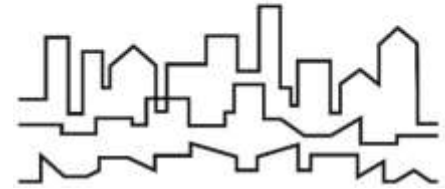


Assessment Report

Defining New Planning and Design Paradigm



Symposium held on November 29 - 30, 2019, including site visit on November 30, 2019 at School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal (SPAB).



This event was held within the framework of the project “Building Resilient Urban Communities” (BReUCom), funded under the “Capacity Building in Higher Education” program of EU Erasmus+.



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Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	1
2.0	Lecture 1: Good Governance.....	2
	Feedbacks & Learnings.....	2
3.0	Lecture 2: Climate Change and Resilience Thoughts for the Future Education.....	3
	Feedbacks & Learnings.....	3
4.0	Lecture 3: Building Urban Resilience :Some Reflections.....	5
	Feedbacks & Learnings.....	5
5.0	Lecture 4: Urban Sustainability in India.....	7
	Feedback and Learnings.....	7
6.0	Lecture 5: Risk Informed Planning- Creating Higher levels for Community Resilience.....	9
	Feedback and Learnings.....	9
7.0	Lecture 6 : People Centric Planning and Design: A Case-Study of Cure.....	10
	Feedback and Learnings.....	10
8.0	Lecture 7: Urban Challenges and Planning Deficit.....	12
	Feedback and Learnings.....	12
9.0	Lecture 8: Ecological Landscaping: Why revisiting the Biology in Urban and Rural Planning is critical today? 14	
	Feedback and Learnings.....	14
10.0	Presentations by Post Graduate Students of SPAB.....	16
11.0	Exhibition of Students Work.....	17
12.0	Visit to Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya -IGRMS (Museum of Man) Bhopal, India.....	18
	18
13.0	Schedule of the Symposium.....	19

Introduction

The symposium "Defining New Planning and Design Paradigm" took place at the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal (SPAB) on November 29 - 30, 2019. A site visit to the places of the historic importance of Bhopal took place on November 30, 2019.

This event was held within the framework of the project "Building Resilient Urban Communities" (BReUCom), funded under the "Capacity Building in Higher Education" program of EU Erasmus+.

Project team members from Three Indian Higher Education Institutions, two Indian Non-Governmental Organizations as well as from two European universities participated in the event, listening to and discussing with the Indian experts in the field of Planning and Design.

This assessment reports sums up the participants' main take aways and the most prominent points of discussion during the event.

The symposium tested a rather unconventional format/ schedule in which each lecturer was given space to elaborate on her/ his specific topic in more detail than would be usual in conventional scientific conference settings. After each lecture, a significant amount of time was dedicated to the discussion between lecturer and participants who would also actively draw comparisons between Indian and European situations.

After the symposium, participants gave the following general feedback and comments:

Lecture 1: Good Governance

Lecture by R. Parasuram, Director General, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA), Bhopal



Feedbacks & Learnings

The speaker discussed mainly upon the “Communication of Planning” and emphasised upon the disconnect between “What is Known and what exactly is needed.” He established this through varied National and International examples like water harvesting techniques adopted in the Bundelkhand region, Pedestrian shed in the US, 17 storied parking permission at Delhi, and informal livelihood as the biggest challenge in Mumbai, etc. He stressed mainly on heavy subsidization on the public transport system, revision of the standards for the provision of services in residential communities, and also on land management to control ground-level water quality. He discussed the ways Rome and Singapore adopted the policy to discourage traffic movement inside the city core and enhancing the use of Public transport. The session also emphasised on the role of good governance in ensuring liveable, resilient cities, and the disconnect between governmental aspirations and the realities in cities. The session was useful in gaining an insight as to how the bureaucracy views urban development, the transitions in planning paradigms, and the limitations of the existing rules. The presentation covered multiple international as well as Indian examples of urban interventions. The discussion sensitized participants about the role of good governance in developing better living conditions to enhance the resilience of Indian cities.. For this it is further recommended to organize workshops or capacity building programme on relevant issues. Revisit criteria for formulation of existing rules. Exa, whether it is needed or not and in what way.

