

NATIONAL ROUND TABLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

INCLUSIVE URBAN GOVERNANCE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

28-29 JANUARY 2010
PRIA, NEW DELHI

Organized by PRIA, New Delhi

Date & Time	Content
28th January 2010	
09.30 am to 10.00 am	Registration
10.00 am to 11.15 am	<u>Opening Session</u> Welcome and Background of the Round Table by Dr. Kaustuv Kanti Bandyopadhyay, Director, PRIA
11.15 am to 11.30 am	Tea/Coffee
11.30 am to 01.30 pm	Round Table 1: Deepening devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to urban local governance institutions Chair: Dr. Gangadhar Jha, Institutional Strengthening and Organization Development Expert, IPE, Patna Panelists: Dr. Kaustuv Kanti Bandyopadhyay, Director, PRIA, New Delhi Ms. Manvita Baradi, Executive Director, Urban Management Centre, Ahmedabad Ms. Archana Ghosh, Head of Urban Studies, Institute of Social Science, Kolkata Open Discussion Comments and Observation by the Chair
01.30 pm to 02.30 pm	Lunch

02.30 pm to 04.30 pm

Round Table 2: Institutionalizing citizen participation & social accountability in urban local governance institutions

Chair: Dr. Yogesh Kumar, Executive Director, Smarthan, Bhopal

Panelists:

Ms. Kathayayini Chamraj, Executive Trustee, CIVIC Bangalore

Ms. Kanak Tiwari, Senior Executive, PRIA, New Delhi

Ms. Meena Nair, Research Head, Public Policy & Research, Public Affairs Centre, Bangalore

Open Discussion

Comments and Observation from the Chair

Tea/Coffee

4:30 pm to 4:45 pm

Open Forum on Role of Civil Society Organization in Making Urban Governance Inclusive

4:45 pm to 5:30 pm

29th January 2010

09.30 am to 11.15 am

Round Table 3: Realizing citizens' rights to basic urban services with special emphasis on urban poor

Chair: Dr. Debolina Kundu, Associate Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi

Panelists:

Mr. Sita Ram Shelar, Project Coordinator, YUVA, Mumbai

Ms. Pratima Joshi, Director, Shelter Associates, Pune

Dr. Mukesh Kanaskar, Program Director, All India Institute of Local Self Governance, Pune

Open Discussion

Comments and Observation from the Chair

11.15 am to 11.30 am

Tea/Coffee

11.30 am to 01.30 pm

Round Table 4: Planning spaces for informal city and addressing urban poverty

Chair: Prof. Darshini Mahadevia, CEPT University, Ahmedabad

Panelists:

Ms. Malati Gadgil, Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, New Delhi

Mr. Sundar Burra, Advisor, SPARC, Mumbai

Mr. Dunu Roy, Executive Director, Hazard Centre, New Delhi

Open Discussion

Comments and Observation from the Chair

01.30 pm to 02.30 pm

Lunch

02.30 pm to 04.30 pm

Closing Session: Future Civil Society Action: Ideas for coalition building, knowledge harvesting and policy engagement

Chair: Dr. Rajesh Tandon, President, PRIA

Summary Presentation: Key Points from Four Round Tables by Dr. Kaustuv K Bandyopadhyay

Panelists:

Dr. Sanjeev Chandorkar, Associate Professor, TISS, Mumbai

Alice Morris, Project Consultant, Unnati, Ahmedabad

Patricia Annez, Sr. Fellow, Brookings/NIUA, New Delhi

K.K. Pandey, Chairman, Centre for Urban Studies, IIPA, New Delhi

Open Discussion

Comments and Observation from the Co-Chairs

04.30 pm

Vote of Thanks and Tea

Key Guiding Questions for Steering Discussion in the National Round Table on Inclusive Urban Governance

Round Table 1: Deepening devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to urban local governance institutions

Democratic decentralization implies the transfer of power over decision-making to local governance institutions. Empowering local governance institutions to make decisions and manage resources without intervention from the higher tier of governance is a necessary condition of devolution.

- Tracing the history of devolution in India, brings to the fore pertinent questions about its degree and progress in all these years since the enactment of 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts. Are there any structural or strategic differences in urban and rural governance systems that have resulted in distinct trajectories in terms of decentralization reforms?
- What has been the impact if any of JNNURM on the quality of devolution in India?
- Decentralization may be a universal concept but it takes different forms in different contexts. How can its benefits be ensured amidst this diversity (variably performing states in India/ variably sized towns)?
- Devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to local governance institutions has been seen world over as deepening democracy, modernization of public administration, bringing in efficiency and accountability at local levels. Have these been achieved?
- How can the extent and quality of devolution be measured? What could be the best indicators for this?

Round Table 2: Institutionalizing citizen participation & social accountability in urban local governance institutions

The reassertion of democracy at grassroots levels has become a new reality. Citizens around the world are demanding and demonstrating new ways of relating with state institutions. This has led to the emergence of new contours of citizen participation as well as mechanisms of accountability of local governments towards the citizens.

- What kinds of spaces for citizen participation are enabling their voices that demand accountability of governance institutions?
- How do ‘invited and structured’ spaces interact with ‘emerging and spontaneous’ spaces?
- What functions do Civil Society Organizations perform in enabling citizens to secure democratic accountability?
- Will institutionalization/ legalization of citizen participation and social accountability ensure these?
- What, if any would be the impact of having many different avatars of legislations like Community Participation Law and Public Disclosure Law in different states?

- What are the various mechanisms that can be put in place to enhance social accountability of ULBs?

Round Table 3: Realizing citizens' rights to basic urban services with special emphasis on urban poor

Development can be inclusive – and reduce poverty – only if all groups of people contribute to creating opportunities, share the benefits of development and participate in decision-making.

- Are national and state level programs for poverty eradication/elimination really giving results?
- How can multiple marginalization and poverty be overcome by equitable access to basic urban services? Multiple marginalizations: *being poor in a city...being a poor disabled person in the city...being a poor disabled female in the city...being a poor disabled girl child in the city...being a poor disabled girl widowed after child marriage in the city...*
- JNNURM's BSUP (Basic Services for Urban Poor) Reform needs to be integrated with the city level infrastructure provision projects instead of small, scattered projects all over the cities. Is this current ad hoc approach going to improve the quality of life of the urban poor?
- What happens to the urban poor in small and medium sized towns in absence of an umbrella scheme like the JNNURM?

Round Table 4: Planning spaces for informal city and addressing urban poverty

Over the last decades, it has become clear that the informal economy has a significant job and income generation potential. Therefore, appropriate policy frameworks and strategies aimed at the informal city must be developed, without hampering its potential for job creation and economic growth. The main challenge is thus to develop innovative and supportive policies that recognize the contributions of the informal economy and the challenges that its workforce faces.

- Why is planning not inclusive? If it is only for legal/formal citizens then what constitutes this legality/formality?
- In spite of high dependence of people on the informal sector and its substantial contribution to the urban economy, why is no space provided for them in city plans?
- What are the various characterizations of and differentiations and dynamics within the informal economy?
- How do the various forces arising out of urbanization, immigration and industrialization interact with each other and how do their resultant benefits and losses accrue differently to different groups?
- Women and children constitute a major portion of the informal work force. What are the special security blankets/considerations have been given/denied to them in the recent national policy decisions related to the informal economy?
- What is 'decent' work? How can focus be shifted from discussion on formality and informality to decency of work?