

City Advancement through Smart Citizenship

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Abstract— This paper analyses the parameters of a smart city in India and is based on the thought process that the genesis of a smart city is from smart citizenship. The word 'smart' cannot be defined in fixed terms. However, a city is defined by its people and their progressive nature, activities and conduct. Thus, the smartness, or progressiveness of a city is directly in proportion to its responsiveness and willingness of the citizens. This paper tries to bring forth a different perspective to the smart city debate and its parameters. Smart cities should be built together with smart citizens. The evolution of a citizen from being a recipient of services to a participatory member in decision making is important for the development in the right direction. A smart city can only conceptualize when its residents are aware and comprehend the advantages at their disposal. The sustainability of the city solely depends on the uses of its resources and its components, into bringing the betterment of the society.

Key words: Smart Citizenship, City Advancement

I. INDIA: SMART CITY TARGET

India has set an ambitious target to build 100 Smart Cities by the year 2025. This is a step forward in the competition of a new global scenario emerging which involves major cities and countries in the world, working towards the aim of becoming 'smarter'.

Smart cities are essentially built by utilising advanced information and communication technologies (ICT), including broadband networks, wireless sensors, Internet of Things, Big Data, Cloud services, mobile devices and apps. Thus, the context pertains to enabling smart city technology which will generate radically new "smart" services and facilities across the city including all its facets. Case in point includes transportation, healthcare, public safety, food management, education, energy and so on.

The Smart City Mission Transformation of MoUD defines cities as engines of growth for the economy of every nation, including India. Smart cities have been taken as one of the parameters towards a developed nation. This concept has been widely explored and researched on in both scientific parameters and the practitioner field. However, the risk involved in the assessment of the 'smartness' of a city should be the defining factor for the development.

II. SMART CITY WITH SMART CITIZENSHIP

The smart services are perceived as the parameters to the smart city by the various government leaders, academics and industrial experts as a basis to resolve many global grand challenges. Consequently, Smart city has been given top priority in the national development agenda.

Nevertheless, the smart city concept driven by advances technologies has its success rate highly dependent on the engagement of citizens. More specifically, if smart cities are to be successful, it is essential for local citizens to be fully aware of the existence and usefulness of the smart services available, as well as to be able and willing to use these services. Also, the other side to the coin is exploitation of the resources by the people for personal gains and benefits.

Looking at the positive aspect of the smart cities, the daily usage and engagement of smart services can then encourage and lead to behaviour changes of citizens. These behaviour changes can eventually generate economic and environmental benefits, such as cutting resource (energy, water, materials) usage, saving on energy bills and eventually reducing carbon dioxide emissions. However, practical evidence in India has brought to us the contradictory side of the public scenario. Making the city smart may not bring the said 'smartness' to its public. Providing advanced set of technology and its wide spread reach does not ensure the full utilization of the given resources by the general public for their betterment. The advancement in smart cities will come when the range of the public involved is from the top notch bureaucrats to the one room dwellers. For the range to be this diverse and further, for the understanding of the smart city concept by each part of this range, it is necessary that the citizens be smart in their approach and their general grasp of the situations.

Smart Citizenship is all about bridging a gap between the data, people and knowledge. It's a participatory platform for all efforts to combine and present a hopeful scenario for the future. There is a clear disconnect among the policy and the implementation. At the core basic level, every day we experience the solid waste strewn on the streets and the industrial waste polluting the rivers, the vehicular gas emissions and such other social issues. They can be nipped in the bud if and when citizens realize their power and accept the city issues as their home issues and deal with them in the similar manner. It cannot be emphasized enough that a city is made by its people. Humans categorized in the most advanced species are yet to apprehend their responsibilities towards other aspects of the environment and the earth.

Equity of all types of administrative policies in the social structure is must for all categories of people to be involved in the development aspect of the city. Incentives and cultural openness in this step towards achieving a task in the fight of India towards a developed nation is must. It's a slow and steady process yet the results will be highly sustainable for the future generations. Sustaining our cities and its citizens as per the need of the hour and for the future generation is a priority that needs immediate attention. With the responsibility of becoming a smart city, citizens have a he responsibility of creating smart yet sustainable cities for the future generation. It can be only fulfilled when smart citizenship is part of our everyday life.

The most important factor is to bring the belongingness in the people. The 'Urban Governance' plays a strategic part in this scenario. People have regard for certain rules and laws only when they are enforced to their truest nature. Case in point: Traffic regulations. These imposed laws and regulations are for the safety and well-being of the public in question. However, their implementation has been seen best in the cities which make their citizens abide by those laws. The question arises, whether imposition is the key to management. Thus, belongingness and willingness by the people is a major stakeholder in the game of development. A city can only turn smart until its citizens are willing to take this change forward in their lives. Experience as a commoner presents us with the challenges faced by people in their daily activities and the implications of the same. What may seem as a trivial matter at the administrative level could have the scope of being the hindrance to accepting a basic step in the structure of the smart city program.

III. KEY TO CITY ADVANCEMENT

City advancement is the key to bringing sustainable smart city changes. Interestingly, smart city is linked to the citizens. So the crux of the debate is to bring changes in the base of this smart city model and then present it to the higher structure for varying developments. Urban governance and politics is the research base for this field to suffice fit for the public.

However, technology the key game changer in the smart city concept can not be developed in isolation of the needs and challenges of our society. Significant focus of investments, planning and development of physical infrastructure for achieving prosperous cities may not be enough in coping with the challenges of the people. To successfully enable the technological aspects, the reality of planning for the future of our cities needs to view the both physical and social processes in need for up gradation.

Education of the skills and development of the same is not the only criteria present to us. Delivery of the solutions for the issues faced by the public and the implementation of the same harbours a majority of the success rate. The political processes and engagement of the public are a key medium in enabling the future participatory community planning and development. Making the citizens aware of their rights and giving them opportunities in creating vision for the city they wish to live in is what will initiate the smart city concept. The success rate will mostly depend on the technological, society and policy interfaces having worked harmoniously in prioritising needs and bringing integration of the various facets of the society.

IV. CONCLUSION

Smart city agenda needs to perceive as open systems of urban scale, where people, open data and production are given equal importance and weightage in their factors of change. Bringing greener change and accounting for the by-products of the visions seen by the planners is a track that needs to be followed by the citizens and the administration alike.

A city can only integrate all the facets of its smart city dream into reality if the main generation of power: its citizens are given participation level and are provided with equal opportunities to develop their cities.

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