

Assessing The Role Of Urban Design In Promoting Sustainable Development

Yadav Satish Arjunrao¹, Dr. Eknath Pandurang Alhat²

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Environmental Science, Himalayan University, Arunachal Pradesh.

² Research Supervisor, Department of Environmental Science, Himalayan University, Arunachal Pradesh.

Abstract

The adoption of an all-encompassing strategy for environmentally responsible city planning and development has been a major paradigm shift in the field. As the world's population concentrates more and more in cities, these areas are more threatened by pollution, inequality, and poverty. An integrated approach to sustainable urban design provides a game-changing way ahead in a society defined by rising urbanization and escalating environmental concerns. This piece aims to provide a thorough approach to promoting eco-friendly city development. It determined that the integration and application of sustainability concepts to urban design's procedural, substantive, institutional, policy, and methodological dimensions are necessary for achieving sustainable urban design.

Keywords: Urban Design, Sustainable, Environmental, Economic, Social.

I. INTRODUCTION

Integrated strategy for sustainable urban design is a pivotal concept in the realm of urban planning and development, transcending traditional approaches that often prioritize short-term gains over long-term environmental, social, and economic well-being. In an era marked by rapid urbanization and increasing environmental concerns, crafting urban spaces that are both environmentally friendly and socially inclusive has become imperative. This multifaceted approach to urban design seeks to harmonize various elements, such as transportation, architecture, green spaces, and infrastructure, into a cohesive framework that not only caters to the needs of a growing population but also mitigates the adverse effects of urbanization on the planet.

The rate of urbanization, a worldwide trend, is not slowing down. Currently, over 50% of the world's population resides in urban areas, but the United Nations predicts that number will rise to almost 70% by the year 2050. There are benefits and drawbacks to this fast urbanization. Cities, as hubs of economic, cultural, and political activity, do draw those who seek better opportunities and living conditions. On the other hand, urbanization often leads to congestion, pollution, resource depletion, and social inequalities. The conventional approach to urban

development, characterized by fragmented planning and prioritization of individual interests, has contributed to these negative outcomes.

In response to these challenges, the concept of sustainable urban design has emerged as a guiding principle for shaping the cities of the future. Simply put, the goal of sustainable urban planning is to build cities that can withstand natural disasters without compromising social stability or economic vitality. It is a holistic approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of various urban systems and aims to optimize them for the collective benefit of residents, the environment, and future generations. To achieve this, an integrated strategy becomes essential, as it fosters collaboration among various stakeholders, aligns diverse interests, and coordinates efforts towards a common vision of urban sustainability.

Recognizing cities as complex and dynamic systems is a cornerstone of an integrated approach to sustainable urban planning. These systems encompass a myriad of components, including transportation networks, housing, energy systems, waste management, green spaces, and social infrastructure. Each of these components influences and is influenced by the others. For instance, transportation choices impact air quality, access to job opportunities, and the overall quality of life for residents. Similarly, the design of green spaces can affect mental well-being, biodiversity, and the microclimate of urban areas. Therefore, an integrated approach acknowledges the interdependencies among these components and aims to optimize them collectively rather than in isolation.

A central element of sustainable urban design is the emphasis on reducing the environmental footprint of cities. Traditional urban development has often resulted in resource-intensive practices, such as excessive energy consumption, sprawling land use, and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. In contrast, sustainable urban design seeks to minimize resource consumption, promote energy efficiency, and reduce emissions. This can be achieved through strategies such as compact urban planning, the use of renewable energy sources, green building standards, and the promotion of public transportation and non-motorized modes of transport. An integrated approach to sustainable urban design helps reduce climate change's effects, preserves natural resources, and improves urban areas' environmental quality by lowering their influence on the planet.

Another crucial aspect of integrated sustainable urban design is social inclusivity and equity. Cities are home to diverse populations with varying needs and aspirations. However, unequal access to resources and opportunities often leads to social disparities and exclusion. An integrated strategy recognizes the importance of social cohesion and seeks to create inclusive cities where all residents have access to essential services, economic opportunities, and cultural amenities. This involves affordable housing policies, accessible public transportation, community engagement, and the provision of safe and inclusive public spaces. By addressing social inequalities, sustainable urban design not only improves the quality of life for marginalized communities but also fosters social stability and cohesion.

