Abstract


Research in city planning is directed to the analysis of multiple aspects of urbanism. However, the study of planning provisions through planning documents is not observed in literature and this is significantly missing for the Indian urban scene as well. Planning through master plans is the dominant method of planning for urban areas of the country and the national capital of the country, Delhi, initiated this kind of urban planning post independence. The Master Plan of Delhi of 1962 was the first Master Plan document of the city and was followed with modified documents prepared as perspectives for 2001 and 2021. The study initiates with an in-depth critical and cross sectional comparison of planning provisions in Master Plan documents with regards to their respective background works and individual contents followed by a comparative study of Plan documents with each other while observing the literature for evolving contents. This analysis is extended to macro, meso and micro levels identified herein as international, national and local. For macro level, the Plans are critically observed with regards to Agenda 21, Local Agenda 21 and UN Habitat Initiatives; for meso level the Plans are analysed with regards to the Delhi Development Act of 1957, 74th Constitutional Amendment and the proposed Nagar Raj Bill; and at the micro level with the City Development Plan prepared under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission thereby wherein applicable. This is supplemented with a perception study attempted through an online survey and by analysing around 4300 individual responses received by the Delhi Development Authority given on its website as a part of its first attempt of reviewing the Master Plans of Delhi through public participation. The current context is to observe the evolving nature of planning provisions for the national capital with regards to the theoretical, the ones envisaged and the ones followed in the light of dimensions the city’s issues have acquired since this planning.

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