Lecture 2: Climate Change and Resilience Thoughts for the Future Education

Lecture by AGK Menon, Architect Conservationist and Planner, Delhi



Feedbacks & Learnings

The lecture focused on understanding the pedagogic discourse of architecture in India. The discussion was initiated by raising fundamental questions regarding the future of architectural education. The discussion emphasized the need for indigenous educational policy rather than relying on western learning-based teaching. Moving from fixed and rigid theory base teaching to practical and self-exploring strategies. As per Prof. Menon, the overall learnings from this symposium can be summarized by a phrase “Indigenouse the modern”. This refers to a persistent, strong orientation of planning disciplines in India (and most of the Global South) on Western paradigms. These frameworks are derived from local context in industrialized countries with high standards of living and wealth. In contrast, India needs its own, specific, and localized solutions, which are to be developed here itself. For planning, this requires scholars to take very detailed looks at the conditions on the ground. It was an illuminating lecture on the reality of architectural education in India. Architecture education in India is rooted in western paradigms and blind to the existing needs and contexts of India. The lecture revealed the pressing need to rethink the format of the Indian architectural education system. He also emphasized on three main aspects of Architectural Future Education like why we need Architects training; Where do we teach Architecture; what do we teach and how do we teach? He highlighted that presently skill is a major part of the education system not Knowledge. Hence real-time issues needed to be

studied. In his further discussion, he told understanding the subject by making mistakes rather than teaching what you know. He recommended teaching the works of Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, Laurie Baker, Charles Correa, B.V. Doshi, Anant Raje for understanding the built forms.

The major learning from this discussion is that Architecture studies will be called Habitat studies and instead of modernizing the Architectural studies, we may emphasize on indigenous practice. And there is an urgent need to modernize the indigenous knowledge. This session was very interesting as it made us think what the purpose of education is – is it to make employable persons or to make intelligent human beings who will then find his/her own ways and means of living. Secondly, it laid stress on three main questions –

- a) Why do we teach architecture – to understand our problems and not because we know our problems
- b) Where do we teach architecture – we teach where we are
- c) What is being taught in architecture

In this context, he pointed out two relevant realities - one is that 25-30% practice architecture after passing out, what do the remaining 60% do, and secondly, most Indian architects are back offices staff for international countries like Europe and America because we are trained to be assistants.

Prof. Menon urged that architectural education should be viewed as 'habitat studies' and the emphasis on improving the pedagogic discourses should take into cognizance the indigenous practices as well which are ignored in the current academic curricula.

Lecture 3: Building Urban Resilience :Some Reflections

Lecture by Amir Bazaz, Senior Lead-Practice, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru



Feedbacks & Learnings

The major discussion was based on urban resilience and migration from a different perspective. The session emphasised on the need to focus our attention on distress migration through the lens of coping and adaptation. The session touched upon the four massive systemic transitions namely- energy systems, land systems, urban systems, and industrial networks. The presentation discussed cities as having its own set of challenges since they concentrate 'risk' and concentrate 'people'. This puts the economically weaker sections at most risk. The session also touched upon the limitations of 'high-risk vulnerability studies' and the method of assessing 'impact' wherein the emphasis is on the 'aggregate' and not necessarily on people, children, and older people. Multiple dimensions of migration were discussed with special emphasis on the 'hidden' stressors that include the lack of infrastructural provisioning in poorer, informal neighbourhoods in Indian cities which are highly dependent on localised privately managed provisions resulting in severe inequalities in access and distribution to basic services. There is a need for comprehensive development plans for urban areas. The lecture described different issues including whether migration is an adaptation strategy or a coping strategy. It focussed on HRVA studies as an important component of planning and revealed that migrant labourers often face crises in cities, dissimilar in nature but similar in scale as they faced in their hometowns, and the savings are negligible because of the greater costs of surviving in cities. The lecture concluded with a need for platforms for multi-stakeholder engagements, and the necessity for policy-rethinking for

