ADB

Template – Concept Note for Knowledge Products

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INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK

I. INTRODUCTION

Inclusive urban prosperity framework offers a new vision for integrating human wellbeing, in particular for the most vulnerable groups such as poor, women, children, aged and differently abled into urban planning and governance. This will enable meaningful involvement of all sections of the society in the growth trajectory through policies and capacity building initiatives. This framework is aimed to facilitate the upward mobility requirements of the urban poor including safe houses, skills, access to finance, health, access to services and social integration.

The prosperity thinking at city level was initiated through UN-Habitat's 'City Prosperity Index' (CPI) which was launched in September 2012. The post 2015 development agenda calls for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Goal 11 of SDGs is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. According to the UN Habitat's State of the Cities Report 2012, the prevailing views on prosperity did not consider dimensions other than economic growth and thereby could not offer a comprehensive framework that could facilitate sustained well-being of individuals and societies. The CPI has the following five components such as 1) equity and social inclusion, 2) productivity, 3) environmental sustainability, 4) quality of life and 5) infrastructure. The Sustainable Development Goals emphasizes the importance of equity in development agenda. However, since the barriers to prosperity faced by various social groups in Indian cities needed an in-depth and contextualized analysis, the idea of inclusive urban prosperity was conceived.

Though inequity represents a wide range of social barriers to prosperity, the cultural connotations and political processes swing widely between Indian cities. In addition to this, one of the major challenges in Indian cities is the lack of a cohesive vision of inclusion and prosperity among the key stakeholders such as government, industry, business, academia, Residents Associations and media. Thus, it is pertinent to study the local and cultural barriers to inclusive prosperity before a common national position is arrived.

In this context, under the ADB programme of South Asia Urban Knowledge Hub, the National Institute of Urban Affairs, Government of India has decided to conduct a diagnostic study on six cities. The identified cities are Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Thrissur, Ajmer and Gaya. The cities have been selected through a combination of factors such as population size, regional distribution, cities that are part of Heritage Cities Mission and new Urban Development Mission. Some of these cities are also potential candidates for the Government of India's upcoming '100 Smart Cities Mission'. It is expected that this study can contribute to a guideline for addressing the spatial disparity and social disbelief resulting from misplaced urban investments.

II.   PROPOSED TOPIC/PRODUCT

A national policy framework for inclusive urban prosperity. This will be brought out as a Policy Brief and will have detailed city specific case studies. This will contribute to objective.1 of the work plan.

III.   RATIONALE

According to Census 2011, 31.16% of India's population lives in urban areas. Among these, 13.75 million households in 2,543 statutory towns are part of slums. The Census 2001 revealed that out of 1.94 million homeless people in India, 0.77 million lived in urban areas. By 2011, the number of homeless people in the country have increased to 2.24 million. Past research has produced evidences on the contribution of the urban poor to the local economy. According to Sridhar and Reddy (2013), 19% of Chennai's population lived in slums whereas their contribution to the city's economy was 14%. It is time that urban sector policies and scheme integrate strategies to enhance the social and economic conditions of the deprived sections of the society.

Harvey's (2003:940) revalidation of the old saying "nothing more unequal than the equal treatment of unequals" is a strong pointer against the way 'agglomeration economies' have been chasing prosperity without incorporating the needs of the less fortunate sections within cities. As urban scholars and practitioners have recently started applying the concepts of 'experience economy' to empower strategies for planning cities, it offers a new course for attempting to use the actual human experience in reshaping urban spaces.

According to Golledge and Stimson (1996:2), there has been a serious recognition on the need for deconstructing the "mass of *the day-to-day* experiences" for an effective understanding of the environment. The day to day human experiences generate emotional responses and update the knowledge and values of individuals as well as groups. The process of reconfiguration of urban space to make it inclusive and prosperous has to begin by redefining the value system. A new set of shared values that can set in motion the process of inclusive prosperity is required. Castells (1973) had observed that "on one hand a city could be seen as a spatial concentration of population and on the other hand as a particular distribution of values and behavioural patterns, often referred to as urban culture" (Stouten, 2010:24). This provides a template to formulate strategies that can support inclusive re-ordering of human habitats.

While an effort is made to address inclusive prosperity, it is important to note Harvey's (2003; 940) observation "do we lack the correct moral and ethical compass to guide our thinking *and can* we construct a socially just city? At this stage, the hope for achieving inclusive prosperity lies

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wrapped in redefining the value system with a shared value, building a participatory democracy, using technology as the enabler and creating and distributing wealth through vibrant and local entrepreneurial ecosystems. Hence, it is worthy to make an effort to uncover the latent possibilities through evidence based research. The collective ownership of this endeavour by all stakeholders might produce an opportunity to agree with Michael Angelo who famously said "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."

IV.   METHODOLOGY

The preparation of inclusive prosperity framework will involve the following stages.

1. Review of concept paper by internal and external reviewers and incorporation of suggestions

This process will ensure the key ideas are properly nested and relevant references are integrated into the concept note. The reviewers will also provide critical comments on the feasibility of institutionalising inclusive prosperity in urban strategic planning.

2. First National Consultation with key stakeholders

The approved concept paper will the basis for a national consultation with the key agencies that have contributed to research and planning strategies to reduce the critical resource gaps in urban India. This consultation is aimed to create a broad consensus among the identified cities, local agencies and researchers on the framework and its constituent elements.

