

Integrating Urban Design and Sustainable practices for Healthy and Livable Cities

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Abstract

Informality, poor infrastructure, inadequate planning and poor governance are threatening Indian cities, which are considered to be primary engines of economic growth. However, cities are being subjected to socio- environmental degradation. Sustained physical and social downward slide has made urban public open spaces source of crime, insecurity, and misconduct leading spaces to less personal and more disappearing with time. In order to prevent the further deterioration in the urban environmental quality, corrective urban transformation strategies and measures are required to be formulated.

India's Smart City Mission says that enhance socio-economic and environmental conditions through integration of robust physical infrastructure, appropriate technology and participatory governance. However, the ground reality indicates more attention on undue technological integration with no regard to the Public realm - pedestrian walkways, streetscapes, pavements, and street crossings, public squares and open spaces.

Well-developed urban Public Realm, and Place Making strategies coupled with Public Participation, improved connectivity and Sustainability, would reduce public travel, energy, carbon footprint, safety and security. Urban authorities makers have to realize that making public realm as an integral part of city development, would provide healthy environment; accommodating urban citizens in a prosperous, equitable, and just manner.

The paper illustrates that enhancing public realm through integrating Urban Design, Sustainable approach and public participation in making of livable cities. Curitiba, Brazil, and Milton Keynes, UK, have been considered to understand how interlinking socio-economic and environmental aspects with Urban Design, Place Making strategies coupled with Public Participation would make city healthy and livable.

Keywords: *Public realm, place making, Urban Design Strategies, Sustainability, Public participation.*

1. Introduction

Elements of City consisting thoroughfares, open spaces, frontages, squares, buildings and streetscapes play vital role in connecting people. Public realm- streets, squares and civic centers were important places of meeting, play and display during 19th Century. Massive change of urban fabric that took place during industrialization and post industrialization changed the urban environment causing deterioration in urban public realm and open spaces in the city. Subsequently, decline in the quality of public space that produced negative impact on the city environment and quality of life. Industrial revolution brought enormous change in the urban fabric making city unhealthy to dwell in.

Later, the traditional and consolidated elements were taken over by big and tall structures with no consideration for human scale and new modernist planning vision for urban spaces evolved during 20th century. . Further, the significance of public realm began to diminish and down slide continued even today, causing greater damage to the urban environment and its people. Public Realm and Open spaces have become unsafe places resulting in to places for anti-social activities. Urban critics Jacobs (5) severely criticized these initiatives and held demonstrations against inhuman approaches. She proposed an argument stating how public spaces and urban fabric got destroyed making city unhealthy to dwell in. Sennett (13) strongly opposed urban policies against these urban transformation. In the name of progress consolidated and traditional urban spaces have lost their fabric owing to inadequate planning and poor governance.

The developments that is taking place across the cities, don't provide good ambience to the citizens to socialize, enjoy and play. Though public spaces have multiplied and expanded, they have also become less personal, more transient, and at best merely functional or symbolic Madanipour (10-12). To counteract the negative impact on the quality of life, Governments across the world are trying to initiatives that arrest the deteriorating urban environment and seriously taken the urban planning to enhance the urban environmental quality.

Though Indian smart city Mission is pursuing agenda of improving socio-economic environment of the city, unfortunately, most smart city plans focus on technological solutions to provide a better quality of life, and the importance of the ecology for urban resilience and sustainability has been ignored by planners, managers, and practitioners. Ignoring quality of life will be threat to the cities and will hinder the promotion of good urban environment.

The importance of public spaces in the city has severely affected to great extent and also widespread decline in social, economic and cultural significance owing to decentralization of urban areas and the despatialization of the public sphere Madanipour (10-12). Lack of expertise and financial resource crunch on the part of local municipal authorities to enhance socio-economic and environment condition of the city. City authorities are experiencing great difficulty in implementing strategies that helpful in building healthy, livable cities and communities.

2. Literature review

Though there is abundant literature available to depict strong relationship between urban public spaces and quality of life, understanding public open space as an integral part of urban living and culture, to build good public realm is missing.

Carmona (2), an urban designer and place-maker argues that undermining the public spaces, appear to be amongst the important reasons for a widespread deterioration in the quality of urban environment around the world. Woolley (15); Jackson (6); Shaftoe (7); argued that public spaces contribute to mental health, and human and educational development. Francis (4); Carr et al. (10) ; and Low (8) say that open spaces act as creators of collective identity at the neighborhood, city or country level.

