

BUILDING SHARED CITIES

Kalpana Viswanath

Presented at ECOSOC Integration Segment: Sustainable Urbanisation
May 29, 2014

UNEQUAL CITIES



- ◉ The 1.2 billion poorest people account for only 1 per cent of world consumption while the billion richest consume 72 per cent.
- ◉ One in seven live in poverty in cities
- ◉ In developing countries, 1 in 3-5 urban dwellers live in slums and informal settlements
- ◉ 100 million people are homeless in cities
- ◉ Based on current trends, nearly 900 million people will live in slums by 2020

URBAN GROWTH

- ◉ Almost all population growth is being predicted to be urban and in the developing world.
- ◉ More than half of Asia will be urban by 2020
- ◉ More than half of Africa will be urban by 2035



Inequality, class division, poverty, and concentrated disadvantage have been decades in the making and appear to be built into the very structure of the urban knowledge economy.





Insecurity, and the fear of it, deepens poverty, as it adversely affects the poor and the most vulnerable.

Insecurity in particular erodes a poor person's human, social, physical and natural capital, making it more difficult to escape poverty.

UNEQUAL WEALTH OF CITIES

- ◉ In developed economies, the incomes of the highest 10% is nine times that of the lowest 10%
- ◉ Chile, Mexico, Brazil - more than 27%
- ◉ India, China, Indonesia and emerging economies - even higher
- ◉ Inequity has become the defining characteristic of modern cities

ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

- Between 1990 and 2010, more than 2 billion people gained access to basic drinking water, but 780 million people still remain without.
- 2 billion people lack access to safe water
- By 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in water scarce places
- The poor are the most affected and disadvantaged

Source: UNICEF/ WHO (2012).

Progress on drinking water and sanitation.2012 update



SHARED CITIES



DIVIDED CITY TO SHARED CITY

- ◉ UN Habitat mentions four types of divides in cities – social, political, economic and cultural
- ◉ Gender, income, race, disability, geography must not determine the life of people anywhere in the world
- ◉ Governments must provide quality health care and education for all.
- ◉ People should have a say in governance and decision making

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Transparency and equity
- Participation and democratic decision-making
- Recognition of diversity
- Reducing poverty, social exclusion & urban violence and crime.

POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

- ◉ Leave no one behind.
- ◉ Put sustainable development at the core.
- ◉ Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth.
- ◉ Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all.
- ◉ Forge a new global partnership.



YOUTH

- ◉ Adolescents and youth are one third of world population
- ◉ They need to have access to quality education and employment
- ◉ They need the freedom to express themselves
- ◉ They have the right to participate in decision making





WOMEN

- ◉ Women are among the poorest around the world
- ◉ They face barriers of opportunity
- ◉ Access to equal education and employment
- ◉ Violence and sexual violence are a major barrier to full and equal participation
- ◉ Personal safety is a big concern for many in cities, especially women



Public spaces need to be designed to foster gender and other forms of equity and promote people's engagement and inclusion, especially the more vulnerable groups.



Public participation is essential to understand and give visibility to what happens in certain spaces, to document community knowledge about the place, and in particular, to capture the daily experience of people.

We understand participation as an interdisciplinary and mainstreaming process,





- Technology can provide creative ways of empowering the poor, vulnerable groups and women
- Mobile phone subscriptions have grown to 6 billion
- With increasing access to technology especially phones, women, youth and the poor are able to make their voices heard, and access information

- ◉ Competent, accountable local governments play an important role in creating more equitable cities, address the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized.



Innovative partnerships are needed between governments, academic, NGO's, private sector, urban planners, artists and cultural actors and others to imagine and implement sustainable Solutions for making cities shared.



SHARED CITIES - EQUAL RIGHT TO CREATE A CITY

- ◉ Cities must have conscious policies to encourage equity and participation
- ◉ Social cohesion needs to be fostered
- ◉ Non discrimination policies and practices need to be instituted at all levels
- ◉ Voices of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups must come into the centre
- ◉ Care has to be taken to address the numerous ways that have been and are discriminated against and excluded historically, economically, socially and culturally

BUILDING SHARED CITIES

- ◉ Urban planning- has to move beyond being functional and instrumental to transformative
- ◉ Provision of services – special focus on essential services such as water and sanitation
- ◉ Urban transport – multiple and user friendly
- ◉ Well functioning, decentralised and accountable institutional structures
- ◉ Participation of citizens – with special focus on women and youth and the poor