades soon after the creation of Bhubaneswar city. In this process more than 150 revenue villages have been included under Bhubaneswar. There has been mushrooming growth of apartments. City has witnessed spectacular growth in terms of horizontal and vertical expansion.

Shri Kirtee Shah emphasized on the key issues of urban sustainable development. He stated that sustainable city framework is a very broad concept in the context of its pluralism in habitation and activities undertaken in the various habitats. He stated that age old maxim of 'India of villages' is slowly dying out for 'India of cities'. "City Space" constitutes to be a major challenge not only in India but also in majority of Asiatic countries. He gave an estimated statistics that daily 1,40,000 people from rural areas come to urban areas in Asia and every minute 30 people in India come to urban areas leaving behind their rural



habitations. Such an urbanization race is unprecedented. As a result of it, most of the big cities across world have already grown to maximum limits. Such type of swift urbanization process is attributed to the policy emphasis on industrialization led urbanization as postulated growth models by economists. This process as he indicated that changed development directions is the principal reason for urbanization. So many push factors like non- economic land holdings due to continuous division of land holdings, non- remunerative farm income and urban pull factors like easy availability of employment opportunities and the differentials in earnings, perceived cleanliness availability of important services like health and education are fuelling the urbanization process elsewhere in the world. On the top of massive urbanization, developing urban infrastructure in terms of housing and other inter related social infrastructure requires massive investment which apparently seem to be a challenge for the planners and policy makers.

Slum growth and lack of employment due to more supply of labour are the key issues surrounding the urban planning. In this context he linked the discussion to the forthcoming HABITAT-III to be held at Kyoto where Sustainable City habitat would be widely discussed in the context of policy, resources, technology and organisation structure for better urban planning. Government of India has undertaken a series of initiatives for Smart City Programme, AMRIT and Housing for All (50 million houses in urban areas and 30 million houses in rural areas). Given a number of compulsions, the Govt. is confronted with the level of planning for slum development and rural development.

He stated that given the pace of urbanization, the type of society to be developed is supposed to constitute a major component of urban planning. It is not only the responsibility of government but also the responsibility of people. Prevention of waste through controlled consumption is also a prime requirement of urban planning. He narrated it by quoting statistics that 2 percent of the land mass of the world is occupied by all urban centers and the urbanites do consume 70 percent of the world GDP and they also contribute to 75 percent of the overall world- wide pollution. Clean drinking water is a serious problem as most of the surface water resources are contaminated. What is the vision of planners and people for this problem; what are the ways for people to contribute towards the solution of it; are some of the question marks imposed by Mr Shah in his deliberation.

Shri Bhawani Charan Patnaik in his speech enunciated the historical link between present day Bhubaneswar and its long past. He stated that Bhubaneswar was selected as capital city from 4 alternative urban centers like Choudwar, Rangeilunda, Bhubaneswar and Dhenkanal. He emphasized due to massive conversion of agricultural lands for urban space and large scale in-migration of rural people to urban areas, 'food production' is being adversely affected. He indicated that instead of massive development of Bhubaneswar City there should be systematic development of many urban centers at least all block headquarters so that unwanted urbanization could be prevented. He also pointed out that mushrooming growth of licensed country spirit shops in different habitations is contributing to urban odds in terms of crimes. His presentation was moderated by Mr Ranjan Rout that Large Scale Rural Development is of immense importance for reducing the pressure in urban areas.

At the end of this session, Shri Dillip Sahu gave vote of thanks to the dignitaries chairing this session and stated that detecting crime, maintaining law and order, provision of safe public transportation need to be the important provisions under smart city programme.

Issues emerged

- On the top of massive urbanization, developing urban infrastructure in terms of housing and other inter related social infrastructure requires massive investment which apparently seem to be a challenge for the planners and policy makers.
- Given a number of compulsions, the Govt. is confronted with the level of planning for slum development and rural development.
- Clean drinking water is a serious problem as most of the surface water resources are contaminated. What is the vision of planners and people for this problem; what are the ways for people to contribute towards the solution of it; are some of the question marks.
- Instead of massive development of Bhubaneswar City there should be systematic development of many urban centers at least all block headquarters so that unwanted urbanization could be prevented.

Technical Session-I : Sustainable and Equitable City- Governance, Inclusion and Equity

This technical session was presided by Shri Panchanan Kanungo, Former Finance Minister, Government of Odisha and the panelists of this session were Prof P. Karmakar, Department of Architect, CET, Bhubaneswar; Prof S N Patro, President, Odisha Environment Society and Shri Karunakar Patnaik, IAS (Retd.).

Mr. Karmakar presented a seminar paper titled "Equitable Development for Sustainability through Institutional Intervention in Housing for All". By studying 50 slums he found that poor people pay more rate of interest through SHGs. Through his paper he advocated an employment model for slum people that one day compulsory savings per week can salvage the slum dweller's dependency on external money lenders including SHGs. He also advocated for Beneficiary Institutions Partnership Model (BIPM) through which there would be minimum 20-25 percent beneficiary contribution for development intervention including housing. He suggested the requirement for skill development trainings to the slum people. Apart from it there should be slum corpus fund partially supported by Government and its proper utilization needs to be ensured.

Shri Karunakar Patnaik in his deliberation mentioned that the world is moving towards Brazilization and by 2030 more than half of the world population would be living in urban areas. By Brazilisation he explained that Brazil is the only country in the world where maximum proportion of people as high as 85 percent living in urban areas. He stated that slum development is not the only solution for urban development. Since constitution creation there is no systematic provision for the urban local bodies as it is for rural areas. The process of urban inclusion requires a changed process of Governance perhaps going to be touched upon by "smart city initiatives". Expanded economic activities in urban areas necessitate expanded people's responsibility. He highlights the importance of legislative process towards urban inclusion programme. He further mentioned that the "Ward Sabha" being undertaken in the urban areas should have more representation of people from cross sections of the society, so that a proper urban development mechanism could be ensured. Participation of citizens in the development process and planning is the key towards equitable and sustainable development. In order to establish causality for urbanization he

mentioned that the declining economic base in rural areas in favour of urban economic base constitute the necessary and sufficient condition for the present day urbanization. Notwithstanding the growing employment scope in rural areas due to the policy thrusts, people are moving to urban areas. Incidentally there is no employment generation programmes in urban areas. So to counter the tempo of migration, there should be a tolerable, acceptable and realistic migration policy.

