

Manifesto for Hyderabad – Draft for Discussion and Enrichment

Manifesto for Hyderabad

Hyderabad is a cosmopolitan city with a population as varied as Indian population. Hyderabad city was once considered as the city of “Baghs” (gardens) and was considered as the ‘pride of Deccan’. Presently, the problems in Hyderabad and multiple factors, which cause them, are bewildering.

Population in the capital city of Hyderabad increased in leaps and bounds, in the past four decades. This city has six universities. There was a time when this city was called a science city, now it is hitech city, but the quality of city management does not reflect these acronyms.

Transformation in Hyderabad urban management can be achieved by promoting the development of an able leadership, dynamic administrative machinery and effective citizenry, which adheres to the principles of sustainable development. This requires the development of relationship between different sectors in terms of action and programmes.

The principle of cooperation and partnership, sustainability, is a shared responsibility. Cooperation and partnership between different levels, organizations and interests is therefore crucial. Sustainable management is a learning process, within which ‘learning by doing’, sharing experiences, professional education and training, cross-disciplinary working, partnerships and networks, community consultation and participation, innovative educational mechanisms and awareness raising are key elements.

Sustainable urban management addresses the problems both caused and experienced by cities, recognizing that cities themselves provide many potential solutions, instead of shifting problems to other spatial levels or shifting them to future generations. The organizational patterns and administrative systems of municipalities should adopt a holistic approach of ecosystems thinking. Integration, cooperation, homeostasis, subsidiarity and synergy are key concepts for management towards urban sustainability. Existing tools developed in relation to environmental action need to be extended to address the economic and social dimensions of sustainability.

Sustainable management of natural resources requires an integrated approach to closing the cycles of natural resources, energy and waste within cities. The objectives of such an approach should include minimizing consumption of natural resources, especially non-renewable and slowly renewable ones; minimizing production of waste by reusing and recycling wherever possible; minimizing pollution of air, soil and waters; and increasing the proportion of natural areas and biodiversity in cities. These objectives are often easier to achieve on a small scale, which is why local ecological cycles can be ideal for introducing more sustainable policies for urban systems. Local government therefore plays a crucial role.

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Spatial planning systems are essential for the implementation of city-wide policies for sustainable development. Existing spatial planning systems should be strengthened by encouraging ecologically-based approaches and a move away from a narrow land use focus. The identification of environmental objectives at an early stage in the planning process, the use of targets and indicators, improved forms of public involvement in planning and the potential linkage of spatial planning and Local Agenda 21 processes are encouraged. Environmental carrying capacities at local, regional and global level should be accepted as the guiding principles within which other considerations may be traded off.

Urban regeneration should be used to meet goals of sustainable development through the recycling of previously developed land or existing buildings, the retention of green field sites and protection of countryside and wildlife. Detailed sustainability objectives, including the establishment of ecological links, improved accessibility, energy efficiency and concern in many urban regeneration projects, should be seen as part of an integrative approach which provides the possibility for achieving cross-subsidy between sites.

Tourism and leisure activities can have significant impacts on the quality of a city's cultural heritage. Planning for tourism, leisure and cultural heritage should be integrated in national guidelines and regional policies addressing economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects. In addition, tourism, leisure and cultural heritage issues should form an integral part of the spatial planning process.

The sustainable city process is about creativity and change. It challenges traditional government responses and seeks new institutional and organising capacities and relationships. This report and its recommendations represent a contribution to this dynamic process, to be refined and consolidated as the Sustainable Cities Project progresses.

Addressing Motivational Factors

Attempts at collaboration and partnership are often hampered due to an apparent reluctance on the part of key interest groups to get involved. What often seems to be a lack of interest and inertia, is in fact a reaction from the public to the intractability of environmental problems and the impenetrability of many institutions to outside influence. An integrated environmental management process must therefore explicitly address motivational factors.

The factors which motivate involvement are specific to the context and much will depend on the mechanisms used to facilitate this involvement. There are, however, a number of general criteria:

Develop solutions from the bottom-up rather than imposing predetermined programmes from the top;
Relate sustainability issues to aspects of local life; Emphasise the difference that each person can make,

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both in causing the problems and contributing to the solutions; Outline a ‘vision’ of the possible - the benefits to be gained from moving towards a sustainable society. If one approach does not work, then adopt an alternative strategy, but do not give up.

