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Intersectionality of Technology, People and Planning for Resilience

Putting informality at the Centre of City Resilience

Building Institutional Resilience

Valuing traditional culture and wisdom for resilience planning: Remodelling Planning and Architecture Education

CURATED BY: Participatory Research in Asia in partnership with BReUCOM Conference.
KEY TAKEWAYS

• The Covid-19 challenge has called for a collective action and a multi-level governance approach.

• The Beneficiary-Led Construction under PMAY is a space where there is agency for the individual to design.

• Stakeholders need to reflect upon how next-generation professionals can be prepared to be sensitive about these issues and take them forward in their professional careers.

• The over regulations for universities and colleges do not allow flexibility, and there is also an over-emphasis on job-oriented learning. This is the reason that students lose on actual learning and eventually pick up on market-oriented skills. It needs to be seen how IPCC learnings can be applied to local contexts for addressing local issues.

• Interventions where the structures are built hand in hand with people requires trust building. This is why partnerships are needed between HEIs and Civil Society Organisations to together build urban resilience in the community, where trust and technology intermingle with each other.
KEY TAKEWAYS

- There is a need to influence formal institutions and agencies for including the concepts of informal sector and resilience into the education through the model curriculum.
- A mix of bottom-up and top-down approaches should be used to deal with the distress between local governments and communities. There should be a platform for inclusive participation in terms of resources, functions, technical inputs, budgets, etc.
- HEI’s and CSO’s need to empower, strengthen the capacities, and invest in the understanding of communities by sharing information.
- A robust community engagement and representation of informal sector strategies need to be designed for inclusive participation. The solutions must come from slum dwellers, from informal workers and their ability to demonstrate their aggregated, alternative mechanisms is going to be the crucial in this transformation.
- In educational institutions and consequently in practice, slum dwellers are not seen as clients, they are seen as beneficiaries which affects the quality of urban slum related policies and practices.
- HEI’s need to focus on teaching empathy, communication with urban informal and collaboration with them is critical for developing responsible, sensitised professionals.
- A lateral connection between various disciplines in HEIs, incorporating multi-scale approach and field trips for teaching and learning needs to be established.
KEY TAKEWAYS

- To build resilience, it is vital to keep communities at the centre of interventions. It is important to mainstream resilience into everyday language, policies, infrastructure investment programmes, and city planning processes. The local government should prioritise and conduct resilience activities and define roles and responsibilities for efficient delivery.

- HEI’s can build institutional resilience through these three aspects: persistence (be the agent of change for the society), adaptability (new modes of teaching and learning), and transformability (adapt to change).

- Both the primary and secondary actors should be involved in participatory.

- HEIs can play a critical role in designing a forward-looking curriculum, keeping climate change and resilience at the centre. They must integrate these issues in the curriculum in a meaningful way to make it as responsive as possible.

- HEI can offer short courses for existing practitioners to help them build their understanding around the issue and ways in which they can work towards addressing the issue in their professional capacities.

- There is a serious breakdown of trust between communities, and if one researcher goes into the field, there is often suspicion on the side of the community. It is the role of HEIs to build on this trust and create a mutually respectful and collaborative environment between the institution and the community.

- Institutions should follow the practice of creating community leaders within the specific community, who can then replicate the social learning process among others, as opposed to an institution, as a sort of rapid multiplication within the community to co-create knowledge with others.
KEY TAKEWAYS

• Traditional culture and wisdom in resilience planning and designing can be made possible through participation in society, and through the involvement of HEI’s in the creation of cultural forms, and cultural knowledge, such as pictures, art forms, songs, and theatre.

• It is important to focus on the reversal of financial, economic, managerial, and professional norms that define knowledge as something which is closely held by few, costs money, and is not at the service of society.

• Cities have performed efficiently in the past because the knowledge was distributed and was not held in abstract formats. It was part of the everyday life of the communities in the form of language, songs, rituals, and so on.

• Traditional wisdom can form suggestive guidelines that can be further applied in contemporary buildings in hilly regions for adaptation to climate conditions.

• Materials and design of roofs, walls, openings, floors, and study of plan form, shape, plot layout, the ratio of open-built, and utilization of terrain could be aggregated to frame design guidelines for the region.

• It’s not just the planners and architects, but also the economists, civil engineers, and other professionals who must re-engage with what it means to create a technology that is differently designed.
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