Shri S N Patro in his presentation covered a set of visualizations on the smart city initiatives being undertaken for Bhubaneswar. Being an environmentalist he approached smart city initiatives necessarily imply as a city with low carbon economy life style, healthy environment, and



good sanitation free from open defecation. Added to these, rich culture, quality education, better health, better transport, and better communication networks, respect for senior citizens, safety and peace for the inhabitants, good governance are other areas for which smart city initiative need to be focused. He advocated for simple life style based on the principle equity could be antidote for combating the growing menaces of urbanization. Urban community should pay more priority to the use of renewable energy sources. He mentioned that Bhubaneswar is having plenty of solar light radiations and strong wind waves, so there is good deal of scope for harnessing solar and wind energy. There should be mechanisms for waste recycling particularly management of solid waste. In his paper he revealed the relative efficiency of different type of waste recycling techniques.

He uses the term smart building which is capable of generating more solar energy and uses less gadgets. He also emphasized on slaughter house management, heritage conservation, maintenance of green cover around the city and prudent use of natural resources particularly water. He suggested for water harvesting pits should be mandatorily built by every household. BMC should facilitate people who conserve energy and pro environmental activities in the municipal area.

Regarding slum dwellers his presentation pitched for all round development of slums in terms of electricity supply, connection of drainage/sewerage pits, sanitation facilities as the inhabitants of slums are basic service providers in the city. They provide innumerable services through domestic helps, carpenters, priests, milkman, newspaper supply, construction workers and many others. In order to ensure equitable living his presentation indicated for the need of night shelter homes and day care homes to rehabilitate the homeless people and beggars. He also emphasized the need of proper caring of pets and domestic animals as the utility is appropriated by the owner and disutility is imposed on society. Some control mechanism also needs to be taken care of for stray dogs that contribute to road accidents and environmental un-cleanliness by defecating anywhere else. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation in consultation with state pollution control board should design proper slaughter houses with design of proper effluent treatment facility. The rich carbon source from concrete jungles should be adequately compensated by massive tree plantation in all areas of Bhubaneswar. In the concluding part of his presentation he posed several dilemmas such as without fossil fuel based transport and fossil fuel based transport; development versus destruction; Protect or perish etc. Ultimately he strongly advocated for low carbon life style based upon conservation of energy and environment as supposed to be the bedrock of smart city initiative elsewhere in the country.

While presenting the presidential remarks of the first technical session, Shri Panchanan Kanungo defined smart city should be one where there is quick service provisioning. People should be more organized professionally. Even a maid's service should be readily available over a phone call. Similarly the services of the masons, carpenters, construction workers etc. should be accessible. So he implicitly pointed out the transformation of informal and unorganized labour force towards more formal and organized behaviour of labour. He recalled the new master plan for Bhubaneswar which was created in the year 2002-03 was not implemented due to lack of political will. Had it been implemented since then, at least few of the current urban problems would have been solved. A city free from beggars and child labour also talks many things

about an inclusive society. An inclusive society is a primary step towards an inclusive city. In this context the role of NGOs is assumed to be of critical significance because NGOs would be required for protecting the interest of children and women. Regarding migration of rural people to urban areas, he mentioned that the dynamics of social transformation makes people compact with their own caste ridden rural environment for which they tend to migrate to urban areas.

He further mentioned that urban glitches continue to be exacerbated due to lack of governance and lack of awareness of people for better services by exercising their rights. Better governance coupled with responsible citizenship through exercising their rights are two fundamental prerogatives for urban inclusion programme. He also mentioned about the urgency of harnessing clean solar energy for energy sufficiency. People are de-motivated to use solar energy as they are unable to sell the excess energy. Taking cognizance of it, he urged for a clear cut Govt. policy for transformation of excess energy.

Issues Emerged

- Once a person stays in a slum, from the next moment he starts thinking that his development is supposed to be the responsibility of the Government. So there is also need of expectation management of the slum dwellers through alternative financial models.
- There is lot of requirement for skill development training to the slum people.
- The “Word Sabha” being undertaken in the urban areas should have more representation of people from cross sections of people so that a proper urban development mechanism could be ensured.
- To counter the tempo of migration, there should be a tolerable, acceptable and realistic migration policy.
- There is good deal of scope for harnessing solar and wind energy. There should be mechanisms for waste recycling particularly management of solid waste.
- Water harvesting pits should be mandatorily built by every household. BMC should facilitate people who conserve energy and pro environmental activities in the municipal area.

- Low carbon life style based upon conservation of energy and environment as supposed to be the bedrock of smart city initiative.
- Municipal Corporation in consultation with state pollution Control Board should design proper slaughter houses with design of proper effluent treatment facility.
- Smart city should be one where there is quick service provisioning. People should be more organized professionally. Even a maid's service should be readily available over a phone call. Similarly the services of the masons, carpenters, construction workers etc. should be accessible.
- A city free from beggars and child labour also talks many things about an inclusive society. An inclusive society is a primary step towards an inclusive city.
- People are de-motivated to use solar energy as they are unable to sell the excess energy. Taking cognizance of it, he urged for a clear cut Govt. policy for transformation of excess energy.

Technical Session-II : Urban Sustainable Development Goals and SMART City

This session was chaired by Prof Radhamohan and the panelists were Mrs. Madhumita Rath, and Shri Kirtee Shah.

Mrs. Madhumita Rath, Public Relations Officer, BDA highlighted the various components of smart city initiative in Bhubaneswar. She reiterated the need of people's involvement in the smart city planning exercise which is currently going on. She pointed out the advantages and disadvantages of staying in urban/city centers. Traffic problems, crimes, pollutions are some of the major problems witnessed in urban areas on daily basis. Government is very much keen to solve all the problems of slum dwellers on the top of Millennium Development Goal (MDG). End of poverty and ensuring food security constitutes to be no. 1 goal of MDG. She had emphasized that amenities like housing, health, education, open space and parks etc are very much required for all categories of people. Inclusive urban space is possible only when all sections of people have equal access to basic amenities. Taking the smart city concept more broad based, she emphasized on gender based safety and equity. For wider participation of public in the planning exercise of smart city programme, Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation is in the process of organizing people's comments, and views through Facebook platforms.

