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City Development Strategies (CDS) and Sustainable Urbanization in Developing World

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Abstract

A process that balances among economic, environmental and social perspective on urban area is prominently known as “Sustainable urbanization”. There is an expert system required to create this balance. Alternatively, to balance various aspects, urban planning is a conventional tool adapted. To achieve sustainability, urban planning has a key role in providing the balance. In significantly represented portion of developing countries, City Development Strategies (CDS) is an emerging strategic urban planning approach to maintain sustainability. This achievement varies at different level based on various definitions of CDS. By choosing some specific definitions of CDS by international agencies, this paper studies and compares the accomplishment.

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Keywords: City Development Strategies (CDS); sustainable urbanization; developing countries

1. Introduction

The balance between economic, environmental, and social necessities is the aim of sustainable urbanization. Cities should develop their social and economic structure to build the sustainable urbanization, without damaging their natural environment and achieve appropriate equilibrium amidst

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humans and the natural resources, upon whom they depend to live. (Abu-Ghazalah, 2008) Attainment of this equilibrium is possible based on system that combines individual opinion provided by participation of citizens with in this process and scientific knowledge that can be provided by scientific analysis. (Jepson, 2001 as cited in Roy, 2009) In this system, sustainable urban development accounts for “*as a new large-scale vision to guide the planning agenda for the twenty-first century*”. (Saha & Paterson, 2008, p.22)

To make a balance between different aspects, urban planning is a conventional tool used which also can be a significant tool for promoting the interaction among planners and officials and the local community. (Diamantini & Zanon 2000) In making sustainable urban development, urban planning can play an eminent role. In order to make balance between four aspects economic, environmental, social, and governance is the aim of sustainable urban development .This further reaches to livable productive and inclusive cities, towns and villages (UN-HABITAT 2009) especially the methods that render participation of decision-makers and stakeholders and new tools that enable decision-makers to answer sufficiently. (Malkina-Pykh, 2002)

To ascertain the social, economic, and environmental impacts of urban policies is where the where guidance provides by City Planning Tool. It enables for a systematic analysis of the relationship between social, economic, and environmental developments, which further helps in describing the reciprocal dependence of city planning and consistent development at the strategic and operational level. (Rotmansa, Asselta & Vellingab, 2000) In order to find a new role for urban planning in sustainable urban development, the current approaches of planning must change toward strategic planning. The main aim especially for developing world is played by planning area for sustainable urbanization in promotion of future urban and regional sustainability in response to global changes and major trends in the world that affect in cities. In order to evaluate the sustainability of city policies, the strategic urban planning systems evolved over the last decade(s) most of the times comprise of a framework coupled with a set of indicators. (Rotmansa, Asselta & Vellingab, 2000) So in order to evaluate of sustainability in the process of development, it should compare significant features of sustainable urban development to key features of the process of urban development.

Cities Alliance and its member organization such as World Bank, UN-Habitat, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and others basically funded and made prominence of CDS as a strategic urban planning approach. By developing and enhancing of local governance, CDSs try to improve local economics and reduce urban poverty while also contributing towards relationship between sustainable urbanization goals and local objectives and priorities. (ECON & CLG, UTS, 2005) Greater than 200 cities in developing world applied CDS until the year of 2009. However CDSs have many definitions and are different especially in content and themes and do not possess equal proportion of attaining sustainable development and as such study of this achievement is very important. In order to find the relationship between CDS and sustainability in this paper, the definitions of CDS in developing world has been reviewed and compared to aspects of sustainable urbanization.

2. City Development Strategies (CDS), Concepts and Contents

In 1998, the CDSs were started by the experiences in East Asia. The earliest of CDSs were funded by the World Bank and were applied in Indonesia, Philippine, Thailand, Vietnam and China. In 1999, poverty reduction became one of the fundamental objectives of CDS after establishing Cities Alliance. Few of the focuses that some cities had were on the local economic growth, enhancement of local governance, sustainable development, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and so on. (ECON & CLG, UTS, 2005) Till date, more than 200 cities mostly in developing countries have adopted and reaped the benefits associated with this approach.