Economic sustainability is also a fundamental pillar of an integrated strategy for sustainable urban design. Cities are economic engines, generating wealth, innovation, and employment opportunities. However, they also face economic challenges, including rising costs of living, unemployment, and budget constraints. Sustainable urban design promotes economic resilience by fostering innovation, supporting local businesses, and creating a diverse range of

job opportunities. It recognizes that a healthy economy is essential for the long-term viability of cities and seeks to balance economic growth with environmental and social considerations. An integrated approach to sustainable urban design is defined by its commitment to teamwork and the involvement of all relevant parties. Traditional urban planning often involves a top-down approach, where decisions are made by a select group of experts or government officials. In contrast, an integrated strategy encourages the active participation of various stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, community organizations, and residents. By working together, we can make decisions that are more informed and more inclusive of everyone's needs and opinions. It also encourages inhabitants to feel like they have a stake in the city's development.

The benefits of adopting an integrated strategy for sustainable urban design are multifaceted. First and foremost, it promotes the well-being of urban residents by creating cities that are healthier, more livable, and socially inclusive. Access to green spaces, clean air, efficient transportation, and economic opportunities contribute to an improved quality of life. Additionally, sustainable urban design can enhance the resilience of cities in the face of environmental challenges, such as climate change, extreme weather events, and resource scarcity. By reducing resource consumption and emissions, cities become less vulnerable to the adverse effects of a changing climate.

Furthermore, an integrated approach to urban design can lead to cost savings in the long run. For example, investments in energy-efficient infrastructure and public transportation can reduce operational costs and energy expenses for both the city and its residents. Sustainable urban design can also attract private investment, stimulate local economies, and increase property values, generating economic benefits for the entire community. Additionally, by mitigating environmental risks, cities can avoid costly environmental remediation efforts and adapt more effectively to changing environmental conditions.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Hama Radha, Chro (2020) In combination with the increase in global population, high rates of migration to cities and rapid urbanization have emerged, posing issues for city management and the environment. Reducing the negative impacts of the city's microclimate is a major task in urban planning. The purpose of sustainability strategies is to create mechanisms that integrate people, places, and things into a coherent urban clustering structure by taking a fresh look at these three factors. To be successful, urban regeneration strategies need to be designed via cross-sector and cross-agency collaboration and should take into account both municipal and regional legislation. Therefore, the term "sustainable urban renewal" refers to an approach to urban revitalization that incorporates the global notion of sustainability. An efficient strategy should be developed to translate such theoretical ideas into operational ones. To lower energy consumption and make living conditions more pleasant in hot and dry climates, this research incorporates the triple sustainable values framework of economics, environment, and social justice into urban regeneration initiatives. For this purpose, a field study and questionnaires among local inhabitants in the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah were used to determine the current urban issue in the district's microclimate. In this work, we suggest a model for the study area that may be used to inform the development of suitable strategies for sustainable urban

regeneration in other parts of the city or even in other cities in the north of Iraq that share the same climate.

van der Zwet, Arno & Ferry, Martin (2019) This chapter will investigate integrated sustainable urban development options as required by the European Regional and Development Fund rule for the years 2014-2020. This section will dissect the strategy's locational rationale and identify the most significant regulation changes from 2014 to 2020. Following that, it will analyze how Member States have interpreted and applied the rule, paying close attention to any inconsistencies. In the second half of this chapter, we examine the significance of the regulations at the European level. The development of novel strategic frameworks, the completion of integrated governance and the strengthening of implementation capabilities, and the occurrence of experimentation and innovation in connection to interventions are the three ways in which value added may be measured. In this chapter's last part, we'll take a look at some of the main challenges that arise when trying to apply these strategies using European funding. These concerns are connected to matters of capability, rules, and leadership. Last, we'll consider what we've learned about how effective integrated place-based initiatives may be in fostering territorial cohesiveness.

Leyzerova, A. et al., (2016) Degradation of ecosystems and environmentally friendly urbanization give rise to a new pattern amid the global ecological crisis. Sustainable development calls for a change in urban infrastructure, which is tied to the need to update cities for the sake of residents' convenience, financial viability, and environmental harmony. Building eco-friendly urban areas acts as a natural catalyst for environmental progress.

