

Community-oriented City Development Plans

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Abstract

The endeavour to make cities better places to live in entails the participation of those who have a stake in the city, particularly the community at large that resides in the city. Keeping this in mind, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) envisages that City Development Plans (CDPs) should be based on a “shared and collective vision” and one that is prepared through a “continuous participatory consultative process”. This paper evaluates the extent to which CDPs have adhered to this basic premise. In the first part of the paper we conduct a comparative assessment of the extent of public participation in the preparation of CDPs for a sample of sixteen JNNURM cities. It is noted that the extent of consultation varies considerably across cities and in general needs greater emphasis. In the second part of the paper we discuss approaches, tools and techniques available to improve people’s participation in development practices. Case studies are presented to illustrate this point. The paper concludes with suggestions on how to make CDPs more “shared and collective”, given the constraints.

Keywords: City Development Plan, community participation, urban renewal

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