

URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN INDIA: PARADOXES AND PREDICAMENTS

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Abstract:

This research paper deals with the implementation of various urban development policies and programs in India and examines the whole process of development in general and India's own urban challenges. Developing countries like India are facing the rapid urbanization and the problem arising due to this. Although, so many policies and programs have been formulated by the government of India from time to time to control and end this situation, but some important factors have created obstacles here. Urban development could not be well planned and organized even after policy makers followed the systematic development regime. After observing various urban development policies, it can be said that the impact of these policies had been nominal because political interventions was present here and there was lack of commitment towards the objectives of the policies. The real meaning of urban development policies is that, it includes the basic need and concerns of the people living in the cities and the implementation of policies means provide solutions to those concerns. The solutions to the urban problem suggested by the policy makers is generally based on the participatory and decentralized system. Urban development does helps in sustainable growth, it also deals with the advancement and makes design for better technical, economic, social and political growths. It is related to substantial blueprint of human settlement. To fulfill the needs of growing demands of urban population, the Indian Government has made several schemes such as Swarna Jayanti Shahari

Rozgar Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihood Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Skill India, Digital India, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana etc.

Keywords: Urbanization, development, policies, decentralized, participatory, sustainable growth.

I. Introduction

Until the mid-century so many developing country like India did not showed any interest in the matter of urban development, but due to the rapidly increasing national population, people started to migrate to the cities from their villages for the purpose of finding employment and livelihood opportunities, which created the lot of concern regarding the systematic design of urban society. The migration from the villages to the cities drew attention to the problem of urban development in front of policy makers. Poverty alleviation programs have been very important in context of urban development policies, because the concept of development can be successful only when sufficient employment opportunities can be met and poverty can be reduced. To tackle the problems of poverty and unemployment, it is very important to organize the economic and social situation of the country.

However, as we all know that, majority of the population is coming from the villages to the cities for the searching of livelihood opportunities, that's why the government is focusing more on urban development issues at this time. Several major schemes have been proposed in India in which included Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), Smart City Mission, Digital India, Skill India, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana launched by the central government targeting the urban poor population. These mission helps urban poor people to find their livelihood and make themselves creative and employable. It realizes the people that they need to recognize their hidden talent in order to establish a true ambitions and break the conservatism to gain success in their life.

Urban development considered to be result of economic development which indicates the development of the country. The policies for urban development is mainly necessary for the solution of the grassroots level issues, because the economic condition of the cities affected the economic situation of the whole country. The main objective of this paper is to explain the urban development policies and programs that have increased the livelihood opportunities to the urban poor and also have tried to reduce urban poverty by providing them skill development training and provide more employment opportunities according to their skills. This paper critically represent the synoptic view of urban development policies and programs and suggests a way forward.

II. Major Urban Development Policies and Programs:

A successful urban development policies implemented and organized by the Government of India takes the responsibility for the proper distribution of resources for the purpose to meet the primary objectives of the policies in the specific time frame. For the purpose of development in India, five year plan had been made, it had been created mainly for the 5 years. At the time of independence of India, a five years plans was a short term plan for the five years, and sometimes due to some reasons it was created for the less than five year such as for the 4 years and 2 years also, but now the five years plans is in front of us namely long term vision plan. At present, the long term vision plans are related to the urban planning and development agenda. To some extant urban development policies affected mostly the huge urban sectors and metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, but if we talked about the small urban cities here the development is still negligible.

- Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), 1992-1993- it is centrally sponsored scheme was introduced from 1989-1990 in the big urban areas of the country.
- Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), 1997- The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana has been in operating since 01.12.1997. The revised guidelines have come into effect from 01.04.2009.
- Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), 2005- It was launched in 2006-06. The aim of this mission is to encourage reforms and fast track development of identified urban sectors.

