



CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT PLANNING

Department of Architecture, Jadavpur University

ABOUT THE CENTRE:

Introduction and background

The idea of a Centre for Human Settlement Planning at Jadavpur University was first mooted during the visit to our campus by Sofia Leonard, Director of the Patrick Geddes Centre of Planning Studies, Edinburgh, in 1995. The same year, a National Seminar on Planning and Management of Town Planning Education in India was held in Jadavpur University under the auspices of the AICTE, where the scheme for setting up such a Centre was formally proposed and recommended. The Centre came into existence the following year under the able leadership of **Prof. Monideep Chattopadhyay**, Professor, Department of Architecture, Jadavpur University- who was its Founder-Coordinator and who successfully led the Centre as its coordinator till his retirement in November 2004. Many a height was reached by the Centre during his tenure.

This newsletter began its journey from the year 2018. In this edition, we have introduced a section titled 'From the Archives' in which we would share the thoughts and concepts as envisioned by the Centre in the past.

In this issue, a 2012 article written by Prof. Chattopadhyay on the occasion of the completion of one hundred years of Calcutta Improvement Trust (now Kolkata Improvement Trust) and published in the Sunday Statesman on 8th April 2012 is displayed in the second page.

This e-newsletter is a humble step towards documenting the activities of the Centre and in the process, reaching out to the larger academic community.

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Editors:

Prof. Jayita Guha Niyogi
Prof. Suchandra Bardhan

Best-laid plans

THE Kolkata Improvement Trust (KIT) that has now entered the centenary celebrations mode, was originally established as Calcutta Improvement Trust (CIT) and came into operation on 12 January, 1912 on strength of the detailed drafted legislation of Bengal Act V of 1911 (the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911). The statute with many modifications is still somehow in vogue but probably awaiting its final departure from the planning scenario of the city. In the context of its almost vanishing role in planning and development processes of Kolkata, then Calcutta, one should look back to find out how effective the Trust had been during the major part of the last century in bringing about qualitative changes. The transition was achieved, through the formulation of innumerable meticulously-drafted improvement schemes and incrementally implementing them over the years. It all started with a medical inquiry

into the plague epidemic that hit Kolkata in 1896. A mechanism was evolved taking inspiration from the Bombay Improvement Act of 1898 and in 1911, the Calcutta Improvement (CI) Act came to be enacted. The objectives of the CI Act was well spelt out in its preamble. It was evident that the CI Act of 1911 was meant to provide for the improvement and expansion of the city in an orderly manner by constituting a board of trustees, suitably empowered with enabling legal provisions to undertake improvement schemes relating to health, defective ventilation, communications, conservancy and provisions of proper building sites, to examine the need and scope for construction of roads; to develop suburban areas; to carry out "rehousing schemes" for the working classes; to prepare schemes for widening the approaches to the city; and to acquire open spaces for parks in the suburban municipalities. An appropriate set of priorities worked out in 1912 that have not yet lost their relevance even after a century.

The Calcutta Improvement Trust (CIT) was established as a direct derivative of the CI Act. In the effective operation of the trust spanning more than 60 years, it remained the sole planning agency for the city and also in a limited manner, for the suburbs and served



The best way to celebrate the centenary of Kolkata Improvement Trust would be not only for the government to revive the spirit of meticulous urban planning but also to accord the Trust a pan-Bengal status, writes monideep chattopadhyay

them well with the diligent application of detailed provisions of the CI Act of 1911 that were quite similar to the British Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. In fact, the first chief engineer of CIT, EP Richard, made a heroic effort in producing the first well-documented report on planning in Kolkata (then Calcutta), written "partly in Calcutta and partly at Hawkhurst" near London that was published under the title "The Condition, Improvement Etc and Town Planning of City of Calcutta and Contiguous Areas" in England in 1914. The report provided the essential basis and guidelines for subsequent development activities of CIT that it carried out over the next decades.