migrants, including social security. The lecture opened up an interesting discussion on the variability of living conditions of migrants based on income and a debate on the need and inevitability of migrants. The large part of the discussion was based on “Can we think of building urban resilience from a different perspective.” At the city level, there is an urgent need to build resilience. Another important aspect is to understand what is the role of the state? Is it only asset accumulation or also equal resource allocation? The discussion also happened to understand that “migration may be considered as an adaptive strategy”. In this discussion four parameters were discussed, they are as follows- positive adaptivity; negative adaptivity; positive coping mechanism; and negative coping mechanism, with . concerning migration patterns in urban areas. Migration is bringing a large informal sector and poor social mobility. Need to focus on distress migration through understanding coping and adaptation. Similarly, there is a need to adopt the mental mapping for the allocation of the financial implication and also to link urban renewal and development with short and medium-term risk reduction policies to build resilience cities. For strengthening the Urban Resilience, essentially one should examine the city development plans, along with the development of public entitlements to bridge the structural asymmetrical gap between rich and poor population. The learnings from the session include considering the city development plans as appropriate platforms to enable stakeholder engagements. The fiscal and financial incentives for risk reduction could be integrated with the knowledge from the local processes and adapted to bridge the structural asymmetry in the gaps in the social strata of Indian cities.

Lecture 4: Urban Sustainability in India

Lecture by Ravi Anand, Urban and Regional Planner, Hyderabad



Feedback and Learnings

The session focused on the aspect of sustainability in Indian cities. The thrust of the lecture was on self-contained lifestyle and architectural practices for sustainable development. Prof. Ravi Anand highlighted the key role of preserving environment and learnings from old practices for sustainable development at local, regional, and global scale.

. The lecture focused on 'values' of an individual as a pillar of sustainability. It emphasized on traditional Indian spiritual values as being a beacon that could lead forward to future sustainability. The lecture resulted in an interesting discussion on the relative importance of individualism vs policy-related movements for the sustenance of the human future. The speaker through his discussion tried to bring the issue of overexploitation of resources for one's selfishness. He emphasized on the minimum material consumption by following the concept of Rishi (Monks) in ancient mythology (Niradambaram-Simple and Modest). He discussed how ancient civilization like Babylon, ancient Egypt, Indus valley reached to peak of their growth and vanished. He discussed that through limiting the population growth, production of consumables, and use of resources, the environmental collapse can be avoided. He told about the wide use of action-oriented and applied approaches at local, regional, and global scale.

To develop resilience in urban areas large disparities needed to minimize by developing the socially divisive methods and also examining the Direct and Indirect Climate Change method. Also, needed to examine the respond capacity) of cities (communities/societies) to minimal resource usage. e.. One of the most powerful quotes the speaker used in his lecture was to refer to cities as an outcome of the 'bifurcation of symbiotic and predatory impulses'.

The presentation touched upon various examples from the global history of urbanism which dealt

with resource consumption and the changing dynamics of sustainable living through time. The presentation forcefully argued that one not only requires newer technologies but also a renewed 'value system' if the world has to continue to survive. The examples panned from the learnings from ancient civilisations to the hyperdense Kowloon agglomeration. The session also included reviewing the current understandings of the 'sustainability model' and proposing a more relevant alternative wherein the realms of economy, society and environment are subsets of one another in which 'the environment' forms the over encompassing realm within which the realm of 'society' (social aspects) is situated and the 'economy' forms a further subset within.

