

# Smart City is the Pattern of ensuring Successful Social equity in India- An Overview

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## Abstract:

*According to UNDP 2016, India ranks 131 (out of 188 countries) on the Human Development Index and records the world's largest number of people, with 642 million, living in different aspects of poverty. The concept of Smart City is to focus on government which aims to ensure urban development in the country. Smart City Project is one such Project of Ministry of Urban Development. The project focuses on developing the city focussing on its waste, energy, technology, education and other factors. Increasing 70 percent of people will be living in cities by 2050 which contributes 60 percent of India's GDP. The announcement of '100 smart cities' vision is to make 'smart city' an urban region that is highly advanced in terms of overall infrastructure, sustainable real estate, communications and market viability. Each city goes through central assistance of Rs. 100 crore per year for five years. Through "City Challenge Competition" Smart City aspirants are selected in order to finance the ability of the cities to achieve mission objectives. This paper focuses on the idea of smart city and also compares the changes which the city will undergo before and after implementation and also focuses on the influence of Smart City towards Social Equity.*

**Keywords:** Smart City Project, Social Equity, Urban region, Sustainable development, Infrastructure, Waste Management.

## Introduction:

Due to Urbanisation, over 69 per cent of population are still living in rural areas. Census 2011 also states that about one in six urban dwellers improper situation that is without basic settlement. They undergo insufficient water facilities and lack adequate sanitation facilities. Approximately, three to Four million people is estimated to be homeless, without any form of shelter. Therefore, Indian cities continue to lag behind in urban planning and civics.

So many initiatives and activities were taken by the government to avoid urbanisation. From 179 onwards initiatives and developments were made. Finally in the year 2014 – 2015, with the change of country's leadership the principle "Smart" was introduced in order to improve country's conditions in existing towns and cities.

In the approach to the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to promote cities which provides core infrastructure and a decent quality of life to its citizens. The Smart Cities Mission is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalysing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country.

Table 1: Major Urban Development Schemes Launched in India, 1979-2015(Source: India's smart City Assessment, Issue No 124)

S. No.	Central schemes	No.of years		Total Years	Urban centre covered	Total central outlay( in Rs billion)	Funding Pattern(% share)		
		Start Year	End Year				Centre	State	Other
1	IDSMT	1979-80	2005	26	1854	n.a.	60	40	20-40
2	Mega City	1993-94	2005	12	05	23	25	25	50
3	JNNUR M	2005	2015	10	65	660	35	15	50
4	Smart Cities	2015-16	2019-20	05	100	480	50	50	50

### Review of Literature:

**Rumi and Kristian(2015)** assessed the problems faced by previous rural modernization scheme launched in India. The study describes the implementation process and the purpose of SPV in smart city project. Identifying the existing municipal corporation and planning of the smart city as challenges, the study stressed to cover the needs of the poor living in the city.

**Rohit and Ruchi(2016)** explored the various dimensions of the Pune city by dividing it into 5sectors and a implementation strategy for each such sector. The recent projects which had taking place in Pune had been taken into consideration for the study so as to ensure a smooth

development of the smart city.

**Nirpendra et al(2018)**highlighted the governance, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal and ethical challenges in implementing a smart city project. A structured questionnaire was given to 20 experts in the subject and fuzzy AHP analysis was used to interpret the collected data. The research concluded that governance was the top challenge followed by economic, technological, social and environmental challenge.

**Sachin et al (2017)** studied the factors that will lead to successful development of smart Cities in India. The factors have been taken from the literature review of other countries which had implemented smart cities. Using the Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), 20 factors was analysed statistically. The results identified 5 key areas such as people, resources, infrastructure and quality governance for developing smart cities in India.

### **Objectives:**

- To understand Concept of Smart City and its Mission.
- To illustrate the difference between Pre and Post introduction of Smart City.
- To identify the Barriers towards implementation of Smart City.
- To find out Smart City's Role towards Social Equity.

### **The Concept of Smart City:**

Urban planners aim at developing the entire urban eco- system by representing four pillars of comprehensive development, social, economic and physical institution.

The smart city will be developed under the watchful eyes of a special purpose vehicle (SPV). The SPV is responsible for the entire management of the project right from its planning, operation, allotment of funds and monitoring. The SPV is incorporated as a separate entity under the companies act 2013, which will be equally funded by both the central and state government. The board of the SPV will constitute full time directors from central and state government.

### **Mission towards implementing Smart City:**

The Smart Cities Mission is a new initiative by the Government of India to drive economic growth and improve the quality life of people. This Mission of building 100 smart cities aims at promoting the efficient use of available assets, resources and infrastructure in order to improve the quality and provides a clean and sustainable environment.

Under Smart Cities Mission, with the budget of Rs.100 crore for five years, each selected city would get Central Assistance.