Colic, Ratka (2015) In this piece, we'll take a look at some of the challenges that have arisen as a result of implementing the new urban planning tool known as the Integrated Urban Development Strategy (IUDS). 1 Starting with the impact of European urban development policies and the advent of new planning tools, this part delves into the significance of fostering innovation in urban administration. Greater efficiency and flexibility in urban planning have driven local governments to actively define the technologies used. The intrauterine contraceptive is one example. The strategy development procedures in these three cities represent the first real-world applications of the collaborative approach and IUDS in Serbia, a post-socialist country transitioning to a market-oriented paradigm. Thus, it is significant within the context of local planning practice. The potential for change and the outcomes expected from applying the plan are highlighted as the main obstacles to its implementation. As indicators of the successful institutionalization of this new instrument, local planners have emphasized the importance of providing additional technical support, taking steps towards implementation of the strategy, further capacity development, introducing better communication, and establishing relations. Government officials, industry experts, and academics have all begun dissecting the strategy as a potential new resource for guiding the development of cities and bolstering municipal administration.

Cheshmehzangi, Ali et al., (2010) Using computational fluid dynamics (CFD) techniques, this work provides novel quantitative research approaches for a sustainable urban design project. The China branch of the United Kingdom's Research Council (RCUK) is funding this investigation. Caofeidian International Eco-town, located in Northeast China, is home to this endeavor. The study plan covers the fundamentals of eco-design and sustainability, two of the

most pressing issues of our day. Analysis of wind flow around structures, pollution in water systems, and noise abatement on metropolitan freeways are all examples of such factors. The program's overarching goal is to improve the efficiency of integrated design via careful preparation. Further investigation of the strengths and weaknesses of existing comprehensive plans is required. This study examines the effectiveness of the Chinese Planning System and presents innovative strategies for implementing eco-friendly city planning in China. The significant gaps between sustainability and design may be recognized with the use of integrated assessment and evaluation across disciplines.

III. URBAN DESIGN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development, first proposed in 1987 by the World Commission on the Environment and Development, has since become a universal goal for human society. The idea of sustainable development is to promote equity between and between generations. Economic, social, and environmental considerations are intertwined in the concept of sustainable development. Although the objectives of sustainable development are admirable, achieving them may be challenging. To close the gap between sustainable development theory and practice, a global action plan known as "Agenda 21" was formed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Sustainability indicators and community-based projects were both discussed in detail in Agenda 21. The idea behind Local Agenda 21 is that if people all around the world work together to create sustainable neighborhoods, it will have a positive impact on the world as a whole. The implementation of Local Agenda 21 at the local level is considered an important strategy for sustainability because of the significance of cities. Sustainable development on a global scale requires active engagement from local authorities, especially at the city level.

Most urban regions employ planning to decide the current and future use of each piece of land in the area, and this is because urban design and planning provide the potential to steer city growth toward sustainability. Local governments may contribute to sustainability in several ways, one of which is by adopting a more eco-friendly approach to land use planning. Since planning is so important to attaining sustainable urban development, sustainable development concepts should inform both the planning process and the final product. Therefore, the morphological, functional, social, and aesthetic factors referenced in current design standards should be expanded to incorporate the sustainable component in future urban design conceptualizations.

Economic variables are often given greater weight than social and environmental ones, and it is often assumed that economic forces are the primary driving force in city formation. While market forces do play a part in shaping how cities are laid out, urban planning may help cushion the blow of market failures. The configuration of the city affects the function and quality of the city, hence its implications on sustainability cannot be ignored. Instead of relying exclusively on market forces, urban development should take into account all of the important aspects. Therefore, it is important to construct and plan cities in a way that promotes sustainable urban growth. The purpose of urban planning and design is to maximize the city's strengths while minimizing or eliminating its weaknesses. This presents a challenge for sustainable urban design in terms of determining best practices for enhancing the city's environmental, social, and economic well-being simultaneously.