Shaftoe, H. (7) says how urban spaces create convivial to the urban people and making of great spaces, Jacobs, J., (5) argues that how addressing social issues during urban planning would promote and protect the image and character of the place, Jackson, L. E. (6) proposes that there is relationship between Urban Design to Human Health and Condition and is urban design as a vehicle to create quality of life, Francis, M. (4) says how streets can be made democratic so as to interact for various social spaces, Lynch, K. (7) in his writings showed that how people visualize, navigate and make mental mapping, Kepp, M. (9) mentioned that how Lerner, Architect turned Politician made a city sustainable and livable.

Madanipour, A. (10-12), which explained the importance of public realm, and further Madanipour, A. (10-12) Environment behavior studies measuring human perception, behavior, and activities in public space, demonstrated how environmental quality enhances quality of life and image of the city. Architecture and Urban design by Carmona, M. Magalhaes, C. and Hammond, L. (2) addressed the physical nature of the city in Public space the management dimension.

Literature review has made amply clear that integrating quality public realm, and public participation make livable places and sustainable cities. Literature analysis shows that the transformations are taking place in an uncontrolled, sporadic and piece meal manner, creating haphazard and chaotic physical or spatial environments in the cities and poor planning, inadequate governance, and shrinking financial resources are leading to deterioration of urban environment. Consequently, achieving sustainable urban environment seems difficult. Unless there is comprehensive planning coupled with effective social participation, attaining a quality urban environment is difficult to achieve. Involving urban designers, sociologists, economists' epidemiologists and environmentalists in the initial stage of the city development programme would help to achieve quality urban environment and quality of life.

2.1 Objectives of the paper

1. To create pedestrian friendly environment and to promote a pleasing social setting by enhancing urban-esthetic character of the built environment.

2. To promote greater use of public realm by providing safe, comfortable, and interesting spaces to the pedestrian.
3. To enhance public realm through integrating Urban Design, Sustainable approach and Public Participation in making of livable, sustainable cities and communities,
4. Through improved Connectivity, Accessibility, and Sustainability that are imperative parameters for making of great public realm.
5. To integrate planning and management policies to ensure the sustainability of public realm
6. To involve people in every stage of design so as to use the space optimally
7. To address socio-economic and environmental sustainability while enhancing the image of the city

The aim of this paper is to propose strategies and recommendations to enhance Public Realm through urban design and sustainable planning practices in making of livable, sustainable cities and communities and removing anomalies in the existing urban transformation processes. This paper also proposes suggestions for the enhancement of public realm considering and other spaces in making of great spaces and producing quality of life. The case of Curitiba, Brazil and Milton Keyon, UK are considered to analyze how public realm and space transformation are taking place at the local level. Theoretical, methodological and contextual approach to this paper is adopted prior to the design strategies.

3. Methodology

Since research aims and objectives are primarily exploratory in nature, the research is qualitative and therefore, considered qualitative data collection methods and analysis methods (qualitative research technique). The information from sources like case studies, published statistics from research organizations and specific topic related articles, and books was analyzed and interpreted.

On examining the research objectives and theoretical background for producing sustainable cities and communities through developing good public realm, case studies of Curitiba, Brazil and Milton Keyon, UK have been analyzed and these case studies have provided good insight for building sustainable cities and communities. This case study approach proved to be an important and critical in integrating in building today's sustainable cities. Data collection through secondary data/literature reviews, experience surveys, unstructured methods (Qualitative research) and analysis of stimulating examples (i.e. Case study analysis) was duly evaluated.

3.1 Urban Design qualities and Sustainability

Considering public spaces as highly contributing to the economic development and image enhancing of city, there will be improvements and involving investors in these developments would attract tourists and visitors. Francis (4); Shaftoe (14); and Madanipour (10-12), urban designers, have expressed through illustrations that public spaces are highly potent spaces to generate economy, to engage socially and for attracting investment. Integrating urban design strategies and sustainable urban

planning practices for the creation of attractive, safe, more enjoyable and livable cities could be seen in many cities such as Milton Keyon, UK, and Curitiba, Brazil.

