

Urban Development for Inclusive Growth in India

- Raghuvendra Kumar

Research Scholar(JRF) at Centre for Development Studies,

University of Allahabad, Allahabad

Abstract

In India, Inclusive growth is necessary for sustainable development and equitable distribution of wealth and prosperity. Urban Development is Important for inclusive growth in India. In India at present about 31% population of the total population are still living in urban areas which is very low to other developed countries. As our cities continue to grow, urban infrastructure and the built environment play a very important role. Urban economic activity is growing rapidly in these towns but there is no local government responsible and accountable for urban infrastructure development or urban service delivery. Investments in planned urbanization should not be viewed as only improving the quality of life but are also a very big contributor to the country's investment climate. If we have to ensure inclusive and equitable growth, we need to knit and integrate our rural areas into the modern economic processes that are rapidly transforming our country. We cannot allow India to be divided into two distinct zones, one a modern, competitive, prosperous one and the other a stagnant and backward one". India is committed towards achieving inclusive growth where all sections of the society, particularly the weaker and the disadvantaged, can benefit from the economic growth," said President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patil during the 225th yearly celebrations of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. She added contributing to social upliftment and rendering services for the benefit of humanity are important for inclusive growth and "such concepts are not alien to our culture but an integral part of our cultural consciousness". And pro-poor schemes should be vigorously implemented and regularly monitored.

Introduction

Urban Development is recognized as an essential factor to sustain economic growth of the country. The quality, efficiency and productivity of the infrastructures affect the quality of life, health and livability of the society. The nation's economic growth is reflected in the Urban Development. Urban development is defined as the physical facilities through which services are provided to the public. Nearly 31% of India's current population lives in urban areas and contributes 63% of India's GDP (Census 2011). Inclusive growth is about both the pace and pattern of economic growth. Economic growth that creates employment opportunities and helps in reducing poverty. Inclusive economic growth is not only about expanding national economies but also about ensuring that we reach the most vulnerable people of societies. The "equality of opportunity" and "participation in growth by all" with a special focus on the working poor and the unemployed are the very basis of inclusive growth.

Keyword- Urban Development, Inclusive Growth, Economic Growth.

Urban Development

Urban is a mirror of human civilization prevailing at that particular period of time. A human settlement is a living organism. It has an origin, growth, decay, and regrowth. It is not a static but dynamic entity. The Urban is a corporate entity. The local government of the urban has a great deal of influence on the nature, extent and manner of development of the Urban. The various utilities, services and facilities provided by the Centre, State and Local Government affect the urban environment. The various utilities, services, and facilities provided by the Centre, State, and Local Government affect the Urban development. The Urban Development is subject to various type of forces like physical, social, economic, and political which influence its development. The first urban development touched even the New World where it spread in the Central America, Mexico and Peru where Mayan civilization had its sway in about 1000 B.C. The Goals and Objectives of Urban Development.

1. To create an environment which is functional, efficient, healthy and aesthetically satisfying for human activities.
2. To serve as a policy framework to fulfill the needs and aspiration of the community.
3. To co-ordinate the physical, economic, social and political forces that govern the structure of the community and the technical means to regulate it.

Urban Development in India

The seeds of Urban Development germinated in the Indus valley around 2500 B.C, but the actual sequence of this event has remained a great mystery till date. The Indus Valley civilization was a glorious period in the ancient history of Urban Development. The urban development designated by archeologists as the Harappan Culture found its zenith in the metropolitan cities like Mohanjodaro and Harappa in northwest India, both the cities have confirmed certain distinctive principles of urban development, which provides the first example of planned city culture in the world. In India, have facing the problem of stunted Urban growth. Consequently, urban levels in India is the process of regional economic development confiscated largely by metropolises and urban centres of one to ten lakh population (Raza, M. 1979).