3. Setting up City Level Multi-Stakeholder Group

This is to create a high level group of key organisations involved in researching, planning, communicating, investing and governing the identified cities. This group will act as the strategic advisory group for implementing the framework in the respective cities. This will be under the chairmanship of Head of Urban Development Authority or Mayor of the city. The group will have representation from academia, research organisations, policy support organisations, sectoral agencies, technology companies, residents associations and media.

4. Setting up City Level Research Consortium/Hubs

One of the key influencers in contemporary cities is dynamic information. This suggests that there is a need for generating, collecting/sharing and managing information timely and efficiently. Since there are wide range of organisations in each city which produce information about the dynamics of the city, it is essential that there information /data are captured and used for creating evidence. This has assumed more significance due to the localised nature of smart data from various embedded sensors which is also known as big data. These Consortiums/Hubs will be set up as a

cooperation between K-Hub and a Lead Academic/Research institution in the city. The primary objective of the Consortium/Hub is to collect and collate information related to issues/schemes on the five components of inclusive prosperity. It is expected that this will contribute to sustained exchange of information among all the stakeholders and K-Hub. In addition to this, the Consortium/Hub will provide technical and knowledge inputs for the City Level Multi-Stakeholder Group. These Consortiums/Hubs will also be encouraged to organise city level dialogues as a way for creating a shared vision.

5. First City Level Stakeholder Consultation

At this stage, the concept paper enhanced with through national consultation and further research will be discussed with the wider audience in each identified city. This interaction is to seek information on the progress of the city through key investments and planned interventions. It will also provide an opportunity to engage with the local organisations who can be invited to contribute to the preparation of the framework and its effective implementation.

6. Preparation of city level reports based on existing reports and reconnaissance surveys

This phase will involve actual collation of information from various city level reports and analysis of data. The focus will be on the contribution of the various national, state and local level programmes/schemes such as JNNURM, Basic Services to the Urban Poor, Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme, National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, Rajiv Awaz Yojana, Affordable Housing Partnership, Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana and Street Vendor Policy on creating balanced economic and social relationships in each city. Apart from these, the interventions through philanthropic organisations, international agencies, and NGOs will also be studied to assess the impact on creating a more harmonious and inclusive city. Each of these schemes will be assessed on its impact on 1) equity and social inclusion, 2) productivity, 3) environmental sustainability, 4) quality of life and 5) infrastructure. In order to update the evidence base, reconnaissance surveys will be conducted in each city.

7. Second City Level Stakeholder Consultations

This round of consultations will be based on the city level reports. In order to ensure that the reports have captured all the relevant information on the actual progress achieved and the gaps required for making the city inclusive and prosperous, these consultations will be organised into five thematic session that constitute the framework for inclusive prosperity.

8. Preparation of inclusive urban prosperity framework

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The evidences generated through the city specific studies and consultations will be brought together to prepare the framework. This tool can assist in assessing the future public sector investment plans in each city. Additionally, this can also inform the private sector and entrepreneurs on the potential areas for investments in each of the six cities. After testing in selected cities, this can later be extended to other cities as well.

9. Second National Consultation with key stakeholders

This is to inform the key national stakeholders including Ministry of Urban Development, ADB and other collaborating agencies about the outcome of the research. At this stage, it is expected that the policy makers and enablers will review the framework and provide necessary insights required for adopting into the policy realm.

10. Drafting Policy Brief on Inclusive Prosperity

This is the final phase of this activity. The Policy Brief will then be disseminated through the knowledge networks established during the course of the activity. It is expected that the city level structures will facilitate adoption of the tool to improve the social and spatial impact of new schemes in the city.

V. AUDIENCE

The Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, All India Council of Mayors, Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities, Town and Country Planning Organisation, international organisations such as ADB, UNDP, UNESCO, World Bank, Urban Development Authorities, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Urban Local Bodies, policy support organisations, Universities, Planning Schools, Research Organisations, Think Tanks, Resident Associations and Media will form the core audience group. Informal consultations with few of these organisations have already been initiated. They will be invited to the national consultations. Additionally, meetings with key functionaries will be organised as and when required.

VI. PEER REVIEW

The peer review will be a two stage process. Initially, internal experts from Ministry of Urban Development and ADB will review the concept note. This will be followed by review by experts from national centres which are part of K-Hub. Since this is a new policy tool, it is proposed that inputs from experts from international organisations such as World Bank (shared prosperity), Global Observatory linking Research and Action (GORA), Young Foundation, UK and UNESCO India (Right to the City initiative) also be invited.

VII.   REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Since one of the key areas of intervention by all the national centres of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal is on sanitation, it is going to uncover the challenges of achieving sustainable sanitation in south Asia. It is known that inclusive prosperity cannot be achieved without provision of basic infrastructure and this activity will facilitate rich dialogues with stakeholders who are involved in sanitation initiative in the region. Additionally, the framing of inclusive prosperity into a policy brief will enable all the national centres to identify next steps that are required to make their cities economically and socially supportive and congenial. Inputs from national centres on the policy tools or schemes that contribute to inclusive planning in their countries will enable in giving a regional perspective. Finally, inclusive prosperity can be achieved only through smart knitting of several sectoral strategies into one framework.

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