Character and sense of place, greater inclusion for sociability and improved safety are the benefits which could be visualized from the above fig 1, and Curitiba, Brazil, has integrated important aspects in to the urban planning and produced one of the greenest planet on the earth. In the deteriorating urban context, sustainable practices coupled with urban design strategies such as pedestrian priority aspects, waste management in local communities, ecological integration and environmental preservation etc. are to be taken care of. Understand that good and enthralling realm are not only create vibrant and livable place but also a suitable element of regeneration.

Including urban design strategies such as legibility, image ability and accessibility would help understand and easy to navigate the city. Ecological value, environmental preservation and energy efficiency are the additional benefits that city can achieve and there will be good economic benefits that city can get if investing in creating quality public realm.

Integrating urban design and sustainable principles would help in creating a space of vibrancy, dynamism and inclusive public realm that encourage greater use of the area and its assets, which can be seen from the following Figure 1.

Architect Jaime Lerner made Curitiba, Brazil, livable and healthy city, using sustainable principles and created a green city on the planet. Making urban environment healthy, livable and sustainable, he integrated sustainable principles such as good connectivity, collaboration, last mile connectivity coupled with urban

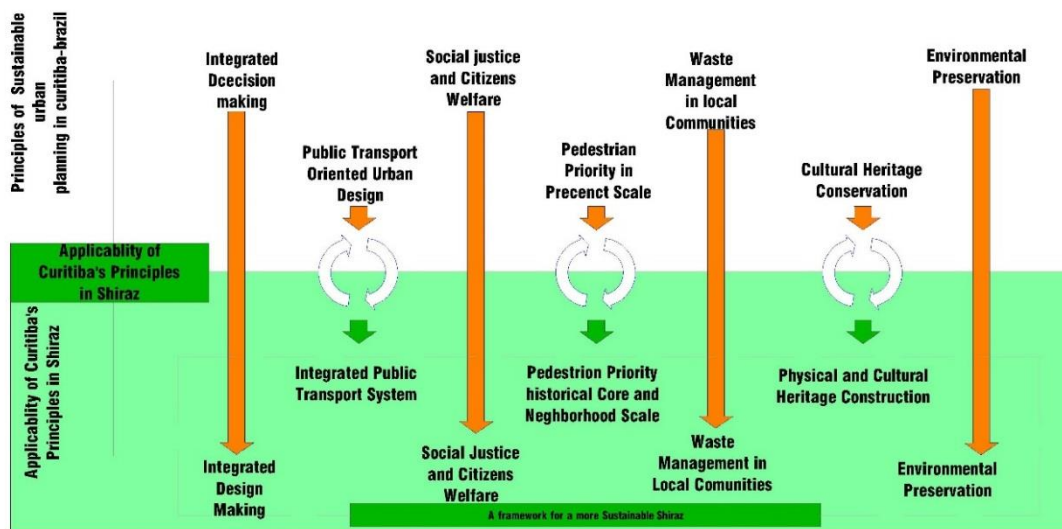


Figure 1: Quality public realm through urban design qualities and sustainability principles (Source: Author)

design qualities as illustrated in Fig 2. The Fig 2 shows how sustainable and urban design strategies in Curitiba, Brazil are being practiced to achieve socio-economic and environmental sustainability. Another city Milton Keyon, UK, where green initiatives, use of renewable energy and pedestrian friendly, has become a city of joy. The initiatives have brought great amount benefits such as reduction in public travel, less use of non-renewable energy and pollution free environment.

Urban authorities have to involve expertise such as Architects and Urban Designers in to planning system to make sustainable cities and communities. Fig 3 explains, how revitalization and rebuilding of Indian cities through urban design and sustainable practices is possible.