In reaction to her presentation, representatives of transgender community viewed that there should be some specific provisions for them in accessing public amenities like health, education and housing. Members of Rickshaw Pullers' Association expressed that they have rights in terms of job cards, water facility and electricity. Smart city initiatives should take care of their issues. Members of Waste Workers' Associations also put forth their demands for social security provisions. Some members suggested that there should be more emphasis on rain water harvesting structures in Bhubaneswar considering there has been ubiquitous use of ground water in Bhubaneswar in recent years. People also suggested for public involvement in the word committee decisions. It was also suggested for adequate parking space at Bus Stand, Railway Station and Air Port.

In this session Shri Kirtee Shah presented a thought provoking, highly researched and empirically robust paper titled "What should change for the cities to be Sustainable". The paper draws his own experience of



studying urbanization process and raising rights issues of the slum dwellers in many parts of India and World. He highlighted the Millennium Development Goals in the context of urban poverty and social insecurity particularly in the context of slum dwellers. He provided urbanization problems in India considering four snapshots viz i. Slums are the source of solution and certainly it should not be bulldozed rather there should be city wide up-gradation of slums; ii. Indian urbanization and more broadly Asiatic urbanization is special and unique where people construct their own house without much external support from contractors, engineers and architects. iii. Construction of poverty line by the economists is based on false procedures and people living in slums know better measures to calculate poverty in their community. iv. Urbanization is basically a social transformation.

He explained the dilemma of urbanization symbolically by way of explaining massive urbanization problems of Delhi- Political Capital of India, Mumbai-Financial capital of India and Varanasi-Religious capital of India. Delhi is having one of the worst air quality among the major cities in the world where breathing is a grave problem but massive urbanization. In Mumbai more than 50 percent of its people live in slums but there is massive urbanization. In Varanasi, the lifeline water flowing in Ganga basin is worst polluted but there is also massive urbanization. Through these symbolic narratives, Mr Shah tried to postulate that urbanization is firmly rooted against pathetic and inhuman situations. He was quite unsure about any positive change despite the policies like Housing for All, AMRUT and smart cities. Given the gaps in institutions

capacity, resource mobilization and the level of implementation, there will not be any change even in 2025, he added. On the basis of certain calculations he projected that there will not be any dream city and there will not be any different city even in 2025.

Over years our planners and policy makers have always relied on western experts for the solution of our own urban problems where around 90 percent of the economic activities originate in the informal sectors. They have always relied on external models, ideas and designing their own cities. In this context he cited the example of Amravati, the futuristic capital city of Telengana. The design of the city is made by some Singapore firm and the people of the state are going to sacrifice some 85000 hectares of virgin farm land along Krishna - Godavari basin which is traditionally considered as the rice bowl of India. He questioned the genuineness and sustainability of this massive urbanization process given the huge financial burden and huge sacrifice of the farmers by diverting their farm lands. He considered instead of creating new cities, it would be better to renew, repair or improve the existing cities. He emphasized on low cost cities which would be sustainable in nature. He mentioned that in a globalized world there is nothing wrong to borrow ideas but it should be fine-tuned according to our needs and aspirations. He stated that significant majority of our people despite staying even in metro cities have a distinct socio cultural link with rural hinterlands. So the western type of city process or urban planning may not be sustainable. He advocated for low cost but sustainable houses in urban areas. He insisted that city designing should vehemently consider our own culture, our socio economic nature, our technology and our system in order to become sustainable. Because of these considerations the city Chandigarh is still sustainable and Amravati is being based upon imported concepts and ideas, its sustainability is perceived to be bleak.

In the concluding part he tried to answer the question he imposed in the background of his presentation. His question was "What should change for the cities to become sustainable?" Answering this he told that urbanization problems are due to our consciously made previous policies and development models. If our policies and models change once again, our urbanization trends and cities will also change. There is nothing inevitable about it. Cities as we had been told as engines of economic growth, but current learnings indicate cities are produced

due to economic growth. If the urban world and civilization want to survive and produce peace and happiness for their populace, we need different kind of growth, technology, energy, institute of economics , governance, vision, and of course, a different type of "development". Both our bench marks and goals must change. So also the measuring yard-sticks will change. There is declining urban poverty and increasing number of urban slums. So the methodology to measure poverty should also undergo changes. There should be best possible energy planning and technology planning. Till now our policy makers adopt different approaches for the solution of rural and urban problems. Our experience suggests that both problems are very much interrelated and interwoven. Steps need to be initiated to solve both categories of problems simultaneously not through water tight compartments. His paper ultimately reaches at a culmination point that present urbanization based development model of India has forced people to leave their roots and comfort zone to migrate to cities. He stated migration is not bad. It created the world's most powerful and prosperous nation- USA. However, distress/ forced migration are the problem. It is the lack of option. He viewed that "informality" of the Indian/South Asian cities--informal systems, informal production processes, informal transaction methods, informal delivery system, even informal economy etc. - are another dimension of making the Indian cities smart and sustainable. But Planners, administrators and the upper crust of the urban society are hostile to them. It is seen as "un-urban", "backward", un-smart, illegal and "unauthorized". Rejecting something as ingrained and innate as informality is walking against gravity. It can be done but demands much effort and energy. He advocates for good deal of planning around the informality of Indian cities. Moderating Kirtee Shah's presentation, Prof Radhamohan, Chairman of the session strongly pointed out that urbanization can't be sustainable in the long run. There should be rural renewal programmes so that people will not migrate to urban areas to search their livelihood under distress conditions. He alarms the urban centers will break down soon.

