



PLANNING FOR INCLUSION

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CONVENTIONAL PLANNING PARADIGM IN INDIA (AND ITS OUTCOMES)



AND ITS MOST IMPORTANT EXCLUSIONS





PLAN VS THE POOR

- INDIAN URBAN PLANNING TRIES TO BE PRO-POOR THROUGH
 - INCREASE IN DENSITY NORMS
 - REDUCTION IN PLOT SIZE
 - RESERVATIONS OF LAND IN DPS FOR THE EWS
- BUT THIS IS ACCOMPANIED BY..
 - INVISIBILISING SETTLEMENTS IN ELUS
 - PLACING VITALLY IMPORTANT PUBLIC PROJECTS ON LANDS OCCUPIED BY SLUMS
 - PLANS AND THOSE WHO NEED TO BE INCLUDED ALWAYS IN AN ENCOUNTER



AND YET THERE IS SUBSTANTIVE PRESENCE OF THE POOR IN OUR CITIES ..

- WHY?
 - THERE IS SUBSTANTIVE POVERTY IN THE COUNTRY
 - POVERTY IS GETTING URBANISED
 - THE POOR ARE INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE URBAN ECONOMY
 - THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THEM MAKE OUR CITIES AFFORDABLE FOR THE MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASSES
- HOW? WHERE?
 - LANDS WITH CONSIDERABLE HINDRANCE OR ENVIRONMENTAL RISK LEFT OUT OF 'DEVELOPMENT'NET
 - LANDS THAT HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USE OR THAT ARE PERIPHERAL
 - OCCUPANCY
 - POROSITY OF BUREAUCRACIES
 - LINKS WITH POLITICAL AGENCIES



A FEW THEORETICAL PROPOSITIONS

- URBAN POOR ARE ENGROSSED WITH THE EVERYDAY
- PLANNING IS A REALM OF THE STRATEGIC , BY NATURE EXCLUSIONARY
- CAN BE IRRELEVANT OR UNPRODUCTIVE UNLESS THERE IS A HIGH LEVEL OF SENSITIVITY, WILL AND CONVERGENCE WITH THE EVERYDAY
- COMPLEXITY OF INCLUSION : ADVERSE INCLUSION; INCLUSIVE FOR SOME CAN BE EXCLUSIONARY FOR OTHERS
- HOWEVER, A LIVEABLE CITY WITH A STRONG PUBLIC REALM OFFERS SIGNIFICANT VALUE ADDITION AND A RELATIVELY GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE POOR WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY FEW ENABLING PROVISIONS



OUTLINING FIRST PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSION

- MOVE AWAY FROM THE UNNECESSARY AND DEBILITATING TAGS ;INSTEAD FOCUS ON LARGER CITIZENSHIP FRAMEWORKS THAT RECOGNIZE DIFFERENTIAL VULNERABILITY OF CITIZENS
- RE- IMAGINE THE CITY AS 'COMMONS' MEANT FOR LARGER NATIONAL GOOD
- AVOID HARM, BE CONSCIOUS OF HARM, DO MINIMUM HARM
- RECOGNISE EXISTING SPACES IN THE CITY THAT THE POOR DEPEND ON
- ENABLE PROVISIONING OF MORE SPACES TO MOVE TOWARDS DECENT LIFE AND WORK
- IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMONS



IMPORTANCE OF CITIZENSHIP FRAMEWORKS

- CONVENTIONAL URBAN PLANNING IS CONTINGENT UPON PROPRIETED RELATIONS WITH THE STATE
- REALITY THAT INDIAN SOCIETY HAS MORE COMPLEX RELATIONS WITH PROPERTY, NOT ALWAYS EXPRESSED THROUGH OWNERSHIP
- LEGITIMACY DIFFERENT FROM LEGALITY
- CITIZENSHIP ENABLES A BROADER VIEW
- POSSIBILITIES OF MORE PRAGMATIC AND ESSENTIAL ACTIONS
- RECOGNIZE THAT DIFFERENT GROUPS OF CITIZENS HAVE DIFFERENTIAL ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND HAVE GRADED VULNERABILITIES



RE- 'IMAGINE' THE CITY AS COMMONS

- COMMONS MEANS CONSIDERING THE CITY AS A CREATION TO WHICH ALL SOCIETY IS CONTRIBUTING IN DIRECT OR INDIRECT WAYS
- HENCE, NOT JUST PEOPLE WHO ARE CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE CITY BUT POTENTIALLY ALSO THOSE WHO STAY IN ITS HINTERLANDS, THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO IT THROUGH THEIR WORK AS MIGRANTS WITH SEASONAL PRESENCE, THOSE WHO STAY IN RURAL AREAS BUT PROVIDE IT WITH PRODUCE, NATURAL RESOURCES ALSO HAVE POTENTIAL CLAIMS UPON THE CITY
- REORGANISE THE PLANNING PROCESS AS COLLABORATIVE, CONSULTATIVE AND COMMUNICATIVE
- SOME OF THESE CLAIMS ARE TO BE REALISED BY PLANNING, OTHERS THROUGH GOVERNANCE, AND YET OTHERS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE SOCIETAL ACTIONS



RECOGNIZING EXISTING SETTLEMENTS AND WORK SPACES

- ZONES OF SPECIAL INTEREST
- HOW MUCH LAND UNDER INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS?
- HOW CRUCIAL IS THIS LAND TO PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE?
- ARE THERE COMPROMISES POSSIBLE? HOW?
- WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS TO THE SETTLEMENT? HOW CAN THE SAME BE MITIGATED?
- WHICH ARE THE NANO- TINY INDUSTRIES OPERATING? HOW CAN THEY BE STRENGTHENED?
- HOW CAN 'STIGMA' LINKED SERVICES AND SPACES BE DECONCENTRATED?



STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC REALM

- CITY CANNOT EXIST AS A SERIES OF PRIVATE SPACES AND SERVICES OR INFRASTRUCTURE
- PUBLIC REALM = PUBLIC SPACES + PUBLIC SERVICES + PUBLIC AMENITIES
- ACCESS TO ALL OF THESE HAS TO BE OPEN
- ACCOMPANIED BY RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENTIAL NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF GROUPS
- MINIMUM MONETISATION OF THE PUBLIC REALM SO THAT IT STRENGTHENS SOCIAL RELATIONS, FOSTERS CROSS CLASS AND GROUP INTERACTIONS AND ENABLES RESILIENCE TO ANY FUTURE DISASTERS