Figure 2: Place-Making through Urban Design and Sustainability to create social setting(Source: Author)

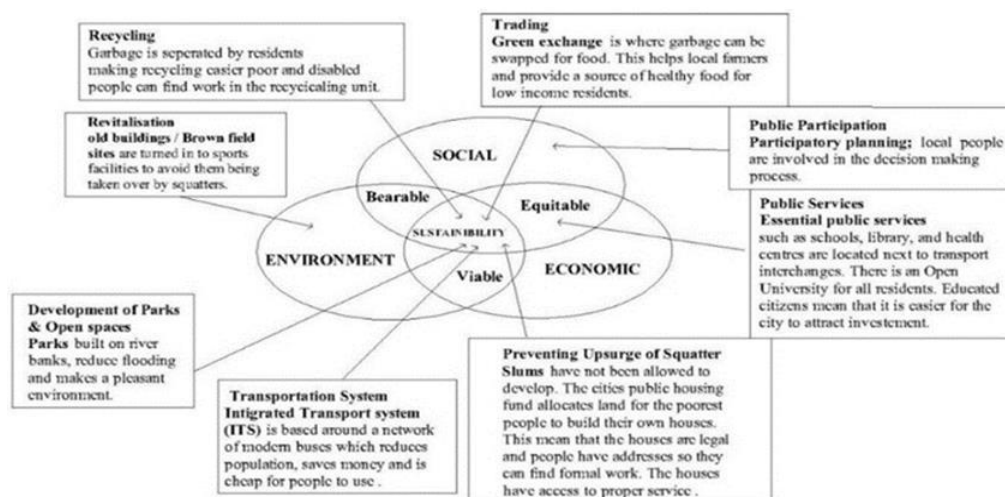


Figure 3: Enhancing Socio-economic and environment development (Source: Author)

3.2 Enhance good Connectivity, integrate Place-Making and Practice Sustainability

- Good Connectivity for socio- economic development.

Well-connected network is an important element in the city and successful city is one, which allows its people to move to various parts in less time with ease and comfort. Connectivity is defined as availability of guide way facilities between

specified points on a network. Well-connected networks bring benefits and offer great relief to the user. Improper network impacts socio-economic development making city unhealthy. Connectivity enhances walkability and pedestrians can enjoy the places, move with no delay and plays an important role in the overall well-being of the people.

Connectivity plays vital role and people use the spaces of the city to maximum possible extent. Cities to be resilient as depicted in case of Curitiba and Milton Keyon, UK, connectivity is an important parameter and builds the capacity of the city, creates opportunities for potential interaction. Low level connectivity is a point of failure and multiplicity connectivity protects from random failure. Over-connectedness creates inefficiency, consumes city's precious spaces, and maintenance becomes difficult, leading to deterioration of the urban environmental quality. Well-connected city destinations would help build robust socio-cultural and economic development.

- Easy Accessibility for socio-cultural development

Accessibility is defined as measure of the ease by which people can reach facilities, and essential services. Places connected to other environments are more approachable and offer ambience to invite more people making areas busier and enhancement in economic activities. Good accessibility with street furniture and amenities promotes not only pedestrian environment but also urban environmental quality. Socio-economic activity of a place depends more on good accessibility.

Accessibility promotes sociability like meeting, play, and display, which can be seen in the case studies of Curitiba and Milton Keyon, UK, which have given priority for good accessibility accelerating socio-economic and cultural development and enhancing urban environmental quality.

- Integrating Last Mile Connectivity and place-making

Providing an easy connectivity between nearest transport point and the destination (Place of work or residence) has multiple advantages as people prefer public transport and get encouraged for walk. The prime criteria to ensure quality in last mile connectivity is to make access points pedestrian friendly. This enhances spatial, environmental, ecological quality and transport efficiency. Providing pedestrian friendly environment between nearest transport point and the destination reduces carbon foot print and air pollution to great extent. Creating an interesting places through place-making concepts would ensure safety and encourages socio-cultural and economic development. Monotonous place becomes an interesting place to enjoy. Curitiba and Milton Keyon, UK, have adopted last mile connectivity and place-making concepts with well-placed amenities. Understand that pedestrian environment in last mile connectivity makes a positive impact on users' and prefer to walk the last mile happily. To make walk an interesting one, connectivity and accessibility have to be made more human centric and would keep the people safe and comfortable. Place-making concept would be more meaningful if pedestrian environment is to be enhanced.



Figure 4 Integrating Place-Making concepts in Last Mile Connectivity Source; Author

- **Practicing Sustainability**

Sustainability is one that encourages to utilize renewable resources and promotes use of indigenous materials and protects environment through sustainable planning practices. 90% of the natural resources are being used by the cities causing an imbalance in sustainability. Making citizens aware of their actions and efficient environmental management is need of the hour to make cities livable and sustainable. Practicing sustainable urban planning practices result in to human; social; economic; and environmental development. Revitalizing of urban fabric through connectivity, accessibility, and sustainability practices well- around major public destinations would build local economies, civic pride, social connection, and human happiness – high value commodities in a more and more overcrowded urban landscape.

