

Synthesizing The Behavioral Influence on Urban Transformation by Theorizing Participatory Approach



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Abstract

Since ancient times, Indian cities having diverse cultural backgrounds with people's **notional behavior** - adapted as a response to context, along with changing morphological conditions forms a complex system. Developmental plan being a modus operandi for city structuring by the planning committee, often an economic strategy, leverages only few. Where inclusivity is neglected, defying social equity and coherence, marginalizing vulnerable groups. Hence understanding behavioral patterns becomes crucial for – **'Welfare of All'** and not favoring few, for a democratic development. A top-down approach, with equal opportunity, enhances the urban settings into vibrant public spaces, improving the quality of life giving it a **'Sense of Place'** and solidifies its Identity through Place-making tools. The paper aims to Synthesize the Behavioral Influence by Theorizing Participatory Approach, examining Spatial Strategies systematically to articulate Scenarios Transforming into Urban-patterns by testing its Attributes and Record the inputs Transparently and conclusively help enhance Urban Settings with **Social Resilience** and **Adaptive measures**.

Keywords

Behavioral Influence, people-centric, participatory.



1. Introduction

Anciently, the persistence of earlier settlements was structured by focusing on sustainable adaptation as a response to its environment. With time slowly advancing its then technology - as an underlying cultural attribute was passed from one generation to another. Hence the notional behavior as a collective, formed a pattern - that distinguishes every context to be unique, based on its geographical context. The customs, culture, art, lifestyle, housing, clothing, rituals, festivals, and economic activities all deep-rooted understanding the 'Propitious Local Milieus'- As an indigenous way of approach. With transformation, some settlements agglomerate rapidly into urban areas and some remain dormant. Presently, if we decode the various morphological conditions, an array of phenomena display peculiar patterns as a stimulus to notional behavioral patterns. Indian by 2050 about 34% is to be in urban areas. It's crucial to understand the lacuna in planning processes, Ex. Bangalore has fragmented governance and operation between municipalities and other parastatals and subsequently, the public transport and environment suffers. The 73rd and 74th amendment caters at the ward level and includes grass root level problems. Still, there seems to be a gap between the cognitive city structuring and its conditions, conflicting ground realities. Hence the knowledge of city processes in depth, with a participatory methodology helps direct the involvement of communities in solving issues with outcome embodying their aspirations, also gaining support and acceptance for an active democratic representation. As conclusion, there are twoparts in the process

- *Reading city pattern*
- *theorizing participatory approach.*

1.1 Reading the city patterns

Spatialization processes as a qualitative

analysis for a holistic approach.

Reading the City Pattern and assessing its impact on behavior which are
tangible Patterns - spatial oriented and
intangible Aspects - nonspatial aspects of the city - notional behaviour, indigenous practices, networking, diversity, density etc.

Fundamental segregation

Natural	-	manmade
Physical setting		built - tangible and unbuilt - intangible

1.2 Decoding the Determinants

Studying at ward level/neighborhood level. Decoding the city pattern in a structured way helps to analyses it in a systematic method. Every System, when broken down into its Components, Constitutes *Determinants*. Every ward has *dominant* varying components. *Natural, Social, Economy, and Political* as a broader category and its *Attributes* - *Nature* is further subdivided into Topography, Blue Network, Green Network, etc. A holistic approach identifies regional networks and looks at the system as a whole.

These determinants are primarily linked with the **Impact theories** from various fields Ex. ecology, geography, sociologist of studies

1.2.1 Environmental possibilism - The natural environment sets certain boundaries, but human have the ability to adapt and modify their environment to a considerable degree. The environment can limit what is possible, it doesn't have an absolute control over human actions and development, conflicting to a determinist view that the environment solely determines notional human behaviour and development. The theory is often cited in discussions of land use planning, resource management, and urban development. It tributes a base for natural setting in city enhancement and improve climate, solve water scarcity and urban flooding issue.



1.2.2 Social determinism – also referred as cultural determinism, the theory where social/cultural factors, rather than individual will, are crucial in determining human behavior, choices, and outcomes. This means that social norms, values, and beliefs, depend on the context and the degree of influence. Sometimes the causes of marginalization can be identified during this process.

1.2.3 Economic determinism - is a theory that states the economic factors alone determine the course of social development. According to this perspective, economic systems and relationships are the primary driving force behind societal changes and evolutions and the changes in societies or cultures are driven by economic factors and technology, such as the development of agriculture, industry or trade. It suggests that economics alone is a fundamental motivating factor for its political, social or cultural changes. The economic gap could pose a key factor for a societal divide.

1.2.4 Political determinism - is the theory that political institutions and structures determine the direction and outcome of political events, rather than individual actions or decisions, behaviour and outcome. It claims that the choices of individuals or groups are often limited by political influences making it difficult to achieve desired outcomes. Therefore, political determinists believe that societal change cannot happen without significant changes of its political climate. Ex. rules, regulations and policies determine the framing of societal development under a political party agenda. As parties change there is a shift in its developmental structuring and implementation.

1.2.5 Impact on the Morphology of the city, analysis through Space syntax theory. Space Syntax is a theoretical and analytical approach to understanding the relationship

between space and society. It is based on the idea city configuration and patterns of movement and activity, as well as areas of congestion or isolation, public spaces, transportation systems, and buildings arrangements. By understanding the way that people move and interact in different types of space, designers can create environments that encourage social interaction, promote safety and security, and support sustainable patterns of use. Space syntax undergoing processes gives a resultant morphological transformation – called as city phenomenon.

