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Planning Cities in Developing Countries
Issues, Challenges and Ideas

Prof. Rajni Abbi
Former Mayor - Delhi
Introduction

• With emergence of cities as growth engines and centers of economic development, the management of civic affairs is becoming a challenging task.

• More and more people tend to migrate to cities in search of employment opportunities. Add your second bullet point here.

• Urbanization process is neither totally good nor evil. It has its own advantages and disadvantages.

• Ultimately, it is not only the government policies and actions but also the concerted actions and initiatives of the community and individuals which will compel the governments to act and not allow the magnitude of the problem to turn into an excuse of inaction.
Environment

• Loss to environment is irretrievable if we do not take immediate measures
• Green cities are the need of the hour
• It is our shared and common responsibility to protect our environment
• The effect of climate change is quite visible and we have to devise safe mechanisms to overcome it
Housing

• Housing construction is one of the important indicators of the socio economic development of the country

• Gives an account of the civic amenities at the reach of the families living in the dwellings such as availability of drainage, garbage disposal arrangement etc.

• There has to be a balance between vertical growth of the city and preservation of heritage and culture of the city

• Cities which have already grown in an unplanned manner need to be tackled differently. Parts of the city can be taken separately and be developed in a phased manner
Transportation

- The easiest way to tackle transportation problems is an effective and efficient public transport system.

- Governments shall be forced to limit the number of vehicles a family can own depending on the tax a family pays.

- Delhi is predominantly dependent on road transport, with the railways catering to only about 1% of the total traffic.

- Emission norms for the vehicles have to be made stricter.
200 People can commute in:

177 Cars

Three Buses

One Light Rail Train

Their Bikes
Waste Management and Role of Government

• Proper sanitation and keeping the cities clean is a very big challenge before the Governments and city planners in developing nations

• The most important factor in planning a city is its waste disposal management mechanism

• Liquid waste management which should include water treatment and reuse of water is also very important

• The most important factor in planning and reinventing cities is the role of the Government

• In most cities there are three levels of Governments- Municipal, State and Central which sometimes leads to chaos and mismanagement

• There should be clear demarcation of functions and allocation of appropriate funds

• Public Private partnerships can also be encouraged in this direction

• Companies should also realize and fulfill their responsibility towards improving the state of urbanization
Thank You