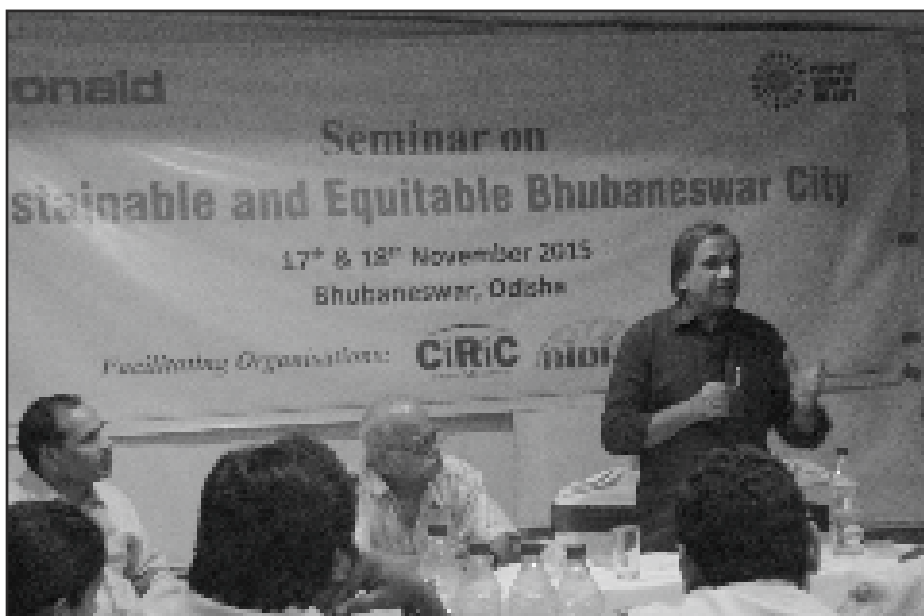
Issues Emerged

- Slums are the source of solution and certainly it should not be bulldozed rather there should be city wide Up gradation of slums.
- City designing should vehemently consider our own culture, our socio economic nature, our technology and our system in order to become sustainable.
- There should be rural renewal programmes so that people will not migrate to urban areas to search their livelihood under distress conditions.

Technical Session-III: Impact of Climate Change and Possible Strategies

This session was presided by Shri Aurobindo Behera, IAS (Retd.). Shri Prafulla Ku Dhal and Shri Nadia Chand Kanungo were the two other panelists.

Mr. Prafulla Ku Dhal presented his paper on the theme of equitable, inclusive and sustainable Bhubaneswar. He defined the goals of smart city initiative and its different components. Urban job creation, urban mobility, urban energy, urban water and sanitation, urban resilience and urban safety, are the important goals of smart city programme. Managing urban sprawl, designing urban policy, citizens participation in planning are some of its designated components towards sustainable cities and human settlements. He quotes that "The Smart Cities Mission is



a bold new initiative by the Government of India to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to create smart outcomes for citizens."The aim of Smart city Bhubaneswar is directed towards Child-friendly city providing accessible, safe, inclusive and vibrant public places; Transit oriented city with a compact urban form that promotes active, connected and sustainable mobility choices;

Livable city providing diverse range of housing, educational and recreational opportunities; while enhancing its heritage, arts and traditional communities; and to act as a regional economic centre attracting knowledge based enterprises and sustainable tourism activities by leveraging and empowering its institutions, local businesses and informal workforce (Quoted from BMC documents, 2015).

He indicated that ORSAC has been appointed by BMC to do land survey for smart city programme. According to the image maps of ORSAC a very compact area covering 677 acres of the total land mass of Bhubaneswar is initially considered for smart city programme. The total population of this compact area is only 27477 (2011 census data) who are supposed to be initially benefited from this programme. He mentioned that there is cost recovery programme to the extent of 32 percent for supplying clean water to the people under smart city programme. So user fees more than the present rate would be charged by BMC. He mentioned that such type of steps by BMC is due to poor involvement of citizens in the planning exercise. He reiterated that the community Participation law under 74th Amendment Act (1994) envisages structural institutions and legal entities like Areas Sabhas (AS) and Ward Committees at the ward level is missing (not formed as on date) in Bhubaneswar city which restricts true participation of the urban poor (60 %above population including slums and invisible groups) and at ward levels and city as a whole. This needs to be corrected. Aligned with this, there is another law called Public Disclosure Law (PDL) which envisages transparency and accountability in governance for which BMC has mandatorily to inform and sharing about its work to the citizens. It will enhance citizen's awareness on civic affairs and empower them to get engaged in civic lives as an active citizen not as a passive one as it now exists. True participation can be possible only when people will know their problems and their rights as well as entitlements under the laws and the technical modalities to solve them in city system framework governance processes. The BMC has a duty to create an enabling environment for citizen's participation. This is found deliberately missing in Bhubaneswar. So he viewed that enlighten citizens and involving them in the decision making process is very much important. He also suggested for property rights to slum dwellers need to be considered as land rights but not as floor rights. He also mentioned that 25 wards out of 67 wards are continuously complaining water logging due to climate variations. About 61% of the city is under extreme to moderate cyclone risk while 59% is under extreme to moderate urban flood risk. Almost 50% of the city is under extreme to moderate earthquake risk. In this background climate resilience strategy should be a part of the overall strategy of the

smart city programme.

Mr Nadia Chand Kanungo told that sustainability means dignity of life. The concept sustainability has lost its relevance in recent times. Now the buzz word is progressive sustainability. He advocated for ground water management strategies in Bhubaneswar as most of the wetland pockets of the city have been lost in recent years owing to the massive construction works. As a result of the loss of wetland there is ground water depletion which is going to be a challenge in near future. He also emphasized that there should be conservation of bio diversity and protection to Eastern Ghats hill ranges. Protecting the social environment of people is of crucial significance. Above all rural smartness need to precede smart city programme. The smart city programme is just car without a gear.

While giving his presidential remarks, Shri Aurobindo Behera raised his concern that can urban population be fixed or capped? Answer is certainly not. People always move from backward regions to developed regions. They will not move if the source regions of migration are developed much strongly people will stop coming to urban areas. Of course, as he mentioned that a city like Bhubaneswar without having any manufacturing base could be fixed to some extent. This is considered because over-crowding in Bhubaneswar does not mean better life here. Regarding smart city initiatives he told that people should be smart enough to handle waste. They should be involved in the planning process. He concluded by saying that smart city is not a welcome measure and it has no implications.

Issues Emerged

- There is cost recovery programme to the extent of 32 percent for supplying clean water to the people under smart city programme. So user fees more than the present rate would be charged by BMC.
- The BMC has a duty to create an enabling environment for citizen's participation. This is found deliberately missing in Bhubaneswar.
- Can urban population be fixed or capped?

Technical Session-IV: Physical and Social Infrastructure Development

This was an important technical session of the second day of the seminar being presided over by Sri Indu Prakash, CiRiC. Sri Jagadananda, Former State Information Commissioner; Dr. Mayaarni Praharaj of CET Bhubaneswar, Mr. Kirtee Shah of Ahmadabad Study Action Group and Mr. Udif Mittal, a Bhubaneswar based Architect were the important dignitaries contributed as panelists.

Mr. Jagadananda made his presentation in an interactive mode with the audience. First he asked a question - what are the important problems faced by Bhubaneswarites on their day to day life? The list of answers were pretty long as

- There is no link between urbanization and urban policy.
- There is messed up public infrastructure.
- Benefits of public Investment are not felt by the people.
- There is no planned construction of sewerage and other public goods such as vending zones
- Within a short time of the creation of public goods again these are dismantled.