“For answering to economic realities within a competitive environment, CDS targets on the process change, focuses on urban dynamics and opportunities, and adopts a flexible strategy. It also helps to build stakeholder capacity to manage a city more effectively and to reassure and invite businesses in national and global markets. It does this by encouraging stakeholder participation and empowerment. Thinking about the future within a CDS framework often changes the way that a city is managed and planned.” (ADB, 2004, P.5)

Developing cities require the effective approaches to use restricted financial and human resources in a competitive and unpredictable economic condition in order to accomplish objectives. The capital flows to cities having good economic situation and an effective CDS can attract both capital and usage in suitable condition. (Cities Alliance, 2006a) Local stakeholder plans a process called CDS to formulate a vision for their city through a participatory process. This engages assessment and analysis of the city’s perspectives for development, the acceptance of priorities for investment and development, and implementation of this vision via partnership-based approaches. It is therefore both a process and a content to promote competitiveness, livelihood, management, and bankability of the respective city (Kyung-Hwan, 2002). To develop a sustainable vision for their cities and a strategy for achieving it The City Development Strategies (CDS) provides a methodology for mayors, private sectors, and citizens. However, comprehensive approaches to connect the environmental sustainability to economic growth, poverty reduction, and the other urban challenges are not yet customary in many CDSs (Cities Alliance, 2006b).

Depending on the location, the context, and the involvement of players, CDSs assume different forms. There are several city objectives and themes. For cities there are wide ranges of objective and themes and the two categories of themes by the World Bank and UN-Habitat has been explained in Table 1 as follows. (ECON & CLG, UTS, 2005) The two international agencies namely the World Bank and UN-Habitat set up and fund some CDSs in developing countries. The World Bank and UN- habitat which focuses on four and five themes respectively have some of them in common.

Following five themes for CDS have been presented by cities Alliance (2006b) after having attained the experience of preparing 150 CDS around the world and having conducted most important research in East Asia that have emphasized the importance of infrastructure in pro-poor development and urban competitiveness by ADB & JBIC and the World Bank has presented five themes for CDS.

- Livelihood;

Livelihood covers three areas: (i) the business climate and capacity for creating small-business, the business climate is very different in cities, but cities try to attract investment in a diversity business climate and make a suitable business area to organize small business and business network (ii) urban competitiveness, a CDS should determine a comparative and competitive advantage that and create economic cluster in order to attract investor and achieve economic growth ; and (iii) human resource development, that has key role to prevent or relieve poverty. It fulfils based on accessing to training, quality of that.

- Environmental sustainability;

Environmental sustainability in CDS process can be brought out designers in three areas: i) environmental quality such as air & water quality are very important in environmental sustainability; ii) service delivery including geographical coverage, accessibility and affordability should be sustainable especially in developing countries, this concerns is very significant; and iii) energy efficiency that affect in welfare of residents.

- Spatial form and its infrastructure;

Without required infrastructures, urban economic competitiveness and welfare of a city’s residents can’t be accomplished. A major role is played by spatial form in urban congestion, energy efficiency accessibility and distribution of services; therefore it can be essential in poverty reduction.

Table 1: The Themes of CDS defined by the World Bank and UN- Habitat. Source: (ECON & CLG, UTS, 2005)

| The World Bank | UN- Habitat |
|--|--|
| Liveability: the poor achieve a healthy and dignified living standard | Shelter: Adequate housing and basic services; security of tenure; access to land and credit |
| Competitiveness: buoyant, broad-based growth of employment, incomes and investment | Social Development & Eradication of Poverty: Equal opportunities for a safe and healthy life; social integration; support for disadvantaged groups; gender equality |
| Good governance: inclusion and representation of all groups in the urban society; accountability, integrity and transparency of local government | Economic Development: Stronger small and micro enterprises; public/private partnerships; access to productive employment |
| Bankability: sound financial management of local government | Governance: Participation and civic engagement; transparent, accountable and efficient governance; sound financial management; decentralization and strong local authorities |
| | Environmental Management: Balanced settlement structures; water management; reducing pollution; disaster prevention; environmentally sound transport etc |

- Financial resources;

How finance resources need to enforce infrastructures, public facilities etc. can be determined by financial analysis of a city. Financial analysis predicts and provides prior condition to attract private sector funding, issuing bonds, and financial innovation. Revenue diversity and rising them on one hand and the control of expenditures, cash-flow management on the other hand, and in sum financial planning and budgeting are very important in a CDS.