3.3 Quality Public realm concept and Public Participation for healthy, livable cities and communities.

Indian cities have been recognized as engines of economy are experiencing environmental degradation and decline in socio-cultural conditions. Setting environment right through correcting place – path (mobility) - people is the strategy. This needs to be diagnosed through integration of physical infrastructure, technological advances and participatory planning. Sennett (13), and Madanipour (10-12) have argued that public spaces have become less personal, more transient, and at best merely functional or symbolic. Perceiving urban public spaces as a platform for discussions, meeting and debates will enhance the urban environment and people enjoy the place to a great deal.

Employing bottom-up approach in place making is always helpful and it empowers, delegates' responsibilities to the local people and helps in making of successful place of economic activity and place of identity. The Place making approach invites local people, explores alternatives suiting local context, identity and character. This approach brings people together and reflect community values and needs. Strategies that bring people together and reflects community values and needs are to be encouraged United Nations, 2012(16). Place making is a sustainable art and it believes, uses assets and skills of a community and does not depend solely on professional experts. More importantly, Place making approach recognizes potent people, who can contribute to the development and catalyzes local leaders, funding and other resources. Fig 3 clearly shows how well-designed place can contribute to make a city more livable, healthy and economically robust.



Figure 4: Public Realm revitalization and people participation enhance sociability (Source: Project for public spaces)

3.4 Findings from Curitiba, Brazil and Milton Keyon, UK

Integrating and developing human centric approaches bring great benefits in improving socio-economic and environment of the city. Curitiba, Brazil, has become a greenest place on the planet with a mission that treat people not as a burden, a nuisance, but as nation's most precious asset. Curitiba with clear and informed urban policies and environmentally sensitive approaches has produced one of the sustainable cities and communities in the world. Kepp, M. (9) informs that environmentally responsible policies in mass transit, urban greening and recycling are the important issues that have helped Curitiba in achieving socio-economic and environmental sustainability. Architect Jemy Learner made amply clear that integrating sustainable practice and people participation in planning practices enhance the health and economic well-being of the urban people. Developing Public Realm and public participation would help in enhancing socio-economic sustainability.

Milton Keyon, UK, has always been a forward-looking place, most preferred and walkable city, obviously because of its street design and has also become famous for its grid transport system, cycle ways, a sustainable planning practices such as pedestrian oriented urban design, people participation in decision making, encouraging green economy and employment, engaging local expertise and capacity etc. Environmentally sensitive urban planning and human centric strategies have substantially contributed to Milton Keyon, UK,'s success over the past 50 years. Today, Milton Keyon, UK, continue to grow with more pedestrians on the road contributing to the nation's economy.

Both the cities are livable cities as thesetwo cities have integrated social-economic and environmental issues in planning system giving room for building of livable, sustainable cities and communities. These cities have amply made clearly that design of healthy cities are not top down but also bottom up with due consideration to people's need and involvement of Urban Designers, and Planners will address the ecological concerns of the cities and will consider and integrate social, economic, and environmental sustainability aspects.



Figure 5: Socio-Economic and Environmental approaches at Curitiba, Brazil and Milton Keyon, UK, (Source: SD factors discussed in the Brandtland Report (1987) and the dimensions of Triple Bottom-Line (1998).

4. Design strategies in making of livable cities

Enhance Public Realm environment to bring about change in Socio-Economic and Environmental development. Integrating urban design strategies enable spatial definition, circulation, and sustainable concepts. As a principle element of the design development, Urban Design can help identify and address urban issues through a comprehensive planning approach in demarcating public realm that comprise Transportation system, open spaces and other important places in urban areas.

4.1 Public Space and its significance

Public spaces are source of happiness and joy. Well-developed open spaces with good connectivity and accessibility enhance social interaction, play and display. Understanding the socio-economic, and environmental dimension of the city is an important aspect to make successful and healthy city. People of the city will feel and experience the comfort and convenience when spaces are well connected. Easy access to spaces, supporting amenities coupled with facilities would enhance the environment of the area and people of all ages could take the advantages. Introducing diverse elements in spatial morphology would invite sociability making space more healthy, and attractive. Guided circulation and segregation for casual walking, bike paths and jogging tracks ensures attracts more people. Connecting to the site surroundings through visual and physical means enhances the experiential quality of the space.