EP Richard's efforts got Kolkata some of the best area improvement programmes with Bhawanipore benefiting most from Scheme No. V as that was one of the finest example of improving an existing settlement into a planned lay-

out with laying of roads such as Bakul Bagan Road and constructing small parks. Similarly, new area development schemes were formulated wherein large tracts of predominantly vacant land were acquired and developed with regular layout planning involving avenues and green areas. For example, proposals for developing Southern Avenue and Rashbehari Avenue had been prepared under Schemes IV and XV covering no less than 720 acres of newly-developed land.

Similarly, East Calcutta (Ultadanga-Beliaghata) Area Development schemes were formulated and partly implemented under increasing pressure for realisation of pending schemes and alignments, particularly along the east-west corridor of Manicktolla Main Road (East) and Narkeldanga Main Road to ensure smooth traffic flow towards the city's east where many expansion works are being carried out at the moment.

Similarly, under Section 63 of the CI Act, a far-reaching provision for protecting a projected street by prescribing street alignment was also introduced by virtue of which Park Street (eastern side) is still being widened with no additional land cost. Interestingly, the original alignment was approved by the government way back in 1920. Similarly, Narkeldanga Main Road was prescribed and approved in 1927 as Alignment No II for a 100-foot-wide road. The road could be easily expanded now to facilitate the construction of the East-west Metro corridor.

Thus, apart from making provisions for the widest avenue at 150 feet ~ the erstwhile Southern Avenue, a 100-foot wide north south axis within the city (Chittaranjan Avenue), excellent parks and water bodies (Rabindra and Subhash Sorovar), first shopping centres in Dhakshinapan and Uttarapan, KIT provided a meticulous planning machinery empowered with suitable enabling legislation so that plans could be made ready long before the actual project implementation.

Interestingly, when Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) was set up in 1971 by an Act of Parliament and with budgetary support from the Central government, it was in search of implementable, ready project proposals. At that time, CIT came to its rescue with a numbers of detailed plans that came handy in the construction of Chetla Bridge and Arabindo Setu, among other projects. Ironically, that culture of urban planning seems to have become extinct.

In the changed context of rapid urbanisation in small and medium towns of West Bengal, it might be considered a prudent measure to amend the CI Act, 1911 so that detailed urban planning could be carried out for the entire state. The best gift to KIT on its centenary would be to accord it a pan-Bengal status so that the rest of the state can enjoy detailed planning that has been Kolkata's privilege so far.

The writer is former Head of the Department of Architecture, Jadavpur University and currently Chief Executive, Centre for Habitat, Environment and Disaster Management, Kolkata

'Application of Qualitative & Quantitative Techniques in Sustainable Urban Planning'

One week RUSA National Workshop

20-26 September 2019

A one week National workshop was organised on 'Application of Qualitative & Quantitative Techniques in Sustainable Urban Planning' in the Department from 20-26 September 2019 with Ms. Dechen Donka Bhutia, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Architecture, JU as its Convenor.

This **Rashtriya Uchchattar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)- JU sponsored National workshop** involved learning the basic principles of research in the field of environmentally sustainable development considering the social, environmental, technological and economic, dimensions of projects, policies and programs, as well as ethical and procedural considerations of any research project using qualitative or quantitative techniques and then focus on the practical application in urban planning by providing real-world examples of research methods as case studies. Specialized softwares for data handling and categorisation have been in use in qualitative or quantitative research, the uses of which have been included in the present course content. The workshop aims to interact with other special groups to promote common interests and develop intra-disciplinary connections to bridge the perceived gap between quantitative and qualitative research through discussions and establishment of a common platform with the purpose of enhancing meticulous research across the spectrum. Hands-on software exercises were conducted with SPSS, R-Software, Q-GIS 3.4 version and X L STAT.