- Governance;

Due to close proximity between local government and main decision makers, Governance has a main role in CDS playing a critical role of a catalyst between public and private sectors, civil society and labor market decreasing negative effects in low-income and vulnerable people. (Cities Alliance, 2006b)

Relating to the objective of the CDS, location, and players involved, the contents and themes of CDSs differ from one city to another. There is a wide range of objectives and themes. To evaluate and compare CDS content with the principle of sustainable development, we need specific definitions of CDS. The three chosen definitions of CDS by international agencies in this paper to assess the commitment of CDS to sustainable development are the World Bank, UN-Habitat, and Cities Alliance.

3. The concepts and aspects of Sustainable Urbanization

In 1972 at the United Nations Conference, the concept sustainable development was brought out on the Human Environment in Stockholm and in 1992 among the United Nation Conference on Environment and Development in Rio De Janeiro approved Agenda 21 in order to promote Sustainable Human Settlement Development and in 1996 in Habitat II try to present a statement to Localize Agenda 21 (LA21) in urban areas. (Whitehead, 2003) In response to urban challenges, the concept of sustainable development was stated. Due to some major trends such as globalization, decentralization, and rapid population growth, cities faced some challenges. The problems such as social inequalities, slums and informal settlement, and climate change had the impact in economic, social and environmental condition. In economic, social, environmental and governance aspects the sustainable development was articulated in order to respond to urban conflicts. (Malkina-Pykh, 2002) There are about 200 definitions for sustainable development but the definition of sustainable development is still not clear. (Parkin, 2000, as cited in Keivani, 2010) The review of definitions of sustainable development often presents the problems

that sustainable development should response those but the endpoint seem so broad and there is not specific point. (Saha & Paterson, 2008)

However the urban sustainability can categorize in two major sections; i) Urban sustainability or sustainable city, and ii) sustainable urban development or sustainable urbanization. The terms urban sustainability, and sustainable city apply to the suitable conditions such as the proper use of resources, protection of the natural environment, least possible use of non-renewable resources, economic growth and variety, community self-confidence, individual welfare, and satisfaction of basic human needs. (Shen et al. 2011 & Roy, 2009) According to the United Nations Sustainable Cities Program, development of a sustainable city depends on its continuing natural resources. A sustainable city sustains a stable security from environmental adventures that may threaten development achievements. (Whitehead 2003) According to Whitehead (2003, p.1188), “it is asserted that the sustainable city represents an economic space within which the social, economic and ecological contradictions of capitalism are being managed and strategically addressed.” whilst sustainable urbanization and sustainable urban development apply to a dynamic process towards the suitable conditions, that in this process is paid attention to environmental, economic, social and governance sustainability as an equal concern. (Shen et al., 2011)

In order to balance economic, environmental, and social necessities, sustainable urbanization is needed. Local Agenda 21 (LA21) was proposed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1996 to make the balance. LA21 is “an agenda that sets tasks and a vision in order to promote sustainable development at the local level and shows the menu of action.” (Nakaguchi, 2004, p. 28 as cited in Mori, 2007) According to LA21 sustainability has four dimensions, social, economic, environmental and institutional aspects. (Spangenberg, Pfahl & Deller, 2002)

Saha & Paterson’s (2008) study reviewed Protney (2003), Jepson (2004) and Conroy (2006) and defined four aspects of sustainable urbanization, i) Environmental Protection, ii) Economic Development, iii) Social Justice and Equity, and iv) Administration and Governance that Saha & Paterson emphasize on environmental, economic and equity aspects. (Table 2) The elements of these aspects and the principle of sustainable urban development are presented in this research. To evaluate the commitment of principles of sustainable urban development on CDS this study is befitting because these activities have been used to assess local government and urban plan to accomplish sustainability.