- All open spaces are occupied.
- There are no bicycle paths and wherever it exists, it is used either by vendors or motor cyclists.
- There are design faults in the bicycle path.
- There are employment problems, drinking water problems, sewerage problems, water logging problem and so many problems.

Immediately the speaker asked the people what they have done against such anomalies. The answer was silence as people silently bear all the problems in their day to day life. Jagadananda expressed that there is complete lack of citizen involvement in the public affairs which he attributed to lack of participatory governance. He suggested that people should become highly pro- active which is possible only through citizen awareness.

He suggested that people have rights to seek information through RTI. They can have inspected public works as each citizen has the right to inspect the public works under Public Services Guarantee Act. People should develop connectivity with Ward Sabha and Neighborhood Associations as lack of connectivity of people with grassroots level governance institutions is frequently noticed in urban areas.

Jagadananda emphasized on strengthening the link of citizen with Neighborhood Associations and Ward Sabha could provide wonderful results. There should be massive public education programme regarding city administration. A programme like smart city is not the solution given the problems of urban people. He compared smart city programme to mall culture which is supposed not to yield any positive outcome in a heritage and culture bound city Bhubaneswar.

Mr. Kirtee Shah during his presentation in this session focused a six point formula for smart city initiative. He mentioned that the city should be more productive; City should become more inclusive economically, politically and environmentally; the city should become culturally vibrant; the city should be participatory in nature; and city should also become technologically sound. For ensuring these six point formula he stressed that cities are as called as engines of growth for which there should be productive efficiency in the cities. Development destruction needs to be protected. While emphasizing participatory nature of the

city he mentioned that thirty percent of Americans work from their home. Regarding poor governance in cities he mentioned that most of the Municipalities in India are bankrupt. Town planners working in most of the Municipalities have zero efficiency. Above all protection of cities is more important compared to the beautification of the cities. Civil societies need to be more active to review the policies and plans.

This session also witnessed an important paper "Cycling and Social Infrastructure" by Mr. Udit Mittal, an architect by profession and a cyclist by zeal. The crux of the paper is that wherever in the city he commutes, he commutes by his bicycle. In his cycling process he has been able to build a strong network of cyclists in many cities wherever he has stayed for some time. He has created clubs of cycle lovers. The cycle lovers clubs make joy rides and cycle races. But the sorry state of affair is that most part of the city roads are not cycle friendly. Wherever cycle tracks exist these are misused by the vendors, motor cyclists and plantation activities. Cycle is mostly environment friendly, healthier and safe against road accidents. He urges through this forum that a smart city initiative should rightly consider cycle tracks for the people to be motivated to ride bicycles. In his presentation he quotes A vision for Portland in the year 2030 by the Mayor of the city Sam Adams "Imagine if we could invent something that cut road and rail crowding, cut noise, cut pollution and ill-health - something that improved life for everyone, quite quickly, without the cost and disruption of new roads and railways. Well, we invented it 200 years ago: the bicycle." He concludes his presentation by saying that cycling promotes road safety and reduces environmental problems.

Dr. Mayarani Praharaj, of CET, Bhubaneswar presented a paper on "Smart Bhubaneswar we dream of". She stated that achieving sustainable development, increasing the quality of life of citizens, and improving the efficiency of the existing and new infrastructure constitute to be the important goals of smart city programme. Since 1961, the population of the city as well as density of population of the city has steadily increased. As per 2011 census data, population of the city stood at 837737 as against only 16512 in 1951. Similarly population density has also witnessed staggering rise to the extent of 5272 in 2011 relative to only 633 in 1951. From 1951 to 2001 the city has increased its population 40 times and the land area increased only to 5 times. During 50 years from 1951 to 2001, the municipality area has increased from 26.09 Km² to 137.7 Km². Bhubaneswar Development Plan Area (BDPA) covers an

area of 419.1 sq.kms. BDPA comprises of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Khurda Municipality, Jatani Municipality and adjoining 122 Mouzas. She remarked that the housing requirements in Bhubaneswar are changing due to high population growth and to accommodate more housing for this population, there is a growing need to assess the existing housing scenario and future housing demand. In her paper she has projected that there would be 3000000 population with density of population to the extent of 7158 by the year 2030 in Bhubaneswar Development Plan area. She has also estimated the housing requirement as follows:

"The existing 13, 70,000 BDPA populace growing to 30, 00,000 by 2030, and an addition of 16, 30,000 people requires 3, 60,000 dwelling units. Existing backlog is already around 15220 dwelling units. Qualitative shortage and obsolescence raises the total BDPA housing requirement in 2030 to 4, 31,915 dwelling units. LIG and EWS section counts more than 90% of the total housing shortage. At present more than 30% of the population of Bhubaneswar lives in slum areas."

She pointed out that on the basis of 2009 slum survey, Bhubaneswar had 3.50 lakh populations living in 377 slums. She suggested that slum survey need to be integrated with the present land use plan especially in housing category. This will help to provide authorized dwelling units to all slum population to make the city slum free. This is quite important to note that in 1971 there were only 7 slum pockets in Bhubaneswar which has increased to 377 in 2009. Linking it with previous presentations it may be safely stated that rural sector has tremendously failed to equip the livelihood requirements of the rural so that they have been forced to leave their homes for slums in Bhubaneswar. In order to meet the housing requirements of all, she suggested for smart housing policy taking care of energy efficiency, environment efficiency and water efficiency. She reemphasized the need for rain water harvesting for water conservation. Of course it is a standing rule created by the BDA, but nobody is trying to adhere to this norm. As per BDA Bye laws, provision of rain water harvesting is mandatory for all plots, which are more than 300 Sq.m. in area. The dimension of recharging pits/trenches should be at least 6 cubic meters for every 100 Sq. m. of roof area. She also mentioned about another blatant violation of law that in the regular planned neighborhoods and housing colonies, the overall width of the road in many areas does not have any relation with the height of the building. Due to such violations there has been extension of building over public

streets and other open spaces meant for public utilities. Shortage of parking requirements and land use violations have led many new neighborhoods find no place for communal facilities. She hopes that Municipality and BDA should seriously think these issues. In her paper she also took note of certain environmental issues like Bhubaneswar has been experiencing contrasting extreme weather conditions like heat waves since last ten years. The mean daily maximum and minimum temperature of the Bhubaneswar is gradually increasing. Bhubaneswar now has a mean maximum temperature above 40°C which is comparable to Sambalpur located in the interior. The maximum May temperature recorded in the capital in 2002 was 46.1°C followed by 44.9°C in 2003 and 45.1°C in 2004. It was 44°C in 2008 and 42.6°C in 2011 and 45.3° in 2015. She indicated that higher urban temperatures had increased the demand for electricity for cooling and air conditioning in warm conditions which led to an increase in the production of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. These pollutants in turn contributed to increasing temperatures due to the 'greenhouse effect'. In this back ground she has suggested for massive plantation programme should be undertaken in and around Bhubaneswar city. In the massive urbanization process she emphasized for housing regeneration for optimizing space use. As a part of urban transport strategy, her paper made an important suggestion that there has to be a segregated right-of-way for bicycles and pedestrians. In order to achieve the smart city goals she has advocated for involvement of citizens in decision-making processes, new forms of governance and Public-private partnerships and citizen participation for application of smart technology in city planning.