4.2 Sociability opportunities

A well-designed space and place connects people, and neighborhoods, consequently enhances sociability, social inclusion, social interaction, play, display and participation. Well-built spaces provide an enjoyable environment where socio-economic converges and good natural environment prevails. People's attachment, and identity of place, will be enhanced to great extent if sociability index is increased. Jacobs, J., (5) advocated that analyzing and assessing how urban spaces are actually perceived and used, we could create valuable insight for designing good cities for people. Creating an urban fabric with human centric approaches would fetch great benefits triggering socio-economic development.

4.3 Safety and Security

Urban Design interventions are essential to keep city in Safe and Secure. This is an important aspect which is to be considered in making city free from crime and to enjoy the spaces and there will be increased usage of space when people of all ages during all time of the day. Safe and secured environment brings great deal of benefits in terms socio-economic development. Space free from crime not only increases usage of the area, but also makes enthralling open space, where people can take advantage of the space to great extent.

4.4 Integrating sustainable services and management

Learner, Architect from Curitiba, Brazil, who made city socially, economically and environmentally sustainable through sustainable strategies in mobility. The significance of ecosystem for building resilient and sustainable cities is not addressed, deterioration of urban environment creeps in leading to unhealthy environment, which in turn affects the socio-economic conditions of the city. Perceiving cities are living places is an important step towards devising and developing strategies for keeping good health of the city. Sustainable practices such as pedestrian oriented urban design, use of renewable energy, recycling practices for waste and water management, worker-managed craft industries etc. would be suitable practices of revitalization and regeneration and for creating successful and inhabitable spaces.

4.5 Urban Eco system

Urban experts -Built environmental specialists (Urban Designers, Architects, Planners and Engineers), ecologists, and conservative biologists have to take participation in making aware of significance of urban eco-system. Advocating the sustainable development practices that combine economy, environment and society. Ecosystem is an important issue which is to be addressed effectively to arrest the deteriorating urban physical and natural context. Analyzing, assessing and mapping urban eco system would not only enhance air quality and carbon foot print but also augment economic, natural environment and rectify social and moral incursion in the city. It is seen from the literature that advanced and developed cities have serious psychological illness amongst their people owing to neglect in eco-planning practice. Mapping eco systems and conserving biodiversity keeps city cool, clean and environment-friendly.

4.6 Urban Economics and Aesthetic Environment

Socio-Economics issues are important for any city to progress and prosper. Urban Design plays as a visual relief from a chaotic built environment. Considering economic and aesthetic issues would not only increase the usage, image and character of the place but also generates economy through visitors and offers employment to the local people. It is understood that investing in public spaces and enhancing public realm bring not only economic benefits but also effect on the city image and character.

Well-maintained and welcoming public domain are dynamic, vibrant and promotes greater use of the area and its asset. Interaction between environment and observer gets enhanced when designers make an endeavor to integrate aesthetic factors and providing economic opportunities. This makes space enjoyable, attractive and economically robust.

5. Adaptive design strategies

Integrating sustainable practices in city development and building is perhaps the big challenge facing humanity today. Unfortunately, the current urbanization trend and planning pose a threat to quality of life. Productive and functional places are sustainable. Investing resources in place, path and people with right balance between bottom-up and top-down governance, is need of the hour.

Urban environment is getting deteriorated with flooding of more automobiles, growing population and formation of slums and squatter settlements. This deteriorating urban environment is to be arrested to save our city and planet. In order to reduce strain on natural and social resources, urban planning paradigm has to integrate and interlink with urban elements systematically.

Fig 1 as shown above depicts urban design qualities and sustainable principles would create places of healthy and livable cities. Following are the elements that encourage greater use of the area and its assets

5.1. Enhance Environment of Public Realm – Streets, Squares, and other outdoor places

Environment of Public Realm – Streets, Squares, and other outdoor places is to be enhanced to reap socio-economic and cultural benefits. These places create high value if quality of the space is increased and these ensure human interaction, provide space for cultural expression. Understanding that streets that are attractive, safe, comfortable, well maintained, welcoming and accessible to everyone, will make people to stay and get connected evoking sense of belonging and feel of attachment.