Policy option: encourage involvement by being open and transparent in process; use mechanisms that encourage active participation.

The principal tools can be

- ⌌ City-wide environmental statements and charters
- ⌌ City-wide environmental strategies or action plans
- ⌌ Local Agenda 21 strategies
- ⌌ Environmental budgeting
- ⌌ Environmental impact assessment
- ⌌ Strategic environmental assessment.

The development and implementation of city-wide environmental strategies and action plans require effective community participation and partnership mechanisms, as called for in the Local Agenda 21 programme.

Initiatives For Problem Solving

1. Improvement of all infrastructural facilities like roads, electricity, drainage systems in industrial areas.
2. Establishment of primary pollution treatment facilities is the need and individual industries would be persuaded by all means to do so as early as possible.
3. Cycle and mass transportation are the twin answers for many urban ills, in Hyderabad.
4. Two separate parallel water lines would be laid. One for drinking water and the other for non-potable water. Drinking water pipeline needs to be made of sturdy non-corrosive material. This provision enables water supply authorities to deal efficiently with the needs and contingencies in a better way.
5. Existing parks and open spaces would be declared as community property in order to prevent encroachment. While these places serve as rain water percolation points for ground. Water recharge, government itself is guilty of mis-utilizing them - construction of Telugu University in the Public Gardens is one such example. Bagh Lingampally, once a tamarind grove is full of concrete structures.

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Unless the existing lung spaces are preserved and provide for more, Hyderabad will continue to be under the grip of carbon monoxide and other pollutants.

6. The problem of solid waste can be reduced by promoting reuse, recycling or reclamation of materials, stimulate employment and result in savings of raw materials. Composting of biodegradable land waste can support agriculture.

Since the GHMC lacks the resource to collect household and other wastes regularly, it can support community-based schemes. The GHMC and government have to recognize the potential of the informal sector in garbage management and would include them in all of their waste disposal schemes.

9. Financial institutions and government would encourage community-based ground water pumping systems rather than finance individual households. In a given area, indiscriminate bore well digging means quick drying of ground water resource. A community based bore well system while saving on investment also eliminates the possibility of indiscriminate use of water.

10. Tank bund would be closed for all vehicular movement. For the residents of Hyderabad, the only relief can be in parks, Nawbhat Pahad and tank bund. As a plausible solution, this ban would be on Saturdays and Sundays and during morning and evening on all days.

11. Suburbs and fringe areas would be developed to be more attractive and livable particularly of four national highways touching Hyderabad in all aspects like augmenting the road network and transport facilities, establishment of retail market centers, schools, hospitals, hotels and other infrastructural facilities. This would relieve pressure on the dense inner-city area. Modern communication systems can provide further incentives.

12. Proper zoning system of residential, industrial and commercial area needs to be followed strictly.

13. GHMC would promote research studies on problems of Hyderabad to bring out causes, which can help in chalking out specific, and time bound schemes. All universities and research institutions can take up a comprehensive project with each institution concentrating on a particular aspect.

14. Hazardous industries like Nuclear Fuel Complex have to be shifted out of the city.

15. All tanks, in and around Hyderabad (especially, Hussainsagar), have to be insulated from garbage, sewage and encroachment. They would be developed as entertainment centers.

16. River Musi has to be preserved for ecological reasons, as also for historical and aesthetic reasons. Government would immediately constitute a separate authority for all river basins in the State, and in

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that context, particularly, for River Musi covering its entire stretch, from catchment area to the drainage basin.

17. Citizens involvement and community participation is a must to evolve norms, codes or procedures to curb noise pollution. As a first step, vulnerable areas like hospitals, schools and religious places have to be identified.

18. Neighborhood schools can be the modern version rallying point of the communities of erstwhile village centers where all information is shared, problems discussed and acceptable solutions are arrived at. These schools by their very concept transcend all barriers - language, caste, and creed, religious and economic. This concept can be the basis for urban villages within the city.

19. Vertical growth of the city, on the face of it, looks inevitable. But in this modern era of sophisticated communication facilities like computers, telecommunications, it need not be inevitable. Development of satellite townships and segregation of industrial, residential and commercial activities equipped with modern facilities can rid urbanities of the drudgery of apartment living.