Discussions followed to the presentation

In response to smart city presentation of Mrs. Praharaj representatives of street vendors and transgender and People with Disability expressed that their concerns are not at all reflected although the paper is vociferous regarding several other issues related with smart city programme. Similarly the issue of disaster preparedness is not at all discussed in the presentation although Bhubaneswar city is very much prone to natural disasters. Similarly it was also indicated that in schools fire safety rules are not at all followed. Again the geographic coverage and demographic coverage of the planned smart city programme is too low considering the vastness of Bhubaneswar in terms of geography and demography.

Representatives of slum dwellers' associations indicated that there has been very much slow progress of slum rehabilitation programme in the city.

Moderating the above presentation Shri Jagadananda emphasized that it is time to have vision document by involving the children. Whatever might be the new orientation of the smart city programme of Bhubaneswar city, the heritage statuesque of the city need to be preserved? The interests of the street vendors, hawkers need to be protected. Various citizen forums should be active and need to take time bound initiatives. Shri Kirtee Shah supplementing Jagadananda's remarks pointed out that land issue of the slum dwellers is an important topic in any urban rejuvenation programme and it is very much urgent that there should be city wide up gradation of the existing slums and property rights to the slum dwellers.

Issues Emerged

- There is complete lack of citizen involvement in the public affairs which attributed to lack participatory governance.
- People should develop connectivity with Ward Sabha and Neighborhood Associations.
- A smart city initiative should rightly consider cycle tracks for the people to be motivated to ride bicycles.
- In the regular planned neighborhoods and housing colonies, the overall width of the road in many areas does not have any relation with the height of the building.
- The geographic coverage and demographic coverage of the planned smart city programme is too low considering the vastness of Bhubaneswar in terms of geography and demography.
- The interests of the street vendors, hawkers need to be protected. Various citizen forums should be active and need to take time bound initiatives.
- Land issue of the slum dwellers is an important topic in any urban rejuvenation programme.

Technical Session V : Urban Livelihood, Employment Guarantee and Skill Building

This session was chaired By Shri Rabi Das and the panelists were Mr Mahendra Parida, a Odisha based Trade Union Leader, Mr Ramakrushna Panda, General Secretary, AITUC, Odisha, Mr Panchanan Senapati, Hind MazdoorSangha, and Megna Sahu, a transgender representative.

While giving his opening remarks of the session, chairman outlined some of the urban problems like excessive use of motor cycles and two wheelers is a cause of concern for common man. City vendors an integral part of any city and they need protection and support. There should be large scale skill development for the people who are not sufficiently skilled as per the urban requirements and mostly in-migrants from rural areas and staying in different slum pockets.

Mr Mahindra Parida in his presentation stated that smart city programme, like one of the previous other 15 urban development programmes is just an old wine in new bottle. Like many other programmes it does not say anything about slum development. Smart city is a business idea aiming at the use of empty space for the benefits of business class. Recently Govt. of Odisha has brought a legislative enactment for the eviction of encroachers of Government land. The people are desperately toiling in urban slums leaving behind their home place. They have not come to Bhubaneswar to grab Govt land in terms of 100-200 sqft land. They have come to Bhubaneswar to get connected with livelihood opportunities. Their agriculture is failed and for which they have come to Bhubaneswar. Now in urban slums they are exploited and treated unequally by the elite society as well as administration. These people are oppressed and exploited. So very vocally he pointed out that equitable distribution of resources and livelihood creation should be an integral part of smart city programme. There is urgent necessity of skill development of children remaining with parents living in slums. Town vending zones need to be created in large scale keeping in view the requirements of the vendors in all parts of the city. He vehemently opposed smart city programme as the programme has clandestine conspiracy for taking away land, water and power from the slum dwellers. As if it has an aim of permanent destitution of slum dwellers. His presentation also mentioned about the security of unorganized labour. He mentioned about the usefulness of Auto Rickshaw stands in different parts of the city. Around 300000 construction workers in the city are not getting daily employment. Their job guarantee is a major concern. He raised concerns for the Municipality Cleaners



who are contractual and their wage very much meager and he urges that BMC should make their jobs secure and remunerative. As a part of his concern for the slum dwellers he demanded that there should be ownership of minimum 750 sq. ft. of land to be given to the slum dwellers under slum rehabilitation programmes initiated by the Government.

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Shri Panchanan Senapati emphasized that people are spontaneously not coming to Bhubaneswar from rural areas. As it is already mentioned by some of the key speakers, due to the failure of different development models to provide alternative livelihood opportunity, on the top of agricultural failure, there has been large scale urban in- migration from rural areas to urban areas. Rural areas should be developed in terms of irrigated agriculture, assured agricultural marketing, assured non- farm and off farm employment opportunities. So that most of the problems being perceived by urban people would stop altogether. In addition to rural development, there should be ample provision of good educational institutions including English medium schools and very good hospitals. At least people should have access to very good health service and education at their block level. There should focused and planned investment for small scale and medium manufacturing units in all areas of the state in a balanced manner. Instead of developing Bhubaneswar only, so many small towns should be developed simultaneously to augment pressure of urbanization in Bhubaneswar.

At the backdrop of his presentation Shri Ramakrushna Panda imposed a set of antithesis that can smart city programme reduce school drop-out;

Can smart city programme guarantee employment. He indicated that this smart city programme is not an indigenous idea rather a borrowed concept from some foreign countries. As he indicated that most of our policies are dictated by the outsiders like IMF, World Bank and G-8 and our policy makers simply accept and implement. As long as there is no simultaneous and equitable development, so long as people remaining on the bottom line would revolt and there will not be any respiration for top line policy makers, planners, so called high class people enjoying all the benefits and luxuries of city life. This he attributed to development imbalance. However there exists a sustainable limit to it. Beyond that it would be very difficult to resist prolonged untowardness.

