

Abstract

The importance of community participation is now widely recognised, both conceptually and in terms of the role that intended beneficiaries and local community organisations can, and do, play in the design, implementation and management of development projects. The developed nations have come to the conclusion that participatory planning is the answer for a comprehensive aggregate plan of any urban or rural area.

An extensive literature exists, which defines surveys and analyses the experience of community participation in a variety of projects in different sectors in both developed and developing nations.

The intention of this dissertation is not to provide yet another such review. This dissertation aims at finding out the appropriate tools which should be used to capture stakeholder's participation at the level of consultation in the preparation of comprehensive development plans for any urban local bodies within Kolkata metropolitan area. This dissertation aims to find out the appropriate tool which should be used for the different sectors of urban planning process. A methodology shall be developed which shall guide the policymakers and planners to select the appropriate tool to capture community participation.

In the process of undergoing the research as mentioned above, three municipal areas have been selected with variations in socio-economic profile, geographical location and planning typology of the areas. The common aspect for the same is that all these have prepared their first generations comprehensive development plans as per a common guideline.

Both primary and secondary data have been collected and analyses finding out the components of the dependent variables and the variations have been found out through an efficiency index. The index values have been found to vary with the sectors of development and also the different tools applied for the participation process. The index values reflect the efficiency of the tools. A comparative analysis has been done with the lessons from different case studies and an evaluation has been done for the appropriateness of a tool for a specific sector of development.

Thus recommendations and policies have been suggested for different tools. The limitations of the research have been highlighted along with other allied fields where further research may be done. A broad level methodology has been suggested for selection of appropriate tools for particular sector of development in preparation of development plan for the specific urban area.

Key Words: Community Participation, aggregate level development plans, guidelines, sectors of development, tools of community participation, efficiency level index, evaluation of tools.