IV. INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN

This section borrows heavily from Eggenberger and Partidario, whose integrated approach is illustrated here. Fostering sustainable cities via urban design necessitates a synergistic integration of the many dimensions of sustainable urban design (procedural, substantive, methodological, institutional, and policy), as indicated in Figure 1. Land use density, environmental performance, mixed-use, and pedestrianization are all important aspects of sustainable design that must be included in the substantive aspect. The methodical component is the urban planning procedure. Urban planning and development should embrace sustainability concepts. The institutional and policy spheres focus on excellent urban governance, the integration of design policies, and the coordination of important parties, while the methodology sphere focuses on the many instruments that aid in urban design.

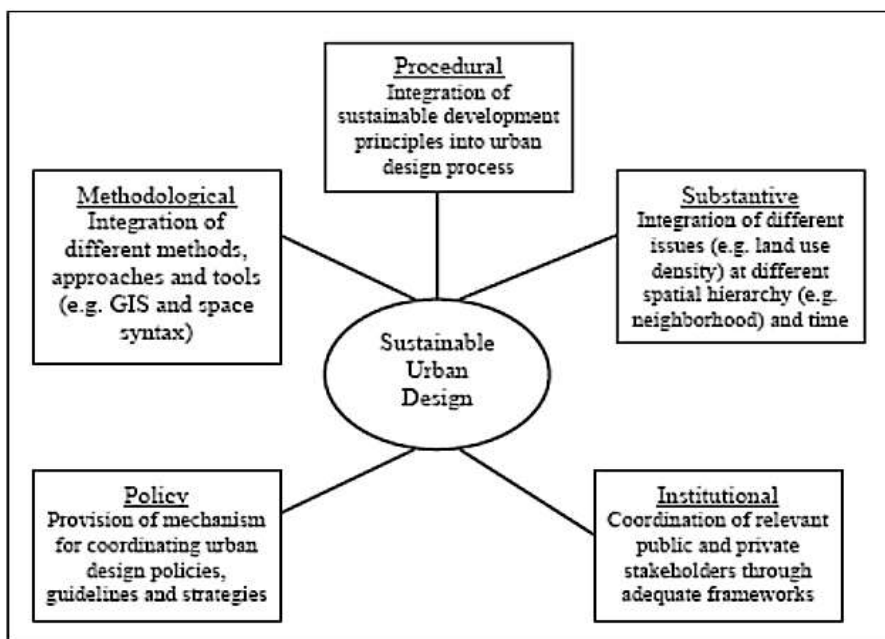


Figure 1: Integrated sustainable urban design

Procedural Aspect

Figure 2 illustrates how including sustainability phases into the design process might help to incorporate sustainability concerns and procedures into the urban design process. Generally speaking, there are four main steps involved in the urban design process: analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and implementation. Sustainable urban design may be implemented at any level. The process as a whole should be proactive, adaptable, permit top-down and bottom-up exchanges, and actively seek out citizen input.