The way forward discussed was to inculcate an approach that is action-oriented and includes various aspects such as forecasting, observing, confirming, responding, and innovating while reducing resource dependency.

Lecture 5: Risk Informed Planning- Creating Higher levels for Community Resilience

Lecture by Janki Andharia, Dean Department of Disaster Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai



Feedback and Learnings

Professor Andharia discussed the fragmented cities and societal inequalities. She further elaborated on the critical concepts in urban resilience like Measurable-urban system, Inhabitants-Continuity, Success, and Stress –Transforming, etc. The lecture focuses on different levels of vulnerability as a precursor to any disaster study. The talk explained the necessity of a disaggregated study of vulnerability and emphasized how quick recovery from disaster doesn't necessarily imply the absence of vulnerability. The talk underpinned the requirement for a robust format for disaster-resilience, based on risk reduction and Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) studies. There is an urgent need to adopt a methodology for strengthening resilience by converging with sociological Gap.

The session dealt with understanding the larger picture of resilience rather than a piecemeal approach which most resilience studies resort to. The emphasis of the presentation was on reviewing the current notions of development-related discourses which often ignore pertinent questions of 'vulnerability' while using the term 'resilience' as a buzz word. The session also extended the discourse of resilience to larger environmental issues like 'loss of biodiversity' and 'global warming'. The presentation also touched upon the lacunae in the present socio-sectoral schemes in India which are often 'disaster-blind'. The learnings from the session were multi-faceted. The speaker emphasized on the need for shifting to risk-informed planning paradigm and to induce rigorous 'research based design' training to the stakeholders and decision-makers to enable more appropriate outcomes.

Lecture 6 : People Centric Planning and Design: A Case-Study of Cure

Lecture by Siddharth Shankar Pandey, CURE New Delhi



Feedback and Learnings

Mr. Siddharth highlighted the importance of engaging the community to sensitized with their challenges showcasing two case examples of work done on-site through community engagement and participation. Likewise, when it comes to finding housing solutions for the urban poor, copying approaches from elsewhere can be seen not to work well in an Indian context: multi-storey housing remains problematic for most potential residents, especially when built on urban fringes and outskirts far away from job opportunities and without suitable public transport. Furthermore, the provision of basic urban infrastructure is still not standard in large-scale housing estates, which leaves residents struggling and reverting to open defecation.

The session involved two case study presentation of hands-on work done by the NGO CURE based in New Delhi in the informal housing sector. Both cases placed the communities at the core. The first case study based in the city of Agra deals with the water woes in the informal housing segment. With community participation, rainwater harvesting devices were installed in the community. The second case study presented was the resettlement colony of Savda Ghevra in the fringes of the National Capital Region of Delhi. The colony did not have adequate infrastructure to support the people who were resettled there from the core city. The NGO along with other allied partners involved the community to get together and provide for alternative water supply and community level sewerage facilities and to adopt domestic measures like composting and allowed for the people to generate employment through the process. The main learnings from the study were the 'de-engineer' the infrastructural solutions and to look at a

larger realm to find solutions for the infrastructural problems in the informal sector. The issues plagued by the informal sector which makes them highly vulnerable are often linked to the lack of land tenure rights, disruptions in the access to legislation, the disparity in supply, and access to resources. The presentation ended on the note that one needs to look 'out of the box', termed as 'un-planning' by the presenter, to plan for integrated solutions for the informal sectors in the global south.

The major learning from the case studies was of De-engineering by bringing solutions and by democratizing the planning through Community participation and engagement from the start of the project to end of the project. The session brought out the successes achieved when people for who these services are designed are involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring – because it is the community who have to use it not the service providers. It also reflects, what the city should be providing versus what the communities have to provide for themselves even if it is planned or an unplanned project. For instance: the Decentralized waste water treatment plant through De-engineering solutions and the policy on water resilience in collaboration with Municipal Corporation of Agra; the concept of harvesting rainwater; and the use of stones instead of bricks to construct wells for longevity and sustainability. This community-led and designed projects also bring out the untrained hidden architects from within the communities who find solutions to their problems which are then fed into the regular system and become a part of the policy.

