

Entangled Urbanization: capabilities and informal labor, dignity and deprivation

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Day 1, Panel 3:

Relationships between the urban poor and more privileged groups, including those of employment, political participation and informal governance practices (Policy perspective):

- What is the interface between policies for the poor and the demands of the well-off?
 - Interface = a point where two systems, subjects, organizations, etc. meet and interact
 - Interface by multiple identities and associations of poor and landless (e.g., members of parties, organised in association)
 - Interface by special occasion where policy and political decision makers approach poor and commit to policy formation
 - Interface by methodological platforms: condition of development partners to opt for participatory planning → brings concerned stakeholders
 - Interface by constitutional and legal provisions
 - Interface by compulsion: water scarcity, land scarcity: open space need for natural calamities like earthquake
 - Constitution of Nepal 2015 (guarantees shelter for all Nepali)
 - Equitable Economic Growth Policy (reflected in the budget of the FY 2074/75 (2017-18))
 - Periodic Plans (main basis of urbanization policy (PPs seek to address the urbanization issues))
 - Seventh Periodic Plan has incorporated concrete vision of urbanization and habitat policy aimed to properly manage urbanization, create opportunity for employment and increase income.
 - SDGs (NPC plan for implementing SDGs)
 - Resettlement Plan of GoN
 - Policy document “Envisioning Nepal 2030” of NPC
 - National Reconstruction Authority is applying integrated urban development plan prepared through KVDA for PDNA (The Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report) 2015 implementation
 - 14th Plan (2073/74-75/76 (reducing population below poverty → from 21.6 to 17%))
 - Land Use Policy 2072 BS (2015)
 - National Shelter Policy 1996
 - Samyukta Awas Niti/Act
 - PDNA implementation
 - Working Policy for Registration and Leasing of Government Land 2071 (2014)
 - Government policies on roads and transportation, local development, fiscal and economy, industry, tourism, agriculture, health, education, etc., have largely influenced the nature and type of urbanization in the country (Alliance for Social Dialogue, 2012).
 - Bagmati Action Plan of the High Powered Committee for Development of Bagmati Civilization
 - 20-year Kathmandu Valley Development Strategies (2015-35) adopted by Kathmandu Valley Development Authorities (KVDA)
 - Acts and institutional arrangements
 - Acts and regulations
 - The Kathmandu Valley Development Authority Act 1988
 - Town Development Act- 1988

- Local Self Governance Act- 1999 (provides municipalities and the VDCs authority to carryout town development plans).
 - Intuitional arrangements
 - Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUBDC) implements urban development plans and programs (has policy for the proper urban development that includes minimum required facilities like drinking water, electricity, telephone, road and sewerage with active participation of local governments)
 - Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) is responsible for administering the urban programs.
 - Ministry of Urban Development
 - Town Development Fund (set up in 1988/89 to provide loan assistance to municipalities for managing urbanization based on a multi-sectoral approach
 - Sukumbasi Samasya Samadhan Aayog [Commission for Setting the Landlessness Problems (12 in series): all political, less effective
 - High level National Land Commission (4 in series)
 - Yuba Sorrojgar Samiti (Youth Employment Committee)
 - Poverty Alleviation Fund
 - Many others
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- How do these policies impact the continuation of the kinds of work the poor undertake for survival?
 - Government plan to give houses to squatters (e.g., planned housing at Ichangu Narayan)
 - Policies and acts provide opportunities and space but much negotiated and less implemented
 - Manipulated by political forces for political interests (vote bank, coercive activities and mass rallies, etc.)
 - Identification Card for Poor (to provide state facilities and rpiorities)
 - Manipulated by land brokers and mafia for their personal interests
 - Elite emerging from the houseless/landless communities and getting personal benefits (e.g., recently newspaper cover story that one leader of houseless struggle committee erected 5 story building from engaging in the movement)
 - Generating employment opportunities proving priority to poor andlenaless/houseless;
 - NGOs like Lumanti (initiating community-driven settlement planning), Nepal basti/Basobas samaaj, Mahila Ekata Samaaj are raising voice to refine/implement policies
 - INGOs like OXFAM/World Vision (supposing for water and sanitation), British Red Cross (livelihood), Samaritans Purse/Build Change (technical assistance), Architect without Borders (local level planning) and Save the Children (children)
 - Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform = HRRP (created and led by UN-Habitat and IOM for technical/information support to facilitate post-earthquake housing recovery).
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- Do they result in trade-offs on the ground between policies intended for the poor and objections by the well-off (where, for example, there might be conflicts between providing housing for the poor and using the land for leisure activities of the well-off)?
 - Frequently observed trade-offs and tensions
 - For example tension between the High Powered Committee for Integrated Development of Bagmati Civilization and squatters and slum dwellers residing in the riverbed of Bagamati riverbeds
 - Tension between local residents and squatters residing in the Manohara corridor, Bagmati corridor, Bishnu Mati Coridor, Hanumante Corridor, Nakhu, Sankhamul, Mandikatar, etc.

where several issues and concerns are raised, such as encroachment of public land and open spaces, direct pressure on intake of natural resources (especially water), pollution (waste disposal and air quality), congestion in public services such as schools, hospitals, transport, etc.

- Many concerned groups like Lumanti, Mahila Ekata Samaj, Nepal Basobas Samaj, CSRC (Community Self Reliance Centre), National Land Rights Consortium (mainly focusing to livelihood and access of poor on land resources) are raising concerns and exerting pressure
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How do policy makers recognize rights to the city by different populations of the underprivileged in a context of large-scale anti-poor discourses that promote their disenfranchisement from urban processes?

- In Nepal 3 parallel phenomena are observed:
 - a. First, strong pro-poor orientation at political level (Maoist Centre and UML's communist orientation and using as vote bank that pushes for NC too; see for example, election manifestos)
 - b. Second, negative effects of globalization too poor and anti-poor orientation (less space for poor)
 - c. Friction/tensions between the Constitutional provision (supporting poor) + globalization effect as well as the confusion/duality for political parties (supporting poor in slogans and supporting the big investors/traders and proponents of anti-poor discourses to secure financial donation and other gains)
- Bureaucracy is largely either insensitive, or ignorant or resistant towards poor
- The agenda, orientation and activities of civil society, NGOs and activists are often shaped and guided by donors
- Donors pro-poor agenda is superficial and guided by short term disbursement
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