Mark Changes for Sustainable Development through National Urban Information System (NUIS)

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1 ABSTRACT

Urbanization is more than a demographic phenomenon. It is a societal transformation along a rural-urban continuum. Thus, the new urban and local government strategy is not only concerned with places that are urban or countries that are urbanized. It is also concerned with ensuring that in every developing country this transformation leads to a higher quality of life for all, and to more sustainable national development.

Urbanization is characterized and even defined by fundamental changes in the physical concentration of population, in the nature and scale of economic production, in land use, and in social structures and pattern of interaction. Changes in all of these dimensions affect the lives of individuals and the requirements for resources and governance. As industry and services become more important in production, they demand more infrastructure, generated technology and information exchange, and provide diverse employment options. Densification of settlement directs land and wealth into housing and related infrastructure and increases the need for complex systems to provide water and energy, market food, transport goods and people, remove wastes, and protect public health and safety. Land becomes more intensively developed, and the resulting spatial layout affects accessibility, physical contacts among communities, interaction with the surrounding natural environment and the costs of fixed infrastructure networks. Throughout this transition, families and communities are deeply affected: more women work outside the home, children and adults confront diverse opportunities as well as risks, cultures mingle, new ideas multiply, and disparities in wealth become more apparent.

India due to its diversity in climate culture, physiography and urban transition translates into different system of urban settlement in different regions/states. Even cities and towns in the same region/ State often show very dissimilar outcomes in the extent and nature of poverty, in the same country often show very dissimilar outcomes in the extent and nature of poverty, in the patterns and growth rate of investment and employment, in the spatial dispersion/ sprawl of residential and commercial areas, and in environmental quality and cultural amenities. Thus it is uttermost important to understand the trends affecting the development of their urban areas and the impact of policies, both national and local-sometimes by learning from the experiences of best practises of other cities. So that appropriate response to problems can be identified. The proposed strategy reflects the view that although cities and towns have different potentials and life cycles, public policies, coupled with community action, private sector commitment, accountable local government, and supportive, national government can make a large difference in the character of urban areas and in their contribution to national development.

In order to have the sustainable livelihood in the urban habitat and also to have growth of urban economy, Government of India has established a National Urban Information System. In a way NUIS has triggered/ generated the concept of understanding the knowledge as an evolutionary process as transforming all the urban data into information and then putting the information on nationally shared platforms to act as a knowledge for sustainable development of Indian Cities. The present paper also discussed about the case study of Nainital town (hill town) that how urban information system transform the Nainital town as a sustainable habitat.