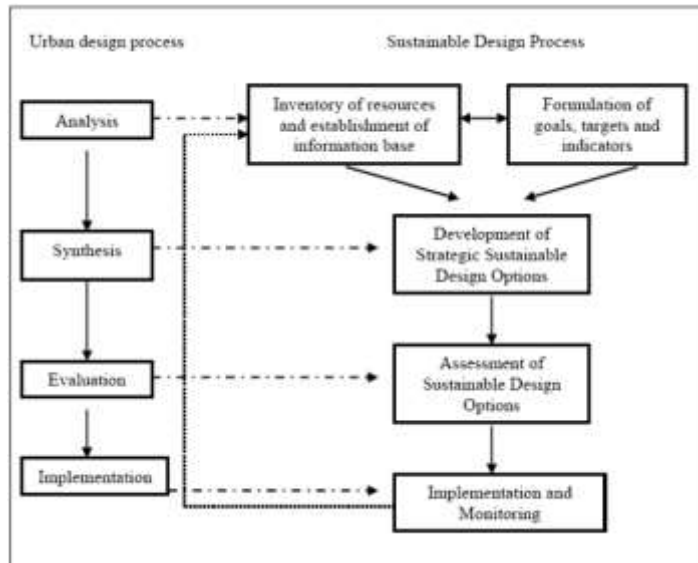


Figure 2: Integration of sustainability into urban design process

Substantive Aspect

The fundamental principles of sustainable development that Carmona and Selman found should be included into urban planning. Intergenerational fairness, public trust doctrine (protecting natural resources for future generations), precautionary principle, intragenerational fairness, participation, and the polluter-pays concept are all part of this framework. When using urban design concepts, it is important to take into account the full range of spatial scales (from the neighborhood to the metropolis). Development frameworks should be created at these levels and in this hierarchical sequence for urban design intervention to be successful and effective. If plans are made at each level, and those plans are coordinated with each other while yet keeping their separate identities, the spatial scale element may be controlled efficiently. The substantive component is also related to topics like resource efficiency, diversity and choice, human requirements, pollution reduction, intensification of land use, individualism, biotic support, and self-sufficiency.

Institutional Aspect

The political commitment to promote sustainability principles and the establishment of an adequate collaboration framework are two crucial aspects of the institutional element. Inadequate institutional structure and obstructive political process can stymie even the most sustainable urban design projects. As a result, the institutional component should set up mechanisms to accomplish the following goals:

- promote stakeholder and community collaboration and participation in development choices;
- increase information sharing and sustainability awareness;
- define stakeholder roles and responsibilities.

Policy Aspect

Principles, rules, and intervention plans are all part of the policy picture. Incorporating sustainable design policies may aid in the development of design objectives, metrics, and KPIs.

The resolution of competing sustainability policies can be aided by an integrated policy framework. Promoting high-density development, for instance, may run counter to efforts to keep housing costs down by limiting the size of individual dwellings. Integrating policies should take into account variations in cultural norms and historical circumstances. The outcomes of a policy that is effective in one city may vary from those in another city of the same region.

Methodological Aspect

To better comprehend the complexity and ambiguity of urban development decisions, the methodology entails integrating several techniques and technologies. Figure 3 depicts a theoretical structure for incorporating geographic information systems (GIS) and other forms of information technology (IT) into the urban planning procedure. The plan calls for bringing together all the resources needed for comprehensive examination of urban design.

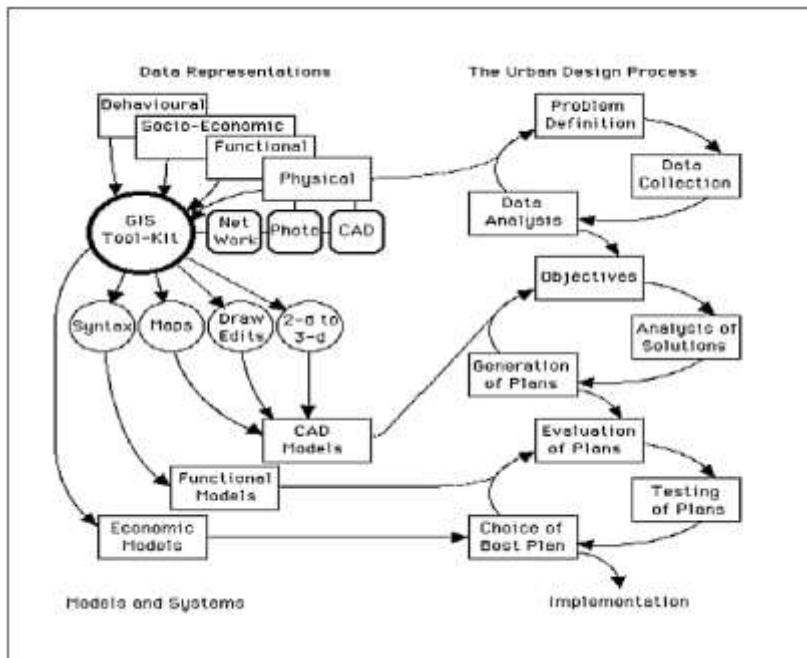


Figure 3: Integration of urban design systems

V. CONCLUSION

As the world continues to urbanize, the adoption of integrated strategies for sustainable urban design becomes increasingly imperative. It provides a comprehensive framework for crafting cities that are not only environmentally sustainable but also socially equitable and economically prosperous. By interlinking the various facets of urban design with sustainability principles, cities can aspire to remain vibrant, innovative, and sustainable places for current and future generations. In this era of global urbanization, sustainable urban design is not just a concept but a transformative path toward a more sustainable and harmonious urban future.

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