Inclusive Growth

Inclusive growth is economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across society (OECD). It lessens the fast growth rate of poverty in a country and upsurges the participation of people into the development of the country. Inclusive growth infers an impartial allocation of resources with benefits incurred to every section of the society. Inclusive Growth is a concept that encompasses equity, equality of opportunity, and protection in market and employment transitions, it is an essential ingredient of any successful growth strategy. Inclusive growth is an important component of most government strategies for sustainable development. UNDP has described inclusive growth as “the process and the outcome where all groups of people have participated in growth and have benefited equitably from it”. This inferred that inclusive growth should include all sections as recipients as well as partners in growth and that inclusion of the excluded should be embodied in the growth process. According to Basely et al (2007), inclusive growth is the “growth that has a high elasticity of poverty reduction”, i.e. It should have a higher reduction in poverty per unit of growth. Copious theoretical studies have demonstrated that the idea that both the pace and pattern of growth are critical to accomplish a high, sustainable growth record, as well as poverty reduction, is consistent with the findings in the Growth Report, Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development (Commission on Growth and Development, 2008).

Inclusive Growth in India

In India, agenda for inclusive growth was envisaged in the Eleventh Plan document which intended to achieve not only faster growth but a growth process which ensures broad-based improvement in the quality of life of the people, especially the poor, SCs/STs, other backward castes (OBCs), minorities and women and which seeks to provide equality of opportunity to all. Bringing these excluded sections of the society into the mainstream of the society so that they are able to reap the benefits of faster economic growth is the kind of ‘inclusion’ which is being envisioned in the concept of inclusive growth. The Government of India’s Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017) articulates the country’s official vision and aspiration of “Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth” Achieving inclusive growth has topped the Indian political agenda for several decades and has recently been reiterated by the new administration. The Twelfth Plan provides the official definition of inclusive growth by outlining separately “growth”, “inclusiveness” and “sustainability”, and provides score indicators for measuring the nation’s performance. India defines inclusiveness by five aspects. (1)

Inclusiveness as poverty reduction. (2) Inclusiveness as group equality. (3) Inclusiveness as regional balance. (4) Inclusiveness and inequality. (5) Inclusiveness as empowerment.

Urban and Inclusive Growth

Economic growth and Urban development are intimately associated. Infrastructure is amongst the most important contributors to the economy of the State. Social and urban infrastructure are the subset of the infrastructure sector and play a significant role in generating revenue for the economy. It is therefore obvious that cities are the critical aspect of developing countries in terms of their concentration of both population and economic activity. It is also clear that future development depends on maximization of the benefits of urbanization to bring sound Urban Development. These benefits include the revitalization of urban economies, which boosts national economic development as a whole. Since cities are the driving force in national economic development, appropriate management of the energy of accumulated population and industry may help reducing poverty, the challenge shared by all developing countries. Urban development can be considered necessary for economic growth in developing countries.

The World Economic Forum recommends three actions the Government of India can consider to deliver inclusive urban growth (Geneva, 13 April 2015).

1. Integrate spatial planning at all governmental levels: national, state and city. The primary goal of spatial planning is to integrate housing, strategic infrastructure and urban infrastructure, and improve national and local governance in the context of urban development.
2. Create a stable policy framework for private investment in urban infrastructure. Once the right conditions for investors have been created, the Government of India needs to look at the various tools available such as public-private partnerships to enable investments in strategic infrastructure and urban development.
3. Create institutions to stimulate capacity building and attract talent to grow businesses. Organizations will be required to help the private sector increase the quality of white collar service jobs and to attract investment in manufacturing capacity. India also needs “lighthouse” projects with the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration in the area of urban development.

Conclusion

To upgrade the quality of life, and to promote inclusive growth, a major thrust is necessary to address the need for the sustainable development of physical infrastructure in Urban areas, including the development of technical and management capacity for promoting holistic growth with improved governance. Accordingly, JNNURM, a seven-year programme was launched in December 2005. JNNURM provides for allocation of substantial central financial assistance to cities for infrastructure, housing development, and capacity development. "The new Indian administration created an enormous positive momentum with the 100 Smart Cities programme and its other urban development campaigns, such as the Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) or the Clean India Mission.

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