Table 2: the Aspects of Sustainable Urbanization. Source: (Saha & Paterson, 2008)

| Environmental protection | Economic Development | Social Justice and Equity |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Alternative energy offered to consumers | 1. Agricultural protection zoning | 1. Affordable housing provisions |
| 2. Energy conservation effort (other than green building requirements) | 2. Brownfield reclamation | 2. Daycare services for service sector and low-income employees |
| 3. Environmental site design regulations | 3. Cluster or targeted economic development | 3. Homeless prevention and intervention programs |
| 4. Green building program | 4. Eco-industrial park development | 4. Inclusionary and incentive zoning |
| 5. Renewable energy use by city government | 5. Infill development | 5. Jobs–housing balance |
| 6. Curbside recycling program | 6. Purchase of Development Rights and/or Transfer of Development Rights | 6. Living wage ordinance |
| 7. Environmental education programs for the community | 7. Tax incentives for environmentally friendly development | 7. Mass transit access with local income subsidies |
| 8. Green procurement | 8. Urban growth boundary and/or urban service boundary | 8. Neighborhood planning |
| 9. Water quality protection | 9. Business retention programs | 9. Sustainable food systems or food security programs |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 10. Environmentally sensitive area protection | 10. Empowerment/enterprise zones | 10. Women/minority-oriented business Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and investment programs |
| 11. Open space preservation program | 11. Local business incubator programs | 11. Youth opportunity and anti gang programs |
| 12. Operation of inner-city public transit (buses and/or trains) | | |
| 13. Transportation demand management | | |
| 14. Ecological footprint analysis | | |

4. Comparison of City Development Strategies and the principle of Sustainable Urbanization

There has been a comparison between three definitions of CDS by the World Bank, UN-Habitat, and Cities Alliance and a specific definition of sustainable urban development presented by Saha & Paterson (2008) that has been applied by some cities and local government in this section. The three aspects of sustainable development, namely, environmental protection, economic development, and social equity have been compared to the themes and contents of definitions of CDS (Tables 2, 3, and 4).

The four major themes i.e. livability, competitiveness, good governance and management, and bankability are included in the definition of CDS by the World Bank. Livability includes poverty reduction, reducing inequality, building a healthy urban environment, increasing personal security, political accountability, and creating recreational facilities available to all. Some parts of environmental protection activities which are found in Table 2 come under the components of this theme (livability) cover, and many activities on social equity which is found in Table 4. However, according to Table 2, the environmental protection dimension is weak in this definition of CDS, because the key attention of the World Bank definition focuses on the economic and social aspects. A competitive city with competitive advantages attracts capital investment and creates a good business climate, promotes city products, provides employment, and increases citizen satisfaction. This theme covers activities on economic development which are found in Table 3, and social equity.

Table 3: The Comparison Environmental Aspect of Sustainability with CDS Themes

| Environmental Protection | CDS Themes Cities Alliance | CDS Themes The World Bank | CDS Themes UN- Habitat |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Alternative energy offered to consumers | √ | | √ |
| 2. Energy conservation effort (other than green building requirements) | √ | | √ |
| 3. Environmental site design regulations | √ | √ | √ |
| 4. Green building program | | | |
| 5. Renewable energy use by city government | | | |
| 6. Curbside recycling program | | | √ |
| 7. Environmental education programs for the community | √ | | |
| 8. Green procurement | √ | | |
| 9. Water quality protection | √ | √ | √ |
| 10. Environmentally sensitive area protection | √ | √ | |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 11. Open space preservation program | √ | √ | √ |
| 12. Operation of inner-city public transit (buses and/or trains) | √ | √ | √ |
| 13. Transportation demand management | √ | √ | √ |
| 14. Ecological footprint analysis | √ | √ | |

√ : relevant (Yes)

Shelter, Social development, Economic development, Governance, and environmental management are the five themes defined in The UN-Habitat definition. Shelter theme mainly aims at the needs of poor and low- income people by improving their housing .Social development focuses on public health, gender and minority rights, education, crime and so on. Some issues such as access to job, attention to small business, infrastructure, and competitiveness are focused by Economic development. Governance theme includes transparency and accountability, improving local democracy, and stakeholder’s participation. And environmental theme include water and air quality & pollution waste management, public space management, preventing disaster, energy efficiency, and public transport. These themes based on the comparison in Table 2,3, and 4 cover eight activities on environmental aspect, four activities on economic aspect, and eight activities on social equity aspect of sustainable urbanization.