Lecture 7: Urban Challenges and Planning Deficit

Lecture by Mangesh Tyagi, Principal Advisor, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA), Bhopal



Feedback and Learnings

Speaker highlighted the integration of Urban Local Bodies (ULB's) in the resilience framework for better outcomes. He stressed that it is important to relook in the existing policies before imposing to make it an effective tool for bringing resilience. Also to understand the causal relationship between Produce-Consume-Reuse and Reduce- Recycle-Reuse, while framing the new policies for any planning sectors.

The speaker presented an overview of the existing Planning Policies, which itself is a challenge to implement at a grass root level. Through his discussion, he brought the importance and need of financial independency of ULB's as per the 74th Amendment of the Indian constitution. He also discussed the methods for smoothing the prevailing transport policies. He highlighted that there is a need to accommodate the need for rental housing in housing policy.

The content of the lecture was relevant and also the format was appealing and easy to follow and understand. The presentation content was very much contextualized and informative as per the present condition. The presentation also shared an interesting overview of the challenges in the urban planning policies and provisioning by the government in India. Several commonly misconstrued myths were debunked in the presentation. The fact that housing shortage was most highly felt by the middle-income group (56%) more than that in the lower-income group (40%) and that the rental housing sector was not addressed in the housing policy for India till

recently were eye-openers. The speaker also explained the lack of comprehensive understanding and therefore the problems caused by accepted 'definitions', for example, urban poverty is defined by the calorie intake and the money required to support the minimum calorie intake through food but this blanket cut-off excludes a gamut of issues faced by the urban poor owing to various bio-geo climatic factors, varying ill-informed food habits, their erratic earnings from the livelihoods being in the informal sector, often varying with seasonal changes. The lack of synergy between the public and the private sector in the country was also highlighted in the presentation.

Lecture 8: Ecological Landscaping: Why revisiting the Biology in Urban and Rural Planning is critical today?

Lecture by Vinita Gowda , Deptt of Biological sciences , Indian Institute Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal



Feedback and Learnings

Dr. Vineeta highlighted the need and role of the plant ecosystem in urban areas. Understanding habitat is more important than the application of common strategies for all urban areas. As Dr. Gowda pointed out, this is also very true with regards to vegetation, especially when it comes to building resilience to global warming: not every plant is suitable for all locations, and trees are not automatically supportive. Rather, locally adapted species have to be selected to safeguard future plant growth and to keep maintenance efforts manageable. This requires a landscape architect/planner to have a sound knowledge of habitats for various plant species. Speaker primarily highlighted the plant ecosystem and the role it plays across other ecosystems. The impact of deforestation and urbanization upon the plant population, which is very essential for the existence of habitat was also discussed in detail.

Building Resilience in the urban area is an amalgamation of built and unbuilt forms. As plants play an essential role in terms of food security, health, medicines, and reducing urban heat stress effects, hence needed to be addressed in policymaking. This particular presentation brought out certain aspects that one was unaware of and especially now when all talk about climate change. While on one hand, all are talking about planting trees, she says, afforestation is not a solution to mitigate CO2 emissions. Her explanation of how good looking creepers destroy and kill trees as they spread over them was educative. As far as content is concerned that was very eye-opening.

especially the Plant blindness discussion. Participants learnt about plant blindness which one never thought about or were aware of and this could be due to global warming, food security, and drug discovery. Another reality brought out through this session was that plants used as medicines for diseases like cancer are being used more and more without realising that the particular plant species are becoming extinct because they are not being reproduced. Now in the future, one would like to see tropical ecology from a different eye.

