

Strategies of Sustainable Neighbourhood Planning: A Case of Pattoor, Thiruvananthapuram

Development that is higher and denser is seen as direct solutions for the rapid urbanisation of the world. Neighbourhoods are vital tissues of an urban area and their development directly affects the development of the region. There are various potential barriers to building high dense neighbourhood which on failure initiate neighbourhood decay. Blight areas are developed which spreads to adjacent communities as well. Thiruvananthapuram, the capital state of Kerala has been selected as a Smart city by the Ministry of Urban Development and it is essential that the city envision an integrated strategy for its smart development. Planning for neighbourhood resiliency amidst changing economic and socio political conditions is the main challenge to be addressed. Neighbourhood unit is an integrated, and planned urban area related to the larger community of which it is a part, consisting of residential districts, a school or schools, shopping facilities, religious buildings, open spaces, and perhaps a degree of service industry (Osborn & Whittick, 1978). In Indian context, parameters of smart neighbourhood may need a change in approach with respect to its regional planning aspects. A proactive sustainable neighbourhood planning that address issues of social, economic and environmental sectors and understand the inter-linkage between them are needed. Density in urban planning is not a well detailed subject in India, with respect to its varied links on infrastructure, quality of life, transportation, scope of vertical planning, affordability etc. This has led to urban sprawl or unplanned densification without addressing planning of physical and social infrastructure. Tier 2 cities of India have high potential for development and Thiruvananthapuram is one such example. It has high potentials for sustainable development; hence it is essential and highly significant that we efficiently manage the available natural resources here and save them for the future. Responsibility lies on the shoulders of urban planners to integrate the development of existing neighbourhoods in Thiruvananthapuram and prevent decay. This thesis identifies a potential neighbourhood within Thiruvananthapuram city limits, which can meet the housing demand from the investment regions and explores possibilities of developing it in a sustainable way. Various neighbourhood planning concepts are compared to explore the possibilities of adapting conventional neighbourhood planning principles to the needs of contemporary context. National and international policies on sustainable neighbourhood planning are analysed to understand the compatibility with the framework of Smart city mission in India which focuses mainly on infrastructure development. The selected neighbourhood shall stand as a replicable model for the rest of the smart city with its strategies on developing sustainable neighbourhoods.

Keywords: Smart city, Neighbourhood planning, Sustainability, Key indicators.