

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

Looking Back to Look Ahead Background Paper on CDP Appraisals

Paramita Datta Dey*, Usha P Raghupathi*, Sandeep Thakur■

and

Shreekant Gupta◆

Abstract

A City Development Plan (CDP) is a document of the city which attempts to answer three main questions – where is the city now? where does it want to go? and how does it want to go from ‘here’ to ‘there’? Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), a CDP is the document that would guide the development of a city to the future.

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has been involved in appraising the quality of CDPs that have been submitted to the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. This paper provides a detailed comparative assessment of a sample of ten CDPs. The assessment has been done with respect to three aspects – an examination of the baseline scenario (i.e. where is the city now?), vision of the city (where does it want to go?) and what are the projects envisaged (how does it want to go from here to there?). The paper begins by a scrutiny of how the CDP has looked at the fundamental issues - demography (current population and trend of growth in the core and peripheral areas of the city), economic base (the predominant sector – manufacturing / industrial / service that runs the economy of the city, role of informal sector etc.), the institutional set-up (role of multiple agencies for provision of services like the parastatals) and most importantly the financial health of a city (e.g. the income-expenditure pattern and credit-worthiness of the city).

Each aspect is further appraised sector-wise. It includes water supply and sanitation, drainage, solid waste management, roads and transport etc. An overall assessment based on the above reveals that, in most of the CDPs the baseline scenario is dealt with in considerable detail. However, certain areas need strengthening. Since a CDP is a document of the people of the city, the vision should be shared and collective. This

* Senior Research Officer, National Institute of Urban Affairs

• Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs

■ Senior Research Officer, National Institute of Urban Affairs

◆ Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs

requires extensive consultation with the stakeholders. This aspect was not given due importance in many cities and the scenario was better dealt-with in case of cities, which already had gone through the preparation of similar processes. An example is Hyderabad, which already had a city development strategy in place. Another important finding has been that in most CDPs the vision translates into more capital-intensive projects, rather than smaller and self-sustaining endeavours, which involves greater community participation. For example, most cities have talked of tapping water from far-fetched sources, which is an expensive proposition. They have not only failed to anticipate the increase in generation of wastewater, but have not adequately formulated projects on recycle and reuse of wastewater. This in turn when related with the financial status of cities reveals that there is over-emphasis on creation of assets and lack of stress on operation and maintenance of the already existing ones. The CDPs have also not been able to connect with policy issues e.g. the road projects proposed are not well related to the basic postulates of the National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP). The paper ends with the positive note that a CDP is not an end in itself, it's a means to an end and is a living document that is open to criticism and is founded on the dynamics of urban development.

Keywords: City Development Plan, appraisal, JNNURM