The presentation dealt with the role plants play in ensuring a healthy ecosystem and the potentials of including learnings from the biological science while planning for cities. The presentation looked at numerous yet unexplored learnings from plant and animal sciences which could be useful in future policymaking. The key learning of the presentation was to 'go local and think global', which included considering native species in the ecological landscaping within cities and employ the services of nature to solve issues that could have otherwise been heavily engineering based.

Presentations by Post Graduate Students of SPAB

Studio Exercise undertaken under BReUCom by Third Semester Environmental Planning and Urban Design Students.



The student works showcased the various approaches taken by them in their studio projects designed as part of the BReUCom Capacity Building in Higher Education format. Emphasis has been given on the methodology to address the issues with people's participation as well as by developing the short term remedies to reduce the stress levels in building resilience within the communities. Students of both the courses intensively discussed the issues and challenges identified in their case areas and effective planning and design interventions for the same. They also presented the case background, the analysis of the site followed by the learnings from the analysis. Under these highly complex framework conditions, teaching in the planning disciplines remains a constantly evolving challenge that requires teachers to be extremely open to experiments and to venture into teaching to learn and to reapply knowledge gained in the exercise.

Exhibition of Students Work

On the last day of the symposium after concluding the session , participants visited the exhibition organized by Masters students SPA Bhopal of their studio work based on case studies undertaken in the BReUCom project. Students explained the nature of work, data collection, and analysis as part of their studio.



Visit to Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya -IGRMS (Museum of Man) Bhopal, India

A visit to Museum of Man was organized for the symposium participants on 30th November 2019. The visit was based on the theme of traditional communities and the built environment. The Museum of Man is a government of Indian institution, which acts as a facilitator for strengthening interrelation between Community and Museums. The vastly spread of museum hosts a life scale prototypes of various building types of traditional and aboriginal communities of India. The museum director Dr. Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri and his team took the symposium participants to the various parts of the museum to explain the built setting and daily life practices of these communities. He also explained how traditional architecture is intertwined with the religious and cultural rituals through the perspectives of material, construction techniques and art. On the way, participants also visited the Upper Lake, a designated important wetland under Ramsar Convention. The participants visited various parts along the lakeshore such as Boat Club Road, VIP Road and Bairagarh to know the majors taken for conservation of the lake during Bhoj Wetland Project undertaken by Lake Conservation Authority during 1996-2004 supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan.



Schedule of the Symposium

Schedule Day 1

Friday, November 29, 2019

Venue: Senate Block, SPA Bhopal

09:00	Registration
09:30	Welcome Note N Sridharan, Director, SPA Bhopal
09:45	Inaugural Address R Parasuram, Director General, ABV IGGPA
10:30	Tea/Snacks
11:00	Climate Change & Resilience: Thoughts for the Future Education AGK Menon, Architect, Conservationist & Planner, Delhi
11:45	Building Urban Resilience: Some Reflections Amir Bazaz, Lead Practice, IIHS Bengaluru
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Urban Sustainability in India Ravi Anand, Urban & Regional Planner, Hyderabad
14:15	Risk Informed Planning: Creating Higher Levels of Community Resilience Janki Andharia, Dean, Dept. of Disaster Studies, TISS Mumbai
15:00	Tea/Snacks
15:30	Panel Discussion Way Forward

Schedule Day 2

Saturday, November 30, 2019

Venue: Senate Block, SPA Bhopal

09:30	People-centric Planning and Design: A Case-study of CURE Siddharth Shankar, CURE Delhi
10:15	Urban Challenges and Planning Defecit Mangesh Tyagi, Principal Advisor, ABV IGGPA Bhopal
11:00	Tea/Snacks
11:30	Ecological Landscaping: Why revisiting the Biology in Urban and Rural Planning is critical today? Vinita Gowda, Dept. of Biological Sciences, IISER Bhopal
12:15	Presentation by Postgraduate Students of Environmental Planning & Urban Design
12:35	Lunch
13:15	Site Visit to Upper Lake