### Scenario before and after the introduction of Smart City:

Digital India, launched by the Prime Minister of India envisages making India a leader in digitally delivering services in the Health, Education, Banking sectors. With the Investment of 1.2 billion (approx.) for smart cities, the project was started by the year 2015.

Basis of Distinction	Pre- introduction	Post- introduction
Banking	Works are done efficiently using technology. For eg: ATM's, Online payment, Bank app's etc with use of slow internet connectivity.	A principle priority of the current government - Cashless economy and digital payments can be improved with speedy public Wi-Fi.
Infrastructure	Earlier days, cities were overcrowded with inadequate planning.	Area Based Development (ABD) for concentrating nook and corner of the city. Equal importance is given to conserve heritage buildings.
Education	Education system consisted of schools, colleges and universities.	Along with existing system, vocational, counselling and artisans development centres to be added.
E- governance	Problems were reported to concerned authorities by a complaint filed with them	Problems are be directly reported on an online portal.
Urban mobility	Regular modes of transport were available.	Enhancement of transport modes by multi-tier parking building, bicycle sharing, E-rickshaw, easing the traffic.
Water supply	Water is being supplied through tube wells, water	24*7 water supply to be ensured with water ATMs

	lorries, hand pumps and common water storage systems.	installed at various important points in the city. Water meters to be installed to control water waste.
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### Barriers in Building Smart Cities:

- **Social inclusion:** Social inclusion is the process of improving ways in which people from all sections of the society, the poor and downtrodden, should be given equal opportunity. For example, Varanasi has been selected for smart city project. The weavers of the city has been neglected for a long time with issues like price rise, middlemen etc. So an ideal smart city project should be inclusive of weavers too.
- **Expanding slums:** The people who come in search of a livelihood settle in unauthorized places take up small time jobs around them like daily wage laborers. While implementing smart city, as the entire slum had to be recreated with proper housing and sanitation.
- **Cost of the project:** The central government along with state governments with their tax collections, user charges, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), bonds and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) are the contributors for the project. The major cause of concern are rising cost of project for stakeholders.
- **Political stability:** Since there is equal contribution by both central and state government for the funding of the smart city, there has to be a mutual understanding between them. Only a stable government or a government with same development views can ensure smooth funding of this herculean project.
- **Environment:** High carbon trajectory and emission actions, shortage of resources are resulting in degradation of resources in the city. Delhi has been grappling with poor air quality.

### Role of Smart City towards Social Equity:

With the proper implementation of smart city sustainable growth and equality can be brought about by concentrating on:

- **Planning:** Benefiting the citizens by local economic planning, better city development, improved productivity and service. City like Chandigarh was planned but over population led to haphazard settlements and slums. These in the long run cause troubles to the civic bodies in providing facilities

to the people. Implementing smart cities, unplanned lands are to be efficiently used for building affordable housing for people from all sections of the society.

- **Waste Management:** The project will ensure that the waste is collected, segregated, disposed and reused properly for fuel purposes. The sewage will be collected and treated with the use of Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) which will monitor the process. The government of Tamil Nadu has completely banned the use of plastic in the year 2019.
- **Energy:** Since smart city gives importance solar powerpanels, it results in the use of clean energy. The use of energy to be monitored by Bi-directional Digital Net Meter which can transit info to energy provider and the user through web.
- **Information Technology:** Using India's vast IT resources, mobility of people can be eased by smart parking, integrated multi – modal transport. Technology giant Google have shown keen interest in providing broadband services to people through Wi-Fi installed at public places. Fast pace internet will ease the use of surveillance cameras i.e. CCTV for transport and safety purposes.
- **Water:** Smart city project paves way for water quality monitoring and leakage identification and pr. Smart Water metering to be installed to overlook the water distribution at various zones, ensuring safe water for all.
- **Transportation:** By developing public transportation system like electric vehicle, charging station, high speed rails to support ever growing urban population. The government is planning to bring about Transit Oriented System (TOD) a combination of walking pathway, trains and other modes.
- **Health:** By introducing new AIIMS institutions for accessible, affordable and effective health care system for citizens. Using new technology for fast recovery and fast medical solutions like E-medicine, an online platform available in both phone and website, government can improve the health of its citizens.
- **Education:** Through then updated IT infrastructure, the Smart School Management System will able to track the students attendance, performance and mid day meal scheme via E-portal.

### Conclusion:

A recent report by New World Wealth claims India in the 6<sup>th</sup> largest wealth market in the world. Smart City development is gaining considerable recognition over the past few years. The government has come up with a project to reduce the strains on existing metropolitan cities and upgrading the other cities to cope up with their expanding population. The scheme which was launched way back in 2015 saw the various state governments submitting the proposals for selecting the smart cities. Adding to this cost of the project keeps on escalating and years pass by. Thus comparing India before implementation of Smart City and now, as gained a lot more good results and as played an important role in Social Equity.

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