ABSTRACT:

Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana as designed by Le Corbusier is the best example of how sector planning as a unit of the city was effectively used in the city.

This paper attempts to review another paper titled Neighborhood Planning in Capital City of Chandigarh- An Appraisal by Jit Kumar Gupta and complement it by site visit to sector 22 of Chandigarh city and photodocument it by photographs. Neighbourhood is a planning concept used by planners to create cities within cities, decentralize cities. It is a concept done to make cities more humane, safe and socially active. All amenities are made available within a neighbourhood within walking distance. Neighbourhood planning is an American concept started by Clarence Stein and Henry Wright. This model was used by them in Radburn neighbourhoods, one of the pioneer works of urbanism. The model comprised of four levels the enclave, the block, the superblock and the neighbourhood. This paper attempts to review an earlier paper by Prof Jit Kumar Gupta titled “Neighbourhood Planning in capital city of Chandigarh”. My review of this paper and a site visit to Chandigarh would show how the neighbourhood plan, an American concept is not used in the planning of Chandigarh rather the French notion of the sector has been used.

The result shows that the planning of Chandigarh does not have the neighbourhood plan but the sector plan as the basis of design in Chandigarh this result can have important learnings to apply in the case of Amravathi.

Key words: enclave, superblock, decentralisation

Introduction:

As we know neighbourhood planning was an American concept in which there were four levels, the enclave, the block, the superblock and the neighbourhood. Four to six blocks made the neighbourhood that was bounded by major roads or natural features. These roads would be hierarchical, major through roads to border each neighbourhood, distributor roads to surround each superblock and cul de sacs to provide access to individual property lots. Enclaves were a fundamental component comprising of twenty or so houses. These houses were arrayed in a U formation about a short street having a dead end called the cul de sac. While the back of each house faced this court the front of each house had a garden. Three or more enclaves were lined together to form a block. The blocks were arranged around a central parkway to enclose an open green space. The clustered five blocks together with the central park comprised the superblock. Amenities like schools, theatres and high schools were located within the neighbourhood. There
PLAN H6.1 -- HOUSING IN CHANDIGARH
However this model was not used in Chandigarh by Le Corbusier. Instead Corbusier divided Chandigarh into 30 sectors and each sector was the primary unit of design of the city. The grid as designed by Mayer was straightened from a fan shape to its present shape. The roads were hierarchical and were named one to eight in order of their sizes. The size of each sector was 1200x800m and accommodated 25,000 inhabitants. In all there were 30 sectors out of which one was reserved for the Capitol complex and the High court, one for the central business district and 24 for residential. There were bus stops at every four hundred metres and no resident had to walk for more than 10 minutes.

If we were to describe sector 22 it contained all the elements of a sector, housing for all types of inhabitants, commercial in the form of markets, a community centre, a Sikh gurudwara, a school, a hospital and a theatre. The housing and commercial blocks are not high rise like the American superblock or even Corbusier's idea of Radiant city but are limited to ground plus two. The housing had strict building controls which nobody can violate. The housing comprises of a lane in the centre which takes care of the services, it is a small not very wide lane. There are numerous parks. Parking is provided generously in front of the road that carried through traffic.
Traffic

In the neighbourhood model cul de sacs are used to provide accessibility to the houses. In Chandigarh's sector 22 the outer roads carry the major traffic and they are strictly as per the grid but there is an inner road which is curvilinear and provides accessibility to all the residents. Some of the amenities are placed here.
Housing

In the neighbourhood model each house has a front yard and a back yard and the neighbourhood opens onto a central park. In the Chandigarh sector model the houses have a front and a back the backs are separated by a narrow alley with access where all the services run. Housing for all types of people has been provided including housing for washermen. Rental housing for pgs is also provided.
FIGURE 9: PRIVATE HOUSING

Land use

The land use of a neighbourhood enclave consists of institutional residential and commercial.
The land use of a sector namely sector 22 also has institutional, residential and commercial.

Open spaces

In the neighbourhood model the open space is in the form of a central park within the conclave. In sector 22 there are various parks like Nehru Park for kids and elderly alike.
Conclusions: As we can see, neighborhood planning principle could not be applied in the planning of the capital city of Chandigarh. Sector planning, which is a French concept, has been used. Ample open spaces, a good road layout, relatively low densities, a good mix of land use properly segregated into residential and commercial, good distribution of amenities, ample parking, good waste disposal scheme, low building heights, make the Chandigarh city a good experiment in urban planning. We can still learn from the experiment of city planning and apply its lessons to other new towns like Amravathi.

References

1. Neighborhood Planning in Capital City of Chandigarh - An Appraisal, Jit Kumar Gupta,

   10th International Sinan Symposium, April 27 – 28th 2017 Trakya University, EDIRNE

List of figures

1. Housing in Chandigarh, Own photo

2. Neighbourhood Plan, Neighbourhood Planning


4. Corbusiers plan of Chandigarh, Neighbourhood Planning in capital city of Chandigarh, Jit Kumar Gupta 10th International Sinan Symposium, April 27 – 28th 2017 Trakya University, EDIRNE

5. Street Pattern of Neighbourhood, Neighbourhood Planning


7. Housing in Chandigarh, Own Photo

8. Low cost housing in Chandigarh, Own Photo

9. Private housing, Own Photo