Urban Planning and Global Pandemic Crises

The pandemic will leave a dent for the years on communities

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In the race of growth and development, somewhat environmental aspect and the social value was ignored and human being as a machine was considered as truth and so planning was also oriented to technocratic overwhelming the social and environmental value. Present Novel COVID-19 Pandemic has made the world realized that an invisible virus can break all illusion of supremacy of human being technocracy and highlights the wholes of environment & social ignorance. But it is always been good that at least after every such situation human being started to think of the left out/ignored aspects but again after trapping into the growth illusion start to forget the pillars of being alive.

The impact of COVID-19 is still being recognized and it has now altered urban life dramatically. This situation will leave a dent for the years on communities. Such situations have given rise to a debate about how to develop cities and, even more importantly, how to respond better to the current and future crises. In the coming years, we are expecting five significant ways of impacting urban development.

1. Emphasis on Core Services

Concern on safe density has emerged from the spread of COVID-19 in world's most connecting cities. Did we get too urban? But it is the density that first makes cities work; it is a major part that makes them economic, cultural, and politics.

In fact, density is the precondition for successful urban service delivery and many people in today's cities who lack access to public services have experienced it. It is the lack of access to basic services including water, sanitation, waste management, and health care that have intensified the challenge in many cities to respond effectively to COVID-19. Bad access in some areas makes lockdown instructions difficult to follow. Closing this gap in public infrastructure needs to be a priority for the future of cities. While planning for the transport system, we should give emphasis on active transport suck as walking and cycling, which have multiplier effects on the environment and health.

2. Housing and Public Spaces

How we build our communities ultimately dictates how robust it is. The urban growth would add to challenges without sufficient public space or appropriate affordable housing assets. It was the reason that many building rules and regulations were being enforced, and expected many to be up by the time. COVID-19 can also cause improvements, ranging from immediate steps to allow citizens to obey socially distant recommendations and sanitation to longer lasting reforms that will concentrate on enhancing access to affordable housing and public space, such as improvement in informal settlements.

In present COVID-19 situation, government has faced many challenges in providing food to daily wedge and houseless workers who are hand to mouth and spread in segregated manner throughout the city. This has resulted into the emphasis of provision of sufficient provision of community centers, night shelters and big public space which can be used for revenue

generation with various financial model in general condition and space for providing shelters to houseless, migrants or daily wedge workers during the condition of pandemic/epidemic/any calamities with rules and regulations as required.

Informal settlements are the result of many integrated factors like rural-urban migration; lack of affordable housing; weak policy, planning and urban management; economic disconnects; and displacement caused by natural disasters. Upgrading informal settlements by regularizing the land and infrastructure services are widely accepted as preferable to relocation, helping to sustain social and economic networks that are considered essential for livelihoods.

India is facing the huge challenge of shaping cities of the next decade. Expecting a large number of urban dwellers to be added to the urban areas by 2030 for economic stability. As it turns, a large share of future growth is going to be unplanned, which could raise an alarm for proper planning and investment in infrastructure. Change is important and may be COVID-19 will be the wake-up call for better and more sustainable cities. In this regards, GOI has taken in advance the PMAY and AMRUT scheme.

3. Integrating Blue and Green Spaces

A new approach to urban planning will place green fields, watersheds and parks at the center of planning and designing our cities. Blue-green infrastructure is critical as a measure for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and has a host of wider benefits for humans and wildlife such as improving air and water quality; reducing noise; cooling effects and biodiversity. Such benefits also contribute to enhancing human well-being and sustainability. It effect on strengthen the resistance to the impacts of climate change.

In addition, larger open spaces will help cities enforce emergency services and evacuation plans in urban areas.

4. Increased Regional Planning

As we already see, the cascading economic effect of this crisis will affect manufacturing & supply chains in nearby regions and will spill out into global set-ups too. We should benefit from this extraordinary disruption to prepare better for the next crisis. For example, we know that towns, mostly low-lying and flood-prone, would be on the frontlines of climate impacts. How will we ensure the next time area ecosystems are more robust?

We need more coordinated regional planning in order to make these networks a source of resilience rather than vulnerabilities across the economies, the energy supply, transport networks and food supply. A larger and diverse group of players will engage in such a strategy approach, which will lead to a stronger alliance for reform.

5. Granular Data at local-Level

For any decision about how to handle any disease or pandemic situation at local level, cities or regional data are important. We have to empower cities with more granular data sources, which provide stronger evidence for decision-making. This will not just to help cities in response

to this crisis, but also in response to other long-term sustainability and policy making. In this regards, GOI is setting up integrated command control center under Smart City Mission and transformation of urban region under AMRUT Mission which is a good step towards vigilance and controlling during Pandemic.

To fully recognize and resolve the challenges ahead, community resilience requires interdependency. Knowing and learning from present crisis can improve urban stability. The cultural, social and environmental factors along with physical issue must be tackled seriously with technological interventions. It's our decision how we are going to build tomorrow.

"COVID-19 Pandemic should not be only taken as threat but it can be taken as opportunity to resolve existing accumulative problems and move ahead with lesion learnt."