Removal of Encroachments and Resettlement

GHMC would assess its own role in the encroachment of the water bodies and account for its/its officials (individually) mistakes and policy paralysis. Such an assessment can prevent future recurrence of such 'erroneous' permissions and projects.

GHMC would review its own procedural behaviour and rectify its governance process.

GHMC would first remove all encroachments done by its own departments and, the big real estate business to establish its credibility and commitment.

GHMC would identify all the public lands (in the inner city and on the outskirts) and notify them as areas for housing for poor people.

Resettlement of the people would be taken into consideration all socio-economic and humanitarian considerations.

Alternative housing sites have to be in the vicinity of displacement to the extent possible like DBR Mills, Musheerabad Central Jail, Azamabad industrial area and other public lands.

GHMC would follow all the procedures laid down by the Relief and Rehabilitation policy developed by the Planning Commission.

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The entire resettlement process has to be with and only upon the consent of the people, individually and collectively.

GHMC would create a Resettlement Fund, to be financed from taxes/levies paid by the evictees. This is also necessary as safeguard against fund diversions, for whatever reasons.

Resettlement Plan/project would specify the quantum of assistance in monetary terms, and this assistance would be made accessible to the people affected by resettlement, through necessary legal and institutional framework.

A compensation package has to be worked out, which takes into consideration all the costs incurred by the people in establishing their homes, and the quantum of compensation has to be geometrically more than the investment made by the household.

It is important to have accurate information, if not a reasonable estimate, of the numbers of people likely to be affected, and an estimate of the costs of resettlement. Particular attention must be given to socio-economic considerations, such as the significance of the land, the vulnerability of the affected population, or the availability of in-kind replacement for assets, particularly where they have important intangible implications.

Restoration of a previous standard of living has no relevance if resettlement is supposed to be accomplished as a development program. Restoration as a threshold is difficult to define and invites dispute. While it will require further definition, an improvement standard is easier to gauge and plan for than is restoration. Improvement could require, for instance, that the project provide appropriate health and education programs, adequate sanitation and water supply, access to electricity, and the provision of other essential public services; an improvement standard would also include respect for cultural values, and the replacement or enhancement of community-based resources, in addition to enhancement of livelihoods. This standard will truly allow resettlement to be conceived as a development project.

Displaced persons would be:

- ☐ Compensated for their losses at full replacement cost prior to the actual move;
- ☐ Assisted with the move and supported during the transition period in the resettlement site.
- ☐ Assisted in their efforts to improve their former living standards, income earning capacity, and production levels, or at least to restore them.

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Valuation of lost assets would be made at their replacement cost. The standard would be redefined to allow for the actual full cost of replacement (not pre-project market value), and would be flexible and liberal enough to include compensation for damages to the community structure, cultural resources, and support network that is inherent in the loss of land and other tangible assets.

There are four different widely accepted principles and approaches that can be used in resettlement. These approaches are (i) cash compensation, (ii) the land for land principle, (iii) the standard of living approach, and (iv) The bargaining approach.

'Minimisation of displacement' through adopting a modified development paradigm would be the essential prerequisite.

Multiple displacements would be avoided by comprehensive long-term planning for an area.

People's right to participate in decisions that determine their future would be incorporated.

Address the issue of identifying and assessing value of economic, social and cultural resources affected and appropriately compensating for the losses.

Water

Sharing of water, between various needs, various regions and various settlements, has to be done amicably and equally. This requires, primarily, knowledge and information on water resources. People need to be aware of such a situation. Widespread knowledge will help in minimizing water conflicts, and probably lead to more equitable sharing of water resources.

- Water-oriented Development Plan and permit system needs to be developed in Hyderabad.
- Water conservation should be the priority.
- There should be a annual Water Status Report on Hyderabad, developed and presented for discussion in State Legislature
- Area sabha-based water management and distribution plans should be developed and implemented through consolidation at the city level
- Surface water sources such as cheruvus and kuntas should be protected, even while rain water harvesting methods are encouraged through various policy instruments.
- Waste Water should be recycled.
- Rainwater harvesting systems have to be established by every home, and building.

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Electricity

- Green buildings have to be encouraged. Natural light usage in buildings and residential places have to be maximized.
- Solar power systems should be installed by every building. Progressively, Hyderabad should become dependent on solar energy with annual targets in capacity addition.
- Building materials have to be changed, recyclable and sustainable. They should be environment-friendly.