The Cities Alliance definition of CDS has five key themes, in which livelihood covers three major areas, namely, i) business climate and the capacity for creating small-businesses (creating suitable jobs, especially for low-income and poor people), ii) urban competitiveness (a CDS should determine a comparative and competitive advantage that creates economic clusters) to attract investors and achieve economic growth, and iii) human resource development, that plays a key role in preventing or reducing poverty. This theme covers economic development and social equity of sustainability in Tables 3, 4. Environmental sustainability and spatial form are two other key themes defined by the Cities Alliance. These include such areas as i) environmental quality, such as air and water quality; ii) service delivery, including geographical coverage, accessibility, and affordability; iii) energy efficiency, which affects the welfare of residents; iv) infrastructure; and v) spatial form, which plays a key role in urban congestion, energy efficiency, accessibility, and distribution of services.

Table 4: The Comparison Economic Aspect of Sustainability with CDS Themes

| Economic Development | CDS Themes Cities Alliance | CDS Themes The World Bank | CDS Themes UN- Habitat |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Agricultural protection zoning | √ | | |
| 2. Brownfield reclamation | √ | | |
| 3. Cluster or targeted economic development | √ | | |
| 4. Eco-industrial park development | √ | √ | √ |
| 5. Infill development | √ | | |
| 6. Purchase of Development Rights and/or Transfer of Development Rights | √ | | |
| 7. Tax incentives for environmentally friendly development | √ | | |
| 8. Urban growth boundary and/or urban service boundary | √ | √ | |
| 9. Business retention programs | √ | √ | √ |
| 10. Empowerment/enterprise zones | √ | √ | √ |
| 11. Local business incubator programs | √ | √ | √ |

√ : relevant (Yes)

This theme covers many activities on environmental protection in Table2 and some activities on economic development and social equity. Financial resources is another theme defined by Cities Alliance, which is important in the implementation of a sustainable plan, but as mentioned earlier, does not take into account other definitions of sustainability.

This analysis and comparison clarify various definitions of CDS, which result in different forms and proportion of sustainability. In other words the focus of CDSs seems to lie solely on one aspect and there is yet to be a comprehensive approach to connect all aspects of sustainability.

An appropriate and universally accepted definition of sustainability is very important. Different result comes with different definitions and components of sustainability. Considering this, relationship between CDS and sustainable urban development assessed, it is vital for one to know which type of CDS and definition of sustainable urban development is to be used adequately to measure sustainability.

Table 5: The Comparison Social aspect of Sustainability with CDS Themes

| Social Justice and Equity | CDS Themes | | CDS Themes |
|--|------------|----------|---------------------------|
| | Cities | Alliance | The World Bank |
| | | | CDS Themes UN- Habitat |
| 1. Affordable housing provisions | √ | | √ |
| 2. Daycare services for service sector and low-income employees | √ | | √ |
| 3. Homeless prevention and intervention programs | √ | | √ |
| 4. Inclusionary and incentive zoning | √ | | √ |
| 5. Jobs–housing balance | √ | | √ |
| 6. Living wage ordinance | √ | | √ |
| 7. Mass transit access with local income subsidies | √ | | √ |
| 8. Neighborhood planning | √ | | √ |
| 9. Sustainable food systems or food security programs | | | √ |
| 10. Women/minority-oriented business Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and investment programs | | | √ |
| 11. Youth opportunity and anti gang programs | | | √ |

√ : relevant (Yes)

5. Conclusion

Due to global changes and changes in urban area the cities face new challenges, and require different approaches in urban planning. The strategic planning can pact with these challenges and attains sustainable urban development. CDS is a strategic planning approach that applies to reduce urban poverty, improve economic growth and achieve sustainable development. However, what need to be resolved is the relationship between CDS and sustainable urbanization. The varied definitions and concepts of CDS and sustainable urbanization were discussed in section 2 and 3. In order to compare the content of CDS and the aspects of sustainable urbanization, three concepts of CDS and one set of elements and activities of sustainable urbanization were picked out. This comparison explained varied definition of CDS result in different proportion and different form of sustainability. So the proportion of

achievement to urban sustainability by CDS relates to definition of CDS that apply and the definition of sustainable urbanization that are used to assess sustainability.

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