The information was also published in The Telegraph:

THE TELEGRAPH CALCUTTA THURSDAY 15 AUGUST 2019

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IN BRIEF

PhD entrance test in CU

COLLEGE STREET: Calcutta University will hold an hour's written exam on September 26 for admission to the PhD course in the department of radiophysics and electronics. This will be followed by an interview on October 29. The last date to submit application forms is August 30.

Exam results

COLLEGE STREET: Calcutta University on Wednesday declared the results of BA, BSc and BCom Part III general exams. The pass percentage for BA is 60.54; for BSc 81.45; and for BCom 47.79. The exams were held in August.

JU architecture workshop

JADAVPUR: The department of architecture at Jadavpur University will hold a one-week workshop on application of qualitative & quantitative techniques in sustainable urban planning from September 20 to 26. The event will be held at the department.

Schools hold informal chats and plan

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Inaugural session: Opening Comments were made by Prof. Dr. Sadhan Ghosh, Dean, FET-JU, followed by Prof. Jayita Guha Niyogi, Jt. Coordinator, CHSP, Dr. Debashish Das, HOD, Architecture, Ms. Dechen D. Bhutia, Convenor and Prof. S. Bardhan, Jt. Coordinator, CHSP. All the participants were welcomed in the workshop.

Inaugural session on 20th September 2019



The learning sessions and topics as scheduled were held as follows:



Concept overview was delivered by Prof. R. N. Dutta, Former Professor and HOD, Dept. of Arch. & Regional Planning, IIT-Kgp.

Prof. R.N. Dutta gave a comprehensive over-view of the quantitative techniques applicable in Planning and effectively set the tune of the workshop. He discussed Linear Programming and objective setting. He also discussed simulation techniques, fractal problems and multi-objective problems.



Dr. Animesh Halder presented a detailed study of efficient planning techniques for Urban poor with respect to Urban planning.

Centre's activities

One week RUSA National Workshop

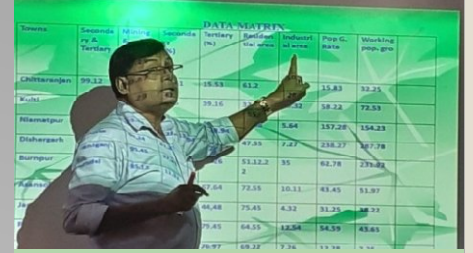
20-26 September 2019



Linear Programming by Prof. Arup Guha Niyogi



Urban Renewal by Prof L.N. Satpati



Factor analysis by Prof. Sanat Guchhait



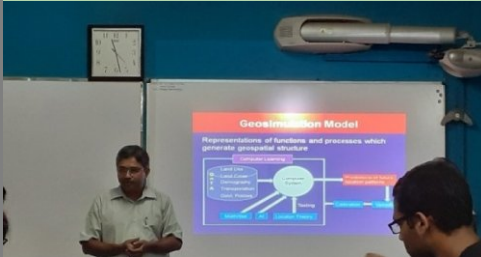
R-software by Prof. Rahul Bhattacharyya



Model-based simulation by Prof. Soumendu Chatterjee



Mixed Method Research Design by Prof. Ashish Sarkar



Geoinformatics by Prof. Basudeb Bhatta



K-Means and Hierarchical Clustering Techniques by Prof. Arup Guha Niyogi



Urban GIS application by Mr. Santanu Dutta & Mr. Parikshit Das



QGIS by Dr. Biswajit Giri



Photovoice by Prof. Subho Roy



Multi-Criteria Decision-making by Dr. Soumen Mitra

The workshop was successfully held with about 14 experts and 32 participants comprising of faculty members, research scholars and PG students.



Valedictory session in progress: Prof. Biplab Sengupta as Chief Guest (centre), Prof. S. Bardhan (left) and Dr. D. Das (right) listening to the participants giving their feedback.



Valedictory session with Workshop Convenor, Jt. Coordinators, Chief Guest, HOD-Architecture and the Participants