

ANJANA MURALI | Dr. Priyanjali Prabhakaran

Planning for Healthy Cities: Study of Components to Evaluate a Healthy City

Planning for healthy cities are very important to improve community health by shaping the environments where people live, work, and play. In order to plan for better and safe living for the community, there is a need to document, measure, track, and design-built environment elements that are known to be key determinants of health. New planning approaches are required to address the challenges faced by communities in a neighbourhood, especially in developing countries.

However, studies have emphasized that there is an absence of innovative approach and comprehensive framework to support in planning a healthy city for developing countries, like India. The research aims to identify and study measures to evaluate a healthy city a neighbourhood as a part of healthy city approach so as to improve public health outcomes.

As for the method, based on background study and literature review, the key domains and sub-domains were identified which are necessary for a healthy city are planning. This was followed by a comparative analysis of planning factors of developed and developing countries, to understand how each domain are addressed in different context to promote health. A comparative analysis of four different healthy city evaluation tools was also done which are developed by different organizations, to identify the significant measurable indicators for each set of identified domains and develop an inclusive framework for evaluation accordingly. The set of indicators developed are based on literature study and no primary source of data is collected, where the research requires further validation that can be done in later stage. The overall framework developed is an effective tool which would play an important role in improving planning for a healthy city to promote health and well-being.

Keywords: *Built environment, healthy city, community, health, planning, health inequity, indicators*