

URBAN INDIA



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Special Issue on Migration

Overview of Migration
Seasonal Migration
Gendered Migration
Migrant Child Labour
Job Search and Labour Market Outcomes
Migration and Conflict
Legal Aspects of Migration
Book Reviews
Workshops





National Institute of Urban Affairs

The National Institute of Urban Affairs is a premier institute for research, capacity building and dissemination of knowledge for the urban sector in India. NIUA conducts research on urbanization, urban policy and planning, municipal finance and governance, land economics, transit oriented development, urban livelihoods, environment and climate change and smart cities.

The Institute supports policy formulation, programme appraisal and monitoring for the Ministry of Urban Development and other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and also undertakes research and capacity building projects with multilateral and bilateral agencies and private sector organizations.

The Urban Data Centre at NIUA promotes research and evidence based planning and management of the urban sector in India.

NIUA publishes Urban India, a bi-annual journal and maintains the India Urban Portal, which provides information on models and good practices created under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

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(Centre for Policy Research)

CALL FOR PAPERS

URBAN INDIA invites contributions on issues related to urban development, management and governance including urbanisation, poverty, environment, municipal finance, e-governance among others.

Papers sent for publication should not have been published earlier or simultaneously submitted for publication to another journal.

Guidelines for submission of manuscripts:

- Articles should not exceed 8000 words, including notes and references.
- Articles should be accompanied by an abstract of a maximum of 150-200 words.
- Research notes or book reviews must be not more than 4000 words.
- Graphs and charts need to be prepared in MS Office (Word/Excel) and not in jpeg or other formats.
- Full citation for all references and sources must be provided.
- Articles should be sent by email in MS Word format to the Editor, Urban India along with the declaration that the article is unpublished.
- Authors are requested to provide full details for correspondence (postal and email address).

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BOOK REVIEW

'Perspective in Urban Development: Issues in Infrastructure, Planning and Governance' Edited by Ramanath Jha and Jyoti Chandiramani, Published by Capital Publishing Company, New Delhi

Pragya Sharma

Research Fellow (NIUA, New Delhi)

Urbanisation will continue to play a crucial role in the economy and lives of citizens. The challenge is to live with urbanisation while maximising its benefits and managing its negative impacts. This is the theme of the book "Perspective in Urban Development: Issues in Infrastructure, Planning and Governance" edited by Ramanath Jha and Jyoti Chandiramani. The book is a collection of thirteen papers divided into eight issue based sections. All the papers have been meticulously selected with the backdrop of urbanisation. They range from urban planning issues and Jawaharlal National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to sectoral issues on water, power, transport, good governance, poverty and floor area ratio, among others.

Each section of the book is devoted to a critical issue of urban development. The first section on Urban Planning contains two papers. The first chapter brings out the fact that Master Plans prepared in our country are ineffective in spite of enormous inputs in resources and time. In present day dynamics it is not possible to predict the growth of city on a twenty year timeline. The duration for preparation of Master Plan and then its approval at times takes several years. The author is of the opinion that Master Plans need to be more dynamic and flexible and stresses on a new approach to city planning which is more participatory and inclusive. The present approach to Master Plans lays too much emphasis on land-use and hence limits its perspective where as in current scenario Master Plans needs to be more holistic and should include a comprehensive set of action to address the issues. The second chapter brings out the importance of Floor Space Index (FSI) as a financing tool for urban local bodies. The author in his paper has reviewed all the dimensions of the Floor Space Index covering the concept, its variants, impact and consequences in Indian context, arguments in favour and against granting higher FSI.



Section II contains a review paper on Jawaharlal National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), which provides the overview and the scenario in the country at the time of launch of JNNURM and critically evaluates the structural and operational issues that have led to low performance of the programme. Finally, this paper provides inputs for improvement of next generation JNNURM.

Section III of the book focuses on urban water supply and its complexities in India. It presents the state of urban water supply and various options available to address the issue and highlights core issues of service delivery, financial sustainability and institutional mechanism. The author suggests that there is a need of fundamental changes such as performance, supportive decentralisation, capacity building and politically matured tariff policy.

Section IV contains three papers on urban transport. Chapter 5 analyses the gap between the policy intention, its implementation and the real situation on ground using the case of Pune. The author argues that since all the problems caused due to traffic congestion are essentially the side-effects of excessive motorization, the solution requires motorization to be controlled without reducing the ability to commute. Chapter 6 analyses the performance of the transport corporation of Pune. The paper brings out the institutional, financial, technical and infrastructural issues which hinder the transport corporation in providing satisfactory public transport in Pune city. The paper also provides the citizens' perspective about the corporation. Chapter 7 critically analyses the National Urban Transport Policy of Government of India laying stress on effective public transport provision as a critical element of development policies.

Section V is devoted to urban power sector and contains three papers. Chapter 8, taking Pune as a case study lays stress on energy saving, as there is immense potential for energy conservation across various economic sectors in Pune. The authors suggest promotion of energy efficiency, conservation and demand side management as the measures to fulfill the demand-supply gap of electricity. Chapter 9 highlights the civil society initiatives for load shedding in Pune. The paper discusses the success of Zero Load Shedding Model operational in Pune. The paper also focuses on how commitment, knowledge and sector expertise has helped to bring out the practical and feasible solution for the acute problem of load shedding which Pune was facing. Chapter 10 discusses the first Energy Exchange set up in India, highlighting its current and future role.



The single paper in section VI explains the concept and growth of green buildings in India and its need in the context of increasing urbanisation. Conventional buildings are resource intensive, both to construct as well as operate and maintain, whereas green buildings have a positive impact on the built environment. The author is of the opinion that policy intervention and awareness generation will be the key elements to promote green building practices in India.

Section VII deals with urban poverty. The paper tries to understand the extent of poverty and analyses various initiatives taken by the government during the tenth and eleventh five year plans. Though the percentage of poor has decreased over the period, they have increased in absolute numbers. The characteristics of urban poverty are multi-dimensional and multi-faceted. Therefore the author suggests that it is imperative to have a right mix of policy and programme initiatives to address the issue of urban poverty and suggests a five-pronged strategy to enhance urban equity and to ensure improved service delivery to urban poor.

The last section covers urban governance. The paper presents impacts and challenges of globalization on urban governance. The Seventy Fourth Constitution Amendment Act envisages devolution of functional and financial power to urban local bodies. But most of the urban local bodies and especially the smaller ones are financially deficit to take up any development planning. Therefore their relationship with the state government still remains that of a subordinate and dependent agency. The paper highlights eight major characteristics of urban governance. The author discusses various checks and balances need to put in place to ensure good urban governance.

The book presents the reader the varied challenges of urban India. Since the book seeks to stimulate new approaches to solving urban issues through participation of all stakeholders, it would have been good if the book had covered the issue of solid waste management as well.