Building the City of Tomorrow-A Smart Initiative for Techno Smart Life

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ABSTRACT:

It is vital to examine few face changing trends in the context of emerging new technologies across the globe. Smart Cities is a concept, which promotes the integration of information and communication technologies in cities to improve economic growth, quality of life, governance, mobility and sustainability. Though, there is no universally accepted definition of a smart city, it gives different perceptions to different people. The concept varies from city to city and country to country depending on the level of development, willingness to change and reform, resources and aspirations of the city residents. In a country like India it is bit critical to turn the cities as fully technolized and fully equipped with smart trends, why because we have roots of rural traditions and culture. Still it's not that difficult to mould them as smart towards 360 degree development. Given its current policy importance, this article examines how the smart cities agenda has emerged, what it as encompassed and its potential for transformative urban development. This also describes the focus on the vision and concept of how the smart city element has shifted overtime and had been evoked in different ways to serve different purposes. The success of the Smart City Mission is largely dependent upon the finance generation at the State-level as well as private investments. Taking a step forward, this paper also examines the need and emergence and framework of cities to become smart.

Keywords:

Urban, India, urban governance, urban planning, planned cities, smart cities, and inclusive growth.

INTRODUCTION:

The Smart city concept has emerged like a new trend in sustainable development segment.

Now a day we can find user friendly system in each and every type of organization or in a system. It's all because of that, the individuals or the citizens of a country are expecting something new in every aspect. In the approach of the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and 'Smart' Solutions. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act like a light house to other aspiring cities. The Smart Cities Mission of the Government is a bold and new initiative. It is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalyzing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country.

Emergence of the Concept:

The transition from a rural to urban society will be, one of the largest and most transformative demographic shift, the world had ever seen and represents a fundamental social challenge. Despite aspirations to remake its metropolises through economic liberalization, governance reforms and attracting foreign capital, India's cities face numerous hurdles, lacking the financial, technocratic and governance capacities to accommodate fully urban citizens in a prosperous, equitable and just manner. Despite the fact that India's cities are now the country's primary engines of economic and demographic growth, they are threatened by informality, poor infrastructure and inadequate planning and governance.(Roy, A(2009):"Why India cannot plan its cities: Informality, insurgence, and the idiom of urbanization, Planning Theory").

In reviewing the evolution of the smart city in India, this article critically examines the concept and how its emergence in policy discourse reflects shifting political goals and realities. The article examines the emergence and evolution of the smart cities concept in India and how the concept is used to different ends by a range and factors, considers the implications of this trend. I argue that since its inception, the smart city's paradigm has been an elite-driven project focusing on private capital accumulation and urban, technology-led growth. I also argue that this term not only focuses on techno driven trends but also on socio economic concepts of country which are crucial in country's sustainable growth.

With the election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, urban-led economic growth in India was firmly framed around a vision of 'smart cities', (BJP Election Manifesto 2014).To get more exposure on this concept, I reviewed policy documents, academic works, media reports and government statements to trace the evolution of the smart cities discourse over the past two decades. I show how different stakeholders use the smart cities discourse to promote different agendas, and that policy positions have slowly shifted towards a potentially more grounded and participatory agenda under the Smart Cities Mission.

The core infrastructure elements in a smart city would include:

Being a smart city, it should have some attractive elements to differentiate them from the other cities. We can discuss few of them as below:

➢ IT Connectivity and digitalization
➢ E-governance and citizen participation
➢ Adequate water Supply
➢ Un interrupted electricity supply
➢ Sanitation which has solid waste management techniques
➢ Affordable housing
➢ Urban Mobility and public transport
➢ Moderated security measures
➢ Last but not least sound health and education

Below is the smart picture (Pandey K.K 2015) of the amenities which are expected to be in smart city. If we observe this, we can have, clear picture how the smart city mission will work for a country's sustainable development.

(Pandey. KK(2015):"Concept and perspective for Smart Cities, Spatio-Economic Development Record".) In addition to the above discussed characteristics or elements of smart city mission we can also find some typical features of comprehensive development in Smart Cities as follow:

➢ Promoting mixed land use in area based developments.

➢ Housing and inclusiveness - expand housing opportunities for all.

➢ Creating walkable localities –reduce congestion, air pollution and resource depletion, boost local economy, promote interactions and ensure security. The road network is created or refurbished not only for vehicles and public transport, but also for pedestrians and cyclists, and necessary administrative services are offered within walking or cycling distance.

