

Role of Urban Planning as a tool to Mitigate the Environmental Repercussions due to Peri-Urbanization

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ABSTRACT

India, with the second largest urban population in the world (more than 300 million today) and its mega-cities, provides a pertinent backdrop to examine the issues of population, habitat and environment in the metropolitan peripheries: an emerging country whose total population recently passed the one billion mark, and where the challenges of urban and peri-urban growth echo the demographic pressure. Peri-urban areas, lying between cities and villages, the extreme peripheries of urban areas suffer from a lack of definition and yet, in most regions of the world, these areas are expanding rapidly with an increasing number of people are occupying them and provide essential life support services for urban residents. Peri-urbanization can be regarded both as a driver and an effector of global environmental changes. The impacts of urbanization on the world's environment and populations is one of the most pressing issues facing the world today. In rapidly urbanizing cities of India, urbanization is a rapid and ever-growing challenge to regional and urban planners where traditional challenges, i.e., issues of governance, funding, rapid growth (geographic and population), increasing need for support infrastructure, expanding social services, pollution, slums, etc. are exacerbated by the need to more fully accommodate the direct and indirect impacts of climate change and ecosystem loss in the planning process. The paper examines the repercussions of peri-urbanization with a specific focus on environmental degradation. The paper discusses the role of urban planning as a tool to mitigate and control the environmental changes caused due to peri-urbanization.

Keywords: Urban Planning, Environmental degradation, peri-urban areas, peri-urbanization