- National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), 2013- it was launched by Man Mohan Singh Government in September 2013, during the 12th five year plan by restructuring the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana in all district headquarters and in all cities with population of one lakh or more than one lakh.
- Make in India, 2014- This programme, launched by the new administration in 2014, aims to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, protect intellectual property and built best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure. It spans more than 30 sectors, from leather to space. As of December 2014, the only project promoted under the make in India Programme is the DMIC. Under the Programme, the Government of India has also emphasized sustainability issues by introducing a “Zero defect, Zero effect” policy.¹
- Smart Cities Mission (SCM) - The Government of India had established Smart City Mission in June, 2015. The objective of this mission is to promote sustainable and inclusive cities that provides core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, provide clean and sustainable environment and application of ‘Smart Solution’ for urban challenges.²
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), 2016-2020- The union cabinet had approved India’s largest Skill Certification Scheme, PMKVY on 20th March, 2015. The scheme was subsequently launched on 15 July, 2015 on the occasion of World youth Skills Day by Honorable Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi. It is implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation under the guidance of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.³

This research paper analyses the different urban development policies with a special focus on the effectiveness of these programs and to examine the delivery of basic goods and services to the needy urban poor people. These urban development programs were established to provide better administration, built protected infrastructure and provide better skill development services to the urban poor people and unemployed people, so as to ensure sustainable development in urban sectors. Apart from this, the research paper also tries to show the investments made by Government of India in these programs and examine the geographical coverage of these urban development policies.

III. Migration Patterns of Urban India

In the first few decades after independence, Indian population remained relatively sedentary. The predominance of agriculture, strong community ties, lack of quality education, rigidity of caste system, diversity of languages, culture and food habits were main reason cited by the researchers for the immobility of Indian population. This pattern remained constant until 1990 with a consistent decline in migration rates. In 1991, economic reforms were adopted by the Government of India and the structural adjustment were made in Indian economy due to severe balance of payment crisis. The migration figures from population Census of India in last two decades have shown in increment in the rate of migration in India. In 2001, a total of 314 million people were migrants on India among which urban migrants were 104 million. In 2011, the volume of migration increased to 454 million among which 183 million were urban migrants. The total migration rates increased sharply from 30.07 percent in 2001 to 37.47 percent in 2011.⁴

At the national level, the contribution of migration towards urban growths remained stable at around one-fifth in the last several decades. It has been observed that the growth of migration has significantly accelerated during the 1990s after a considerable deceleration in the previous decades. But the acceleration was more prominent in rural to rural or urban to urban streams, which do not directly contribute to the urban growth. However, growth in intra-state rural to urban migration remained stagnant and although inter-state rural to urban migration accelerated, it only contributed about 10 percent to urban growth.⁵

However, Urbanization gives more and higher income jobs opportunities to the urban people at a lower cost and provide many benefits related to business, which gives people to chance a live to better life. The rapid migration from the villages to the cities created so many challenges in front of the urban administration, such as the challenge of providing proper housing for them, challenge of livelihood opportunities, challenges of unemployment, and challenges of providing basic services to them. Urban Development policies were established by the Government of India from time to time to solve these kind challenges.

Composition of Urban Population Growth in India, 1961-2001

	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Urban Population Increase (Million) out of which	30.18	49.45	56.45	67.81
Natural Increase (Million)	19.68 (65.2)	25.56 (51.3)	35.37 (61.3)	40.17 (59.4)
Net Rural-Urban Migration (Million)	5.91 (18.7)	9.83 (19.6)	12.76 (20.7)	14.32 (20.9)
Residual Component (Million)	4.59 (16.1)	14.06 (29.1)	8.32 (18.0)	13.32 (19.7)

Source: Census of India, 1961-2001. Figures in Parenthesis are in percentages.

IV. Urban Development Policies framework in India

In 2018 the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has framed a committee to draft India's National Urban Policy. The move is in accordance with the requirements of the New Urban Agenda of UN Habitat, signed by 193 countries in Quito in October 2016. The policy initiatives is coming up a quarter of a century after two landmarks events: the economic liberalization of 1991 and political decentralization of 1992, defining new institutional arrangements of urban governance through the 74th Amendment Act. Framing the National Urban Policy thus offers a unique opportunity to reflect on how urbanization had been unfolding in the post-liberalization era, recalibrate the bearings and steer our urban transformation in a more efficient direction.⁶

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) made it mandatory for cities to prepare a City Development Plan (CDP) and make their demands for specific projects against the backdrop of the CDP. But the Hastily prepared CDPs for JNNURM were typically reduced to a list of projects for the city instead of a strategy documents. For urban planning to work District and Metropolitan Development Plans as well as CDPs will have to become legal as well as spatial documents, and CDPs will have to be integrated with master plans and development plans as well as financial plans.⁷

