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FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR

Prof. Nishith Rai, Director

It is a universal truth that the progress of man depends upon social planning, and a perfect harmony between man and his environment. Urbanized life has produced a new environment, creating new problems of adaptation.

Urbanization is a problem which has assumed gigantic dimensions due to concentration of population in the economically developed and industrialized centers. This leads to much congestion and many social and economic problems.

Modern cities have grown in a haphazard and unplanned manner due to fast industrialization. In India cities became over-populated and over-crowded partly as a result of the increase in population over the decades and partly as a result of migration of persons from the countryside to the big industrialized cities in search of employment, or in search of a higher standard of living and better living conditions.

Another serious and insurmountable problem is that of housing the evergrowing and migrating population in big cities. Due to the paucity of houses to accommodate the people, the once beautiful cities are being reduced to slums. This pressure of population has led to the construction of vertically rising sky-scrapers to accommodate the maximum number within the minimum space. But they have themselves given birth to many problems such as fire hazard, in sanitary conditions, lack of civic amenities like parks, playgrounds and parking space, congestion, traffic jams.

The Journal Urban Panorama presents the refereed results of original scientific research, and new developments in policy and practice in the fields of housing, spatial planning, building and urban development.

The aim is to give exposure to recent developments, providing a forum for the exchange and discussion of new ideas. The journal benefits a diverse readership of scientists, specialists, practitioners and policy-makers in government and in organizations dealing with housing and urban issues.

Lucknow

December, 2013

Prof. Nishith Rai

FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

Urbanization, consequent of industrialization has denied to a large section of the people even elementary civic amenities—pure drinking water, underground drainage, electric supply, hospitals and dispensaries, well-built and well-run schools and colleges and roads. The absence of these amenities raises the incidence of personal and social pathology —delinquency, crime, prostitution, mental illness, alcoholism, drug addiction etc.

According to Wikipedia, a panorama is any wide-angle view or representation of a physical space, whether in painting, drawing, photography, film, or a three-dimensional model. Through our Journal Urban Panorama we bring out a bouquet of articles from various parts of the country, which presents a panoramic view of what Urban Development is all about.

Prof. V. Gnaneshwar in his paper titled Ward Committee and Area Sabha System in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, discuss how the top-down approach and style of functioning dominate the municipal governance in India in spite of the pronounced decentralization. He further discusses how effective decentralized and participatory municipal organizations are therefore, essential to reduce gap between local communities and ULBs.

Dr. Anjani Kumar Singh and P. Madhulika, in their joint paper titled Exemplary role of ICDS in Andhra Pradesh: A case of Anganwadi Centre Karimnagar they discuss the world largest and unique program ICDS and the role of ICDS in malnutrition and poor birth practices in India. And it depicts women's perception towards infrastructure and services provided by AWC.

Dr. Nasruddin, in his paper titled Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrant Workers in South Delhi District: A Comparative Analysis of Non-Rehabilitated and Rehabilitated Slums attempts to compare the Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrant Workers in South Delhi District in Non-Rehabilitated and Rehabilitated Slums. The research paper also highlights the satisfaction level regarding the rehabilitation.

Prof. A.M. Reddy in his article Improving Urban Environment - Suryapet Municipality experience, focuses on how the municipal managers are facing financial and physical constraints in managing the urban environment. He deals with the subject by taking the readers through various cases in Suryapet Municipality where urban environmental problems due to neglect in tree plantation, dried water bodies, improper solid waste management, plastic and mosquito menace and over use of electricity are dealt with. The municipality planned and introduced initiatives to improve the living environment, involved elected representatives, NGOs and citizens.

Mr. Vivekananda Biswas, Dr. Deepak Kumar Tyagi, Dr. Vandana Tyagi, in their joint paper titled Estimation of Land Use/cover Change Detection by Geospatial techniques: A Case Study of Bhowali Himalayan Town (India) aims at highlighting the Geospatial techniques for assessment of land use/cover Dr. Awadhesh Kumar

Sing and Dr. AtulPratap Singh in their joint paper titled Civic Centric Reforms in Urban Administration discuss how urban governance is no more limited to provision of infrastructure and operation of civic services. They highlight how sustainability, equity and efficiency, transparency and accountability, civic engagement, security development of partnerships, etc. contribute to good urban governance.

Dr. Deepa Ahluwalia and Dr. Nasruddin in their joint paper titled Discrimination against Women in Social Sector: An Overview of India explores the various forms and causes of discrimination against women and children in India, also highlight the various government schemes, acts and laws to remove the gender bias discrimination. The paper also talks about the way forward and a roadmap of government initiatives to eliminate the discrimination against women and children.

Mr. Taran Singh in his article on Poor Friendly E-Governance: The revamping of Social Security Pension Delivery in Raipur focuses on the National Social Security and Disability Schemes and Programs (NSSDSP) for the weaker segments of society. Through this case study based in Raipur the author explains how technological advancement benefits the pensioners.

This issue of Urban Panorama carries two book reviews by two research scholars Adem Borri Ondakie and Gebrechristos Nuriye from Ethiopian Civil service University, Ethiopia.

It is expected that the readers at large will be benefitted by the content and new presentation of the journal. Urban Panorama has achieved the present status due to all round support from our authors, referees, members of Editorial & Advisory Board of the journal and also time to time guidance and suggestions from the officials of the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi, and of course the readers.

I am sure joint efforts of all of us will make our task easier to achieve the heights of new successes in the field of Urban Development education and research through such publications.

Lucknow
December, 2013

Rachna Rishi
Publication Officer

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Book Review

10. Huchzermeyer, Marie. Unlawful Occupation: Informal Settlements and Urban Policy in South Africa and Brazil, pp.274, Africa World Press, Inc., Trenton, NJ, USA, 2004. - Adem Borri Ondakie
11. A.P. Cotton, M Sohail and W.K. Tayler (1998): Community Initiatives in Urban Infrastructure, pp. 95, Published by the Water Engineering and Development Centre Loughborough University, UK.- GebrechristosNuriye

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