Issues regarding urban land ceiling was also discussed in the seminar. But due to lack of political will the same can't be implemented in urban areas. It is quite ironical to say that people who decide 200 square feet land for a slum dweller; they require few acres of land at most of the prime locations in Bhubaneswar and simultaneously at many other urban areas. Other issues like growing unemployment problem, vending zone planning were also discussed. One representative from transgender community indicated that due to societal abandonments 99 percent of them are engaged in begging and sex work. Despite Supreme Court's direction for recognizing transgender community as special category, no- where either at society level or at Govt. level they are fairly treated. Transgender vision is never taken into account at any public discourse including the current seminar.

Issues Emerged

- Equitable distribution of resources and livelihood creation should be an integral part of smart city programme.
- There is urgent necessity of skill development of children remaining with parents living in slums.
- Town vending zones need to be created in large scale keeping in view the requirements of the vendors in all parts of the city.
- Most of the urban problems are attributed to development imbalance.
- Despite Supreme Court's direction for recognizing transgender community as special category, no- where either at society level or at Govt. level they are fairly treated. Third gender's vision is never taken into account at any public discourse.

Technical Session- VI: Urban Commons: Public Services and Spaces

This session was chaired by Mr. Jatin Das, Reporter, IANS and there were only two panelists. One of the panelists Ms. Sneha Mishra presented on the issues of Persons with Disability (PwD) and the other presenter was Meghna Sahu, a representative of transgender community living in Bhubaneswar. Both the issues though relate to numerically minor demographic strength, but from the point of human rights deserves special significance in the context of urban planning.

Ms. Mishra presented her paper on EQUITABLE BHUBANESWAR CITY: Issues & concerns of persons with disabilities. She explained the rights of PwD in the light of "Capability and Freedom" developmental framework of Amartya Sen. In this context she advocated for equal opportunity & freedom to all citizens. There should be equity in provisions relating to education, health, information, employment/economic support encompassing early childhood support, support for elderly and moreover there should be citizens support centre to be emphasized while formulating urban planning. She through this platform reiterated there should be a safe city with all inclusivity which contributes towards equitable city. From the point of view of inclusion of PwD in the mainstream society she emphasized that there should be accessibility

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of PwD to shopping malls, market places, parks, houses, roadways/pavements and transportation to be ensured with proper signage. There should also be accessibility to ATM counters; ticket counters in Bus & Railway stops. Public transport system was much stressed as none of the city busses are accessible for wheelchair or mobility aid users. Making the buses accessible and creating space inside for wheelchair halts need to be seriously taken care of. Audio-visual scrolling of locality in the city buses need to be introduced for the convenience of PwDs to be alert about their destination and this requires urgent implementation. She mentioned about talking traffic for the benefits of visually impaired people. Push button system on poles for crossing the road has to be installed for the pavers for crossing the roads in the traffic posts with proper signage and tactile signage for the visually impaired people. The other suggestion was to activate the citizen facilitation centre with accessible information for people with disabilities who might be visiting Bhubaneswar and not much aware about the localities. Above all the grievance system should be in place with proper addressing mechanism on problem solving.

Meghna Sahu presented the hard realities of being a transgender. She pointed out that in the admission system of schools there are provisions for males and females and so they are not allowed for admission. In medicals also there are two wards males and females. As transgender are not perceived to be fit, so they are denied of access to health care facilities in Govt. hospitals even in serious health conditions. They are discarded by the family and society. They are ridiculed from the pillar to the post for the no fault of theirs. They survive on roads and isolated slums. There are about 2000 transgender living in Bhubaneswar. They prefer to lead a community life. Except train begging, street begging and sex works they don't have any dignified profession. They propose a Shelter home need to be undertaken by BMC very much seriously. They should also be provided health care facility. She also pointed out that as they don't have income from any countable source they should be allowed free commuting facility in town buses. For them everything is a problem. They don't have any right to anything else; forget about a piece of land. Really the issue is very much a significant issue. Something needs to be done for them on priority basis as moderated by the chairman of the session.

Issues Emerged

- Citizens support centre need to be emphasized while formulating urban planning.
- City Planning need to emphasize the needs of PwDs.
- A Shelter home for transgender community may be taken care of BMC.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was chaired by Shri Jagadananda and other dignitaries who graced this occasion were Shri Indu Prakash, CiRiC; Shri Subhakanta Das, a Bhubaneswar based Architect, and Mr. Debrat Patra, Regional Manager of ActionAid. This session was started with presentation of summary of recommendations of the seminar.

Summary of Recommendations

- On the top of massive urbanization, developing urban infrastructure in terms of housing and other inter related social infrastructure requires massive investment which apparently seem to be a challenge for the planners and policy makers.
- Given the pace of urbanization, the type of society to be developed is supposed to constitute a major component of urban planning. It is not only the responsibility of government but also the responsibility of people.
- Prevention of waste through controlled consumption is also a prime requirement of urban planning.
- Instead of massive development of Bhubaneswar City there should be systematic development of many urban centers at least all block headquarters so that unwanted urbanization could be prevented.
- Mushrooming growth of licensed country spirit shops in different habitations is contributing to urban odds in terms of crimes.



- Detecting crime, maintaining law and order, provision of safe public transportation needs to be the important provisions under smart city programme.
- There is lot of requirement for skill development training to the slum people. Apart from it there should be slum corpus fund partially supported by Government and its proper utilization needs to be ensured.
- The process of urban inclusion requires a changed process of Governance perhaps going to be touched upon by "smart city initiatives".
- Expanded economic activity in urban areas necessitates expanded people's responsibility.
- There is importance of legislative process towards urban inclusion programme.
- The "Ward Sabha" being undertaken in the urban areas should have more representation of people from cross sections of people so that a proper urban development mechanism could be ensured.
- Participation of citizens in the development process and planning is the key towards equitable and sustainable development.
- Bhubaneswar is having plenty of solar light radiations and strong wind waves, so there is good deal of scope for harnessing solar and wind energy. There should be mechanisms for waste recycling particularly management of solid waste.
- People are demotivated to use solar energy as they are unable to sell the excess energy. Taking cognizance of it, he urged for a clear cut Govt. policy for transformation of excess energy.
- The rich carbon source from concrete jungles should be adequately compensated by massive tree plantation in all areas of Bhubaneswar.
- Smart city should be one where there is quick service provisioning. People should be more organized professionally. Even a maid's service should be readily available over a phone call. Similarly the services of the masons, carpenters, construction workers etc. should be accessible.
- Better governance coupled with responsible citizenship through exercising their rights are two fundamental prerogatives for urban inclusion programme.
- Amenities like housing, health, education, open space and parks

etc are very much required for all categories of people. Inclusive urban space is possible only when all sections of people have equal access to basic amenities.