As is well known that most of the cities are developing rapidly today, but here is most important to know whether development is taking place in the right direction or not. Here we are trying to

show the basic framework of the urban development policies in India, which represents that the framework of these policies clearly defines the problems created by the federal structure of governments, the main of which is that the state government have not full control on their cities due to which states are not completely independent to take decision regarding the development of their urban sectors. It can be said that, for the proper development of urban sectors in India, federal structure need to be strengthen. Today' the major challenge in front of the policy makers is to establish the more industries and companies at the large scale in both of the rural urban areas, so that the problem of unemployment, migration can be resolved and urban poor people can get an opportunity to earn their livelihood through using their available skills.

V. Creation of Employment and Generation of Skills

One of the main challenges in front of policy makers is to generate and expand the skills in urban poor youths according to the demand of the new industries and companies which will helpful for reducing unemployment from cities. Nowadays, the lack of skills among the educated, uneducated and school dropout youths has come as a big challenge in front of Government and policy makers. This situation shows that how India was struggled with unemployment earlier, and after so many decades passed out, today the situation has remained the same, despite that thing now in India everyone is being provided free and equal education. However, the biggest reason behind this rising unemployment is that rapid migration of people from rural to urban areas in quest of high productivity jobs. After coming to the cities, migrants has to know that neither they have the skills as per the jobs they find here, not the environment of cities is favorable of them. This things emphasizes the demand of the youth to establish skill development schemes by the Government of India. All these things inspired the Government to create the skill development schemes, after which so many policies and programs have been made to generate skills in the urban poor people, so that the problem of unemployment can be resolved.

The Government of India launched a National Skill Development Initiatives in 2007 and followed this up with the setting up of a National Skill Development Corporation in 2008 that works within the framework of public-private partnership with active engagement of the private sector so that the mismatches between demand and supply of skills can be minimized.⁸

In addition of Skill development, a receptive environment for entrepreneurship is necessary for addressing the challenges of creating employment in urban areas. Start-up India and Make in India initiatives are designed to create such an environment. A good investment climate would require much better ease of doing business, including greater flexibility in the labor market together with greater social security for labor, better living condition in the cities to generate agglomeration economies, better infrastructure, and macroeconomic stability. Such an ecosystem will encourage innovation and enterprise in the form of new ventures including startup, which in turn will create employment.⁹

VI. Debates on Urban Development Policies and Government Practices

Until the few centuries ago the main issues of debate on the matter of urban development was the challenge of environmental protection, proper housing and infrastructure, water supply and sanitation in the urban sectors. But from the middle of 20th century, the main focus of the debate started on the issue of poverty alleviation and unemployment. Policy makers began to realize the need for inclusive growth in urban sectors for which they started to establish the development programs focusing on the experimental dimensions for urban challenges. These urban development policies were strengthen by the various strategies to provide urban mobility. The objectives of these schemes is to improve the quality of life of urban poor families living in urban areas and to fulfil the basic needs of needy people.

Towards the end of the decade, Government of India also come out with the National Urban Policy Framework 2018 (NUPF) that outlined “an integrated and coherent approach towards the future of urban planning of India”. The NUPF was structured along two lines. Firstly, at the NUPF’s core lay ten sutras or philosophical principles. Secondly, the ten sutras were applied to ten functional areas of urban space and management. The NUPF recognized that urban development is a state subject. Hence, the state were encouraged to develop their own state urban policies including implementation plans based on this National Framework. Government of India assured its support in the development of such staente policies. In the light Government of India’s urban efforts, it could be confidently stated that GOI had very discernibly reinforced its engagement with cities during the past decade.¹⁰

On employment and affordable housing, by far the biggest cause for concern was regarding women's employment but there were revelatory insight shared regarding India's young population, too. "We have pretty much the lowest comparative female workforce participation rate than anywhere (27-31%) and it is not stabilizing but falling. It is the single issue that if we trace and focus on can actually bring together multiple economic challenge around identity, skilling, productivity and returns of GDP". "99 % of young population don't get captured by any policy of the urban sectors and almost a 100% don't believe government institution or formal system of delivery or even corporates are a reliable source of livelihood."¹¹

VII. Assessment of Impact of Present Development Patterns

Urban development policies is gaining a lot of recognition across the world in today's industrial era. The success and failure of any development policies is depends on the some key factors. Although, based on the various studies, we cannot say that all the urban development policies made so far have proved to be unsuccessful, but yes it can be said most of the urban development policies has not been completely successful in fulfilling all its objectives and expectation or urban society. Despite the implementation of so many urban development policies, these policies are not able to stand up of the expectation of urban poor people. However, so many local and socio-economic factors are responsible for this, only after finishing it we can expect some positive outcome for true development.