Auto-centric street design will keep people and communities away. Promoting social cohesion and communal harmony should be the idea in developing streets and squares. Realizing streets are not only for movement of vehicles but are for people, who can make best use of the space like walkability, meeting, playing, expressing and displaying will be great addition to socio-cultural development. Thoughtfully planned street and square brings people together and encourage a vibrant mix of self-supporting activities.

Well-developed streets and squares are source of happiness, provide an environment to celebrate their cultures, and also create sense of attachment, safety and security. Healthy environment always promotes healthy habits such as walking, bicycling and driving as well. Well-planned square is a civic pride, place attachment, sense of belongingness would help people to share and care and feel that they are associated to their culture and values.

5.2. Enhance usage of Public Realm - Parks, green spaces, and Open Spaces

Perceiving open spaces and urban park as a breathing lung spaces and safety valves for the city, would help achieve sustainable cities and communities. Mapping of eco and bio-diversity zones help urban authorities to develop for people to gain dual benefits of socio-economic and environment of the city. Networking of parks and open spaces, planning of transport hubs and corridors, lake systems will be places of joy. Making spaces healthy and safe to the urban dwellers are important in terms of health and sociability.

Encouraging community gardens would not only improve the micro climatic conditions but also people become economically independent to some extent. Connecting all these spaces enhance the urban environmental quality making spaces enthralling and more comfortable to enjoy. Well-designed public realm promotes sociability and physical activities, providing health and peace.

5.3. Urban Public Transport and Last Mile Connectivity

Planning for transit oriented development and integrating pedestrian friendly last mile connectivity promotes greater use of public transport as commuters derive comfort and convenience in moving from origin to destination. Providing an easy connectivity between nearest transport point and the destination (Place of work or residence) has more impact on air quality and carbon footprint. Well- maintained pedestrian encourages walks, sociability and helps ease and speed of commuters.

The prime criteria to ensure quality in last mile connectivity is to make access points pedestrian friendly. This enhances spatial, environmental, ecological quality and transport efficiency. City to be successful and livable, public transport with last mile connectivity should be efficient effective. This requires design interventions like place-making concepts, introduction of sustainable transport and street furniture with commercial activities.

5.4. Sustainable Building Design interventions to Support Places

Efforts must be focused in ensuring that spaces are comprehensively designed to suit the changing needs of the people. Urban Design experts such as Urban Designers, Architects and Planners should work in tandem with urban service providers. Socio-economic improvement is possible if stake holders and urban experts deliberate with each other. People know their area and involving them during planning stage would be more productive and functional.

Public institutions such as schools, universities and civic centers, don't provide space for sociability and interactions, instead act like fortresses and creating the gulf between people and people. This is deteriorating the urban fabric and even more emerging scenario is the concept of gated communities, which is creating economic discrimination and invasion of gentrification displacing urban poor. Structure the design policies which can support places.

5.5. Urban Governance to create meaningful places Public Spaces

Formulating policies that are supplementary to the healthy development is to be integrated in to the Urban Governance. Include issues that support healthy, vibrant and dynamic public spaces and public realm. Unfortunately this important ingredient is missing in the urban planning, consequently urban spaces are undermined and have become places of crime, insecurity and delinquency. Lack of intradepartmental co-ordination has also made public open spaces less personal and more transient space.

The present system of governance needs updating where efforts of all city service providers should be combined. Intradepartmental co-operation and communication is to be made sound so as to combine all efforts in making of robust environment. This helps to build resilient, safe and attractive environment. The governance structure and process need to change to foster places more prosperous, attractive and healthy. Urban service

providers with city municipal council should together design a comprehensive plan to make meaningful places that provide not only an employment to the local people but also source for sociability, play and display.

5.6. Articulation of Power of space

Knowing environmental impact of urban areas makes us to devise new strategies for climatically aware design. Urban design has the capacity to articulate the urban context through process and function. This makes the urban features and space readable and people can experience it through their perceptions. Linking urban features brings people the local history, culture and ecology. Explore projects where Place makers can design places taking local people's idea in to consideration. Empowering communities with technical know-how, and creative techniques would be wonderful to produce highly potent and place of attraction. Explaining residents the economic benefits they get through establishing micro-enterprise opportunities and other environmental and health benefits.