2.1 Spatialization processes as qualitative analysis through the piecemeal method.

Furthering the pattern reading after 1st level of categorization is important in slicing the spatial strategies by systematically articulating Scenarios and Transforming Behavioral Information into Urban-forms by testing its Attribute (a variable factor) as per ground condition.

2.1.1 Attributes Forming a variable factor.

It helps to map marginalization issues and program interventions for a participatory approach.

- **Physical entity** - geographical context
 - natural system, blue/green network, topography, climate
- **Unbuilt - intangible** aspects as a social dimension - People's behavior
 - /notional indigenous practices, cultural behavior - everyday practices
- **Built - tangible** aspects as a spatial dimension
 - Morphological transformations/phenomena as a process like
 - Agglomeration, sprawl, sporadic development, privatization, peripheralization, spatial fractures.



3.1 Impact of Scale a quantitative analysis

Range these issues are influencing the *regional level, city level, neighborhood level, block level/tissue level, local to global impact*

4.1 Theorizing participatory approach.

Since the participatory approach focuses on the collective behavior of the people, we need to see the impact of the determinant on the social dimension which becomes the dominator.



Figure1. theorizing participatory approach. Source: Author

5.1 Case Study 1: Seoul, South Korea, 2016

The Urban Planning of the capital city of South Korea, a Mega City having its economic growth was at an unprecedented rate. The city planning strategized its structure with the historical, cultural and environmental background strengthening its social infrastructure through participatory approach.

The **dominator** being **social infrastructure**. The process involved the use of social capital in planning policies considering the social and economic context based on the micro politics and conflicts of ethnic groups Ex. the community-led regeneration project in Garibong-don an urban regeneration program that includes not only *physical improvements* but also *economic revitalization, social justice, public engagement and environmental protection* and cross-cutting for its outcome as socio-economic, socio-ecological, socio-political. The programme sorted out to curtail

issues manifested in its behavioural city patterns, through people’s participatory planning.

Urban Regeneration - the program focused on locations affected by depopulation, indiscriminative city expansion, changes in industrial structure and worse living conditions, cross-cutting issues of management, and policy integration at neighborhood level.

5.1.1 Policy integration involves – *direct implications* like political manifestoes – vision, knowledge, leadership and *indirect influence* to be ecological conditions, public awareness/ support, and stakeholder involvement.

5.1.2 Policy implementation saw an opportunity in climate-proofing and climate integration, local body interaction with local people involvement at the neighborhood level. Since 2014 thirteen neighborhoods of Seoul was designated as urban regeneration spots

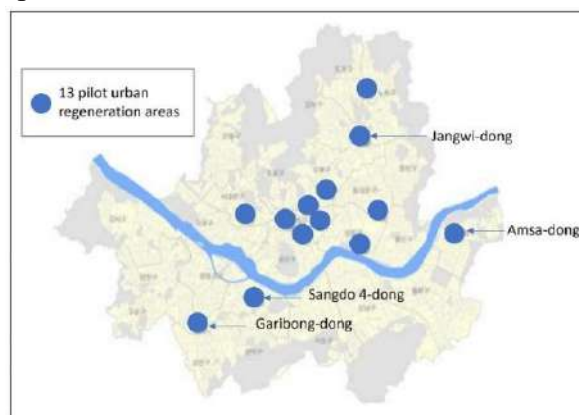


Figure 2. Pilot projects of regeneration areas, Seoul. Source: Special collection: transformational climate actions by cities.

5.1.3 Learnings: The framework prioritized topics, such as water management, energy efficiency, green public spaces and urban agriculture, as climate change-related topics and integrated them into local urban regeneration activities.



5.1.4 Projects: Urban agriculture – urban vegetation for a green regeneration, Energy-independent Village activities and gardens, Rainwater Village Creation Project through participatory model across the city was tried and tested at ground level through active people's participation. Ex like Han River water front development saw policy integration in its structuring.

6.1 Implementation as a case of Bangalore:

Bangalore slowly losing its identity as a garden city. With rapid development and transformation in its fabric, developmental plans today, pose a challenge often falling to identify the ground realities with policies, decisions and manifestoes align to focus on a narrowed down stake holders and economic projects and infrastructural requirements, neglecting the diverse requirement of its context and people. Participatory planning traces back to 1961 limits mostly to certain NGOs and a minimal public consultation at ward level.

Presently, Smart city mission strategy is to improve quality of life through – liability, economic-ability and sustainability. The programme pillars its city with institutional, physical, social and economic infrastructure strengthening and an active participatory involvement. (Smart city mission 2016). Although the mission focuses on sustainability, technology and flexibility its mechanism leans towards urban renewal projects that focus on public infrastructure. An integrated development wards and intra - ward integration is required for a socially equitable and coherent fabric and place-making. **Social** factors being the dominator determinant and integrating policies framework at a **political** level.

6.1.1 Socio-Ecological – policies to safeguard physical entities that act as a regional network Ex. Lake system – whose values are associated with communities next to

them with solving issues like urban flood, water scarcity, evicting. associational economy, recreational activities and its micro climate at neighborhood level.

6.1.2 Socio Economic – city provides an equal opportunity bridging the gap between the rich and poor as a fair chance. Provision of inclusivity of different economic groups as a coexistence minimizes marginalization and confining to only privatized zones. Ex Bazaar streets, public markets, Urban commons.

6.1.3 Socio morphological impact – urban renewal has to be integrating, not only focused to city core, but also towards peripheries, as tendency of people is to move away from congestion. Causing sprawl, sporadic development, privatization of large land parcels denying public accessibility and adding addition pressure on mobility also with encroaching the sensitive green belt of the city

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