- Instead of creating new cities, it would be better to renew, repair or improve the existing cities.
- City designing should vehemently consider our own culture, our socioeconomic nature, our technology and our system in order to become sustainable. Because of these considerations the city Chandigarh is still sustainable and Amravati is being based upon imported concepts and ideas, its sustainability is perceived to be bleak.
- If the urban world and civilization want to survive and produce peace and happiness for their populace, we need different kind of growth, technology, energy, institute of economics, governance, vision, and, of course, a different type of "development". Both our benchmarks and goals must change. So also the measuring yardsticks change. There is declining urban poverty and increasing number of urban slums. So the methodology to measure poverty should also undergo changes. There should be best possible energy planning and technology planning.
- Climate resilience strategy should be a part of the overall strategy of the smart city programme.
- Protecting the social environment of people is of crucial significance. Above all rural smartness need to precede smart city programme. The smart city programme is just car without a gear.
- Strengthening the link of citizens with Neighborhood Associations and Ward Sabha could provide wonderful results.
- A smart city initiative should rightly consider cycle tracks for the people to be motivated to ride bicycles.
- Land issue of the slum dwellers is an important topic in any urban rejuvenation programme and it is very much urgent that there should be city wide up gradation of the existing slums and property rights to the slum dwellers.
- Municipality Cleaners who are contractual and their wage very much meager, BMC should make their jobs secure and remunerative.
- For slum dwellers there should be ownership of minimum 750 sq. ft. of land to be given to the slum dwellers under slum rehabilitation programmes initiated by the Government.
- So long as people remaining on the bottom line would revolt and

there will not be any respiration for top line policy makers, planners, so called high class people enjoying all the benefits and luxuries of city life. This has been attributed to development imbalance.

- There should be accessibility of PwD to shopping malls, market places, parks, houses, roadways/pavements and transportation to be ensured with proper signage. There should also be accessibility to ATM counters, ticket counters in Bus & Railway stops, public transport system.
- Audio-visual scrolling of locality in the city buses need to be introduced for the convenience of PwDs to be alert about their destination and this requires urgent implementation.
- Talking traffic for the benefits of visually impaired people is also welcome idea for the benefits of PwD. Push button system on poles for crossing the road has to be installed for the pavers for crossing the roads in the traffic posts with proper signage and tactile signage for the visually impaired people.
- Something needs to be done for the benefits of transgender community on priority basis. There should be a Shelter home which needs to be undertaken by BMC very much seriously. The Trans gender people should also be provided health care facility. As they don't have income from any countable source they should be allowed free commuting facility in town buses. For them everything is a problem.

Way Forward

Mr Debrat Patra stated that since 2002 ActionAid has been continuously engaged in the campaigning process of urban sensitization programme for the sake of an inclusive and plural society. It has partnered with several Government programmes for better implementation. It has continuously influenced local bodies for better decision making process for the benefits of citizens. In the context People's vision for the Bhubaneswar city, he stated that this process is just the beginning and ActionAid will put lots of efforts in this regard.

Shri Indu Prakash mentioned about Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is supposed to be good milestone has certain flaws which need to be solved. He by virtue of good deal of experience in working for the benefits of slum dwellers in different parts of the country advocated for Housing Continuum, Rights Continuum and Justice Continuum. He felt it appropriate that all the dynamics of inclusion need to be considered in

the context of inclusive city programme. On the basis of certain parameters he suggested for preparing urban monitors. He urges that ActionAid will further intensify its meeting process by considering different types of action groups.

Shri Subhakanta Das taking this forum as an opportunity expressed that there should be some degree of sensible and shared space for materializing smart city programme. In the name of smart city programme, resources should not be wasted. Housing for all is only a joke. He emphasized on strengthening digital platform under the smart city programme. He pointed out that smart city programme is a developers' model. He conceptualized this model as creative subversion for urban planning. He opined that city making is an art which requires involvement of community, activists, Artists/ Designers and most prominently academicians, the four actors. However equity in the system of justice and governance should be ensured. Past history conveys that cities are built by long term players but not the short term contractors.

Jagadananda suggests for an alternative model for Bhubaneswar which requires some basic and issue based ground research works for bolstering the current thought process. In addition to focusing on research requirement he expressed about the sole responsibility of a group of people regarding urban vision making exercise. He said that one Seminar or consultation is would not enough for such a gigantic issue rather it would necessitate several rounds of consultations. There should be transparency in policy to make it fully operationalized. Most of the Government policies including the current smart city policy don't seem to be transparent. Some hidden backgrounds of the policy are always suspected. Every time in all possible consultations civil society should come with alternative ideas for the successful planning exercise. He expected another Round Table Conference on this issue by the end of February 2016 which requires lot of efforts again. He favoured the next consultation should involve industrialists, business class and students for injecting new thoughts and ideas into the mainstream discourse. He thinks it appropriate that a Core Group in this direction need to be formed along with a full time secretary. He feels the importance of research not relating to smart city initiatives but for better affordable housing for all i.e. Five Million Houses in Five Years and to contribute intellectually to the forthcoming HABITAT III.

After the end of the two days' meaningful and vibrant discussion pertaining to the broad theme of the study Mr. Sadashiv Swain gave vote of thanks to all delegates, Resource persons, Key speakers and participants on behalf of the organizers.

List of Participants of the Seminar on Sustainable & Equitable Bhubaneswar City

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People's vision of the city

People's vision of the city (PVoC) is a programme initiated by Citizens Rights Collective (CiRiC) as an attempt to address the urgent need to design and plan equitable and sustainable cities. It is a methodology to develop consensus and plans based on the aspirations and needs of the citizens, especially the most vulnerable, in order to build an imagination of an equitable and sustainable city in which they wish to live. It involves outreach, dialogue, research, campaigning and knowledge-creation on a vast scale in the cities which choose to be part of this programme.

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