Public participation is an important ingredients in making great urban spaces. Public involvement during planning process is more important in creating healthy, more usable and economically robust. It is they who provide you the details of the space and insights in to how the space is perceived. Articulation of space connecting with the culture and history would bring ownership and emotional attachment.

5.7. Stakeholders involvement in Community planning

People participation is an important part of planning process to create meaningful places. Citizen involvement right in the beginning of the planning process would produce great change in addressing the place and creating a socio-cultural, economic and environmental development. Every neighborhoods have good spaces and places. Interweaving people's aspirations in to the planning would be great advantageous. Hold brainstorm discussions with the people will be more effective in producing meaningful places. This helps in addressing the socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions of the area. It is through City Municipal Council, which should make an effort to develop synergy, sense of belonging enabling people feel comfortable.

5.8. Balance between top-down and Bottom-up governance

To develop and manage public spaces require both top down and bottom up strategies. Balancing between Top-down and Bottom-up approach is an important strategy in making of great spaces and places. Consider community is an expert and knows how people use the space and kind of relationship the people have with surroundings. Involve the public in the urban transformation issues. Democratically designed spaces are sustainable, functional and highly productive.

5.9. Develop infrastructure proportionally as city expands

When city expands, city must take up infrastructure development and where infrastructures are constructed, increased development activity follows. To combat the shortfall in infrastructure, amenities and facilities, urban authorities are required to plan in accordance with growth of population. City to be a place of living and enjoyable, City managers are required to consider population growth and resources available.

6. Discussion

The pitiable conditions relating to basic infrastructure, services and streets, parks, and green spaces, built to open ratio, architectural forms of the buildings, circulation paths, connectivity, diversity, linkages; insufficient open and green spaces, and parking lots in the city need to be addressed. This is possible through public realm revitalization strategies. Open space for leisure, and the green lung is rarely addressed by the by the Municipal Corporation and Urban Development authorities. Though presence of informal business sectors, private vehicle parking, improper roads, unpaved pedestrians, and continuous flow of traffic, and also more noise and dust pollution in the residential neighborhood are spoiling the environment, appropriate strategies using public participation in the governance would bring substantial improvement in the urban environmental quality.

Enhancing urban environmental quality through revitalizing public realm would bring great benefits and improves the quality of life. Integrating Urban Design, Sustainable approach and public participation in to the urban planning and development bring enormous change not only in the socio-economic, and environmental issues but also image and character of the place is preserved and protected. The well-maintained public realm not only beautify the area but also offers range of functions including sociability. Integrating Urban Design, Sustainable approaches and public participation enable in making of livable, sustainable cities and communities, and is the cursor for quality life.

Connectivity, Accessibility, and Sustainability practices are essential parameters in making of great public realm, and creating livable spaces. It is to be understood that Socio-economic, environmental issues could well be addressed if public revitalization is taken care of.

7. Conclusions

Enhancing Public Realm and open space stimulates, encourages and facilitates sociability, social cohesion, inclusion, and economic development, significantly contribute to the development of robust socio-economic and environmental conditions.

To make city's environment healthy, enlivening, energizing, and productive, City service providers and development authorities have to formulate a plan that depicts strategies for public realm improvement and adopt strategies that enhance public realm so as to gain socio-cultural benefits such as meeting, fun, play, display, expression, leisure, health, inclusion, safety and security; and improving image and character of the place.

Creating quality public realm and good open spaces make great impact on the well-being of the people and this should be the core objective of urban planning practices while initiating urban transformation processes. Cities that provide good environment to the people always make difference in their lives and feel better connected to their places leading to sense of belonging and attachment. Enhancing public realm and open spaces through human centric strategies such as addressing physical infrastructure with well thought technology, integrating place- making concepts and participatory governance would create an enabling environment where people can socialize, meet, interact, play, display and express.

Planning with human scale connects people, places, networks and neighborhoods. Well- designed spaces are great assets to the city. Embedding people oriented strategies and taking local context in to consideration would provide great opportunities to build robust socio-economic and environmental conditions. In such places people can derive peace, progress, and prosperity. Enhancing Public Realm and involving public participation helpful in improving urban environmental quality and sustainability.

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