

Capacity Building for Sustainable Urbanization in Asian Countries

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Better City, Better Life

- Shanghai Declaration
- Towards Sustainable Urban Development
- The Goal is to Build Friendly and Livable
Communities

Livability

- For some citizens of the city it may be very livable while for some: You have to live there whether you like it or not.
- The main characteristic of livability is inclusivity
Livability is relative while inclusivity can be measured
That means, you are either included or not included:
you are in or out,
- This may sound like some professional jargon.....
Yes it is, unfortunately;
Till we see the differences in practice

What is it like being included (inside) or excluded (outside)?

- If you are inside:
You have access to the good things of the city.....rights, recognition, income, land, housing, information, access to city decision making, entertainment and of course recreation.
Then you have very high livability
- If you are outside:
Means, you do not have legal access any of the above.
Then you are labelled as the "INFORMALS"

The INFORMALS

If you are outside:

- Informal jobs
- Informal housing without tenure rights
- No rights or recognition
- Thus not part of the decision making processes of the city.

Informals and Growth of Cities

In the last three decades, Asian cities have been booming.

There has been a commensurate growth of urban population with urban economic growth.

However, the major portion of this population growth has taken place in the "informal" settlements: those "excluded" from the city.

In South Asian, and South East Asian cities, where the economic growth has been remarkable, 25 to 65 % of urban population live in informal settlements.

Thus half the city is excluded from the mainstream "Better Life" of the city

Informal City : Formal City

- The two cities exist together one supporting the other
- Economists argue that the informal city will become formal with economic growth
- However, this will not happen if the informal city is not recognised and supported.

Informal City : Formal City



Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

The [Goal 7 Target 11](#) is dedicated to the excluded urban people

It states: Improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020

This is UN-HABITAT'S main mandate

How do we achieve this?

Sounds like a daunting challenge?

Actually not; if the right policies and programmes are adopted



People's Process

- Cities are built by people
- In the formal part of the city, the market and governments provide the capital and people provide the labour.
- In the informal part of the city, people build their housing with whatever their means on marginal lands that they have no ownership
- This process is what we in UN-HABITAT calls the **People's Process**

Supporting the People's Process

Instead of calling the informal sector "illegal",
Recognize it and support it

People can build their own housing
optimizing resources to meet their needs

Authorities' role is to support this process

Control Paradigm and Support Paradigm

Development driven by authorities: the Control Paradigm

- “Projects” with the authorities at the centre of the process are designed by professionals with controls established by bureaucrats, consumes more time and money thus impacting lives of limited number of people.



Development driven by people: the Support Paradigm

- When people are placed at the centre of the process of decision making and action, supported by the authorities, they optimize resources with a greater degree of satisfaction reaching a larger number of people: city wide

How do we bring people into the center of the process?

By bringing People to the Center of:

- ④ Decision making
- ④ Action
- ④ Responsibility



How can Authorities Support the People's Process?

- ② Mobilization and organization
- ② Community Settlement Mapping
- ② Community Action Planning
- ② Community Banking
- ② Community Contracting
- ② Community Monitoring

Community Mobilization and Empowerment

- Forming groups and Community Development Councils
- Recognition by local governments through registration



Community Mapping:

Organized Communities getting together and city-wide mapping of

- @ their own settlements
- @ vulnerability of settlements
- @ tenure status
- @ safe and secure land for relocation
- @ family and community profiles



Community Action Planning (CAP)

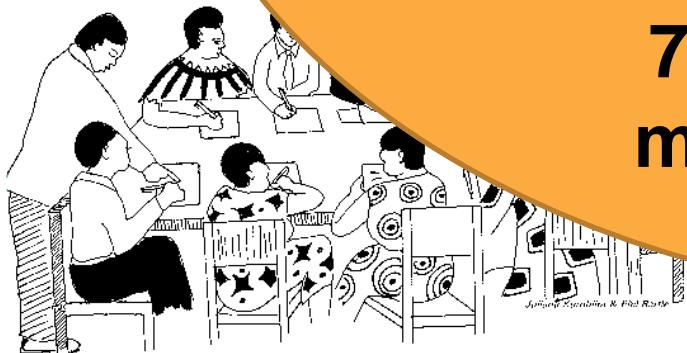


- ④ Community Identifies problems and prioritize them
- ④ Propose solutions
- ④ Negotiate solutions and arrive at the most appropriate considering trade-offs
- ④ Cost them including community contributions

CAP PROCESS



1. **Social mapping:** *The resources and opportunities*
2. **Identification:** *Issues/ problems*
3. **Prioritization:** *issues/ problems*
4. **Formulation:** *strategies*
5. **Options and trade-offs**
6. **Planning for implementation**
7. **Implementation and monitoring:** *Internal and external*



Community Banking

- ④ Bringing communities to work together around their savings and credit
- ④ Meeting people's immediate needs, livelihood and credit needs
- ④ Establishing city level housing funds

COMMUNITY CONTRACTS

- Planning and physical work is done the community
- Designed by the community with the assistance of professionals
- Contracts signed with CDC officials
- Labour intensive



Process in operation

- Experience is retained by the community
- High standard in quality of work
- Instilled feeling of ownership
- Accountability and transparency



An end product

Community Monitoring

People:

Community members control the implementation, checks, monitors and report to authorities



Attitudinal Changes

- @ Decision makers have to intrinsically trust the people.
- @ Recognize people's organizations and their capacities.
- @ The underlying premise is that they do have the capacity to overcome the situation that they in.
- @ Professionals have to change from being "prescriptive" professionals to "support" professionals.
- @ Cultivate a spirit of solidarity and community cohesiveness.

Policy Changes

- ④ National and local governments need to adopt the people's process as the mainstream process of settlement development.
- ④ Application of policy consistently, uniformly and equitably across the city: city wide
- ④ Devolution of decision making to the point of action.
- ④ Capitalizing city level community housing funds



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Thank you



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