➢ Preserving and developing open spaces - parks, playgrounds, and recreational spaces in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens, reduce the urban heat effects in Areas and generally promote eco-balance.

- Promoting a variety of transport options - Transit Oriented Development (TOD), public transport and last mile para-transport connectivity.

- Making governance citizen-friendly and cost effective - increasingly rely on online services to bring about accountability and transparency, especially using mobiles to reduce cost of services and providing services without having to go to municipal offices. Forming e-groups to listen to people and obtain feedback and use online monitoring of programs and activities with the aid of cyber tour of worksites.

- Giving an identity to the city - based on its main economic activity, such as local cuisine, health, education, arts and craft, culture, sports goods, furniture, hosiery, textile, dairy, etc.

Strategy:

- The strategic components in the Smart Cities Mission are city improvement, city renewal, and city extension, plus a Pan-city initiative in which Smart Solutions are applied covering larger parts of the city.

- Redevelopment will effect a replacement of the existing built-up environment and enable co-creation of a new layout with enhanced infrastructure using mixed land use and increased density.

- Greenfield developments could be located either within the limits of the ULB or within the limits of the local Urban Development Authority (UDA).

Negotiating and contending with this 'informal city', middle class and elite interests are often protected by systemic inequalities built into practices of urban governance and planning. Formal urban or municipal governance practices operate in a flexible and uneven manner to negotiate complex and archaic bureaucracies (often exacerbated by bribe taking and corruption by municipal workers) and have inbuilt ambiguities, which logically justify and defend various courses of pol- icy action.

Hence urban governance and planning initiatives in reform- era India are often 'interpreted as intentionally created zones of exceptions embedded in a calculated urban informality', operating under 'paradigm(s) of deliberate confusion' (Mahadevia, 2011). Policies seeking to achieve 'inclusive growth' are frequently contradictory and rarely achieve both economic growth and socio-economic inclusion (Roy, 2014). International technology companies such as Samsung and Siemens began providing initially cheap or free services and software solutions for municipalities and ULBs, organizing high profile events that framed the technological solutions these companies provided as essential for urban development, which often delivered meaningful benefits for both state and citizen (Chaudhuri, 2014). According to one senior academic in the planning field, this state of affairs since the mid-2000s has been characterized by a 'silent revolution' in the ICT and telecoms sector, intertwined with the propagation of mobile-based technology in the realm of urban policy. Despite liberal electoral democracy opening opportunities for capital accumula- tion, it has also protected the basic rights of the urban poor to resist urban middle class gentrification (Bhattacharya and Sanyal, 2011; Chatterjee 2008). In response, elites have increasingly pursued 'bypass urbanization', which 'seeks to decongest post-colonial metropolises by building new towns for a new economy of knowledge-based activities and businesses driven by global capital on their fringes.

CHALLENGES:

- The first and foremost challenge will be funding. Development in 360 degree angle will not be possible until the system had adequate funds to implement its ideas or strategies.
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- Smart leadership and vision at this level and ability to act decisively will be important factors determining the success of the Mission.

- Understanding the concepts of retrofitting, redevelopment and greenfield development by the policy makers, implementers and other stakeholders at different levels will require

capacity assistance. But the efforts by the state governments to gain the stakeholders interest in investing will be so critical.

➢ Another critical challenge will be major investments in time and resources. It is time taking to do planning prior to implement this mission.

CONCLUSION:

This article has reviewed the emergence of the smart cities discourse in India and its use in various political and economic agendas. Every development model will have its own strategies and trends. The Smart City Concept also coined to a new development model. After reviewing this article I am sure that the reader will get some basic thought on how the smart city mission going to be a face changing element in nation's economic and social growth. Consequently, the problems of equality, justice and sustainability are essential to prioritize in taking the Smart City Mission forward. If mindful of this, the Smart City Mission can be an important approach to delivering sustainable urban development in this India's urban century.Smart Cities Mission requires smart people who actively participate in governance and reforms. Without creative minds this concept will be in vain. Citizen involvement is much more than a ceremonial participation in governance. Smart people involve themselves in the definition of the Smart City, decisions on deploying Smart Solutions, implementing reforms, doing more with less and oversight during implementing and designing post-project structures in order to make the Smart City development sustainable.

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