However, in this period of various economic and social reforms, the Indian Government had tried its best to provide a good quality of life, economic development and to establish national and wider level trades and to make cities competitive for it. All the urban development programs that have been made in India till now covers all the section of cities and towns and believe in the ideology that urban problems are not only limited to the cities but it has become the problem of national importance, hence to eliminate these problems there is need to make efforts at the national level.

India is on the cusp of an urban transition. The country's urban population reached 420 million or 33% of its total population in 2015. It is expected to almost double to 800 million by 2050, when one in every two Indians is expected to reside in its towns and cities. By 2031, 75% of

India's national income is expected to come from cities, an increase on the current 66%, and the majority of new jobs will be created in urban areas. Policy engagement on meeting India's urban challenge is also at turning point. The Government of India has launched an array of initiatives to tackle issues of urban growth and livability, including "100 smart cities", "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan", "500 cities fund", "Urban Infrastructure", and "Make in India" programmes.¹²

It is seen from the impact analysis that, if the present pattern of urban development is allowed, to continue in the same manner with do-nothing, it will consume 11.4 million hectares of agriculture outside municipal limits, there will be increase of 329 million vehicle population on roads, the crude oil demand for transport sectors alone will be 158 million tons, road traffic facilities will increase to 360, 000, and the growth of urban slum population and housing shortage will be 371 and 198 million, respectively. This clearly indicates that, the present urban growth pattern is most likely to lead to adverse environmental implications and it raises several questions relating to its sustainability.¹³

VIII. Conclusion

By analyzing the above urban development policies, it is found that the cost being incurred in these policies is high, while the benefits of these policies is less, which is the biggest challenges in front of policy makers. One of the main conclusion of this research paper is that the government need to change their present strategies to provide better economic and social facilities to the urban poor. While making policies for urban development, policy makers should keep in mind that they are not only developing a city rather they are developing an entire nation. They should ignore the issue of national importance such as poverty and unemployment. More specifically, here we outline key areas for developmental reforms which can yield major improvements in direction of sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Reform the skill training regulations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of workforce. Existing skill development regulations and educations system play an important role in reducing the efficiency of youths in Indian cities and in encouraging more sprawling, extensive urban forms. Expand the urban employability and livelihood opportunities to encourage the urban poor in appropriately connected cities. Clearly a vast upgrading in the scale and quality of skills in

education is needed, if India is to tap the full potential of its cities. As the central government now ready to bear very large investment needed in urban development through the supply of huge number of services to support the reducing unemployment and urban poverty.

Reform is needed in the state's local government and strengthen the accountability and financing of governance. More convincing, urban sectors will require for the expansion and upgrading of urban development. The present situation points to the demand to provide more powers to the local government for the true development of cities. The advantages of strengthen of local government will be that they will be able to determines the basic needs of their cities, because they work for the formulation and implementation of urban development policies, oversee the proper distribution of services and efficient operation of resources, provide accountability to the urban people.

Through this paper, we have presented the arguments that after the formulation of various urban development policies and experience of these activities, there are no specific outcomes had been found. Urban development policies and their implementation did not get much importance in India. These policies have failed to address social events, inter-related complexities and major weaknesses of institutions. On the bases of above discussion it can be said that, these policies had lack of flexibility and were not decentralized properly. So there is need to improve the framework of these policies to a great extent and they should be reoriented in a new way. There is need to innovate new urban development policies and industrial policies which are active in urban areas and can encourage the labor force through various new industries.

In the final conclusion, this research paper shows that the developing country like India has to pay a huge price for wrongful urbanization. This present situation is an opportunity in front of policy makers to rectify their past mistakes and present new effective framework for urban development. The Indian government and policy maker should focus more on major issues of urban areas like urban poverty, employment, and equal distribution of goods and services. Only by solving these inter-related problems the social and economic situation can be improved and urban poor can be provided a better living standard.

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