Chapter – 6
PLANNING FOR URBAN AMENITIES AND UTILITY SERVICES

6.1 INTRODUCTION:

Since independence considerable progress has been made with regard to planning and development of our cities (Jag Mohan, 1984). The problems confronting our cities are similar to the problems which are being faced by other developing countries. In this regard every country is trying its level best to solve urban problems and making effort to provide possible amenities and utility services. Each city has a distinct personality which affects all its citizens and the life in the country. Greater understanding of the factors involved is called for.

The problems concerning urban planning vary from place to place, depending upon the local environment. Sir Patrick Geddes, a pioneer in the field of town and city planning foresaw in 1915 the growth of urban centres. He said “Town-planning is not something which can be done from above, on the general principles easily laid down, which can be learned in one place and initiated in another. It is the development of a local life, regional character, a civic spirit, a unique individuality. The renowned Wit of Town-Planning has to develop into an art, yet higher, that of the city design a veritable
orchestration of all arts and correspondingly needing even for its preliminary surveys.

6.2 URBAN AMENITIES AND UTILITY SERVICES:

The concept of amenity in urban planning has arisen from several stimuli. The first is the evidence claimed by certain common factors of the importance of amenity both in the origin of modern planning and in its current practice, the second is the need to clarify the scope and definition of amenity, and the third is the serious understanding that exists about the relationship between the pursuit of amenity and other objectives of planning (David L. Smith, 1974). Several writers have written about the amenity and utility services. To mention some of them are William Ishworth, Donald Foley, J.B. Welling Worth, R.M. Stuffard, Asa Briggs, G. Cherry, Sir Patrick Aberorombi, A Faludi, R.B. Das and D.P. Singh, A.Rimsha, N.K. Gandhi, K.S. Ramegouda, K.S. Rangawala, John Ormsbee Simonds, Paul, D. Spreirogen Aia, Manzoor Alam, R.L. Singh, M.F. Karennavar, Harihar Singh, K. Vithal Reddy and R. Ram Mohan Rao (Ed.) etc.

The planning of amenities and utility services include the facilities like educational, medical, transport, housing, electricity, post and telegraph, telephone exchange, police station, fire station,
community hall and library, cinema theatre, swimming pool, stadium,
open air theatre, religious building, Auditorium, parks, play grounds,
water supply, drainage, sanitation, Barial ground etc. In the present
chapter, the researcher is going to suggest the essential amenities and
utility services, which are inadequate.

a) **Utility Services: Water Supply:**

Water supply for domestic and industrial purposes is important
in many respects. It is essential for the health of the people and for
better environment and situation. It is important for the industrial
progress and essential for raising the standard of living. The use of
water, in fact is an indication of the progress of a community and
advancement of civilization. Yet in this space age we see that more
than two third of the world’s population do not get safe water to
drink. While water supply is no larger environmental health
problem in the developed countries of the world, the developing
countries still carry a heavy backlog of work in water supply and the
major effort in environmental health programme has to be
concentrated primarily in this sphere (Roy, A.K. 1972).

As it is already stated in the 2nd chapter, at present about 5 lakh
gallons of water is supplied everyday to Athani town for drinking
purpose. This is the present day requirement of 47082 persons of
Athani town. The source of water is 11 Km away from the Athani town near Haliyal village (Krishna River). The volume of water supply to the town varies season wise. During summer there will be scarcity of water. However, if we consider the future growth of population i.e. 53140 in 1921 and 62089 in 1931, (both estimated) there will be a greater need to increase the volume of water supply to Athani town. The urbanites generally require 140-150 liters of water per day, per person. Thus there is a greater need to search new methods and sources to fulfill this requirement.

New methods like rain water harvesting may be adopted to overcome the problem of water scarcity. The researcher suggests that people of Athani town must learn the methods of rain water harvesting and practically adopt them. This can supplements the water requirements along with bore wells, wells, tanks etc. to a considerable extent.

As the towns grow bigger in size the demand for water increases. The scarcity of water in one or the other season is a common problem particularly in towns and cities. Inspite of good sources of water for many towns and cities the urban centres face acute shortage of water due to uncertainty of rain fall. Thus it has become inevitable for urbanites to adopt new techniques and methods to
overcome the problem of water scarcity. The rainwater harvesting in this direction has become popular in both urban and rural settlements. Rainwater harvesting methods can solve the water problem to a considerable extent.

During the rainy days, the rainwater generally goes waste due to surface run-off. During rainy season the surface run-off of water can be collected and redirected to a deep pit with percolation. Thus, harvested water can be used for garden, livestock, irrigation and for drinking water as well if the storage is a tank that can be accessed and cleaned when needed. The modern houses are generally built with installation of rainwater harvesting system setups. A large number of system setups and methods are now available. In urban centres the building roofs water and it can be stored in an underground water tank through a suitable system.

It is estimated that a person needs about 135 liters of water per day for his all types of activities, such as drinking, cooking, bathing and wasting etc. For an average size family of five members about 245 cubic meter water is required for a year. Suppose the building roof is 100 sq.mtr and the average rainfall is 900 mm then the water stored will be 90 cubic metre which can fulfill the water requirements of the family for ~ four months.
It is essential to build the houses with a planned structures to harvest the rain water. A large numbers of plans are available in this regard.

At present there is one water purifying unit, 71 public taps, more than 4000 residential or private taps, 65 tube wells, 9 drinking water wells and two tanks in the town. These should be increased in number in accordance with the growing population size.

6.3 UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE:

The city has no underground drainage system and no scheme has been evolved. This is mainly due to sever water problem. Presently the drainage in the city is mainly through open drains. This has created an unhealthy atmosphere and obnoxious smell in the town. Hence, drainage system can be developed after getting water from Krishna river. Otherwise it will be a dream in the history of the town to keep it clean and beautiful. Under the circumstances the concerned authorities and the public have to make sincere efforts in this regard. Drainage system is one of the important features of urban development and character. The TMC Athani, and the concerned authorities should take steps to develop drainage in the already built-up area phase-wise in course of time. The authorities should take strict action in the development of drainage in the new layouts, extension areas
(See Fig. No. 6.1). Permission should not be granted for the new layouts unless the development of drainage in the proper manner is included in the layout plans.

6.4 ELECTRICITY:

The town receives electricity from HESCOM-Hubli. The receiving Grid is located outside the Municipal limits along Satti road. It is observed that town is not receiving sufficient power supply. There is frequent power cut in the town. Due to this electricity power scarcity, large scale industrial establishments have not been taken place.

In Athani town there are 311 industrial connections, 1625 commercial more than 5000 household electric connections. The town municipal board has set up nearly 2000 street and road lights. As far as electrical power supply is concerned, it is difficult to supply the ever increasing and required quantity of electricity. Hence, the researcher suggests to develop and adopt the non-conventional energy sources such as wind energy, solar energy plantations etc. Athani town is a hot region and seasonal wind direction is quite able to tap the energy to a considerable extent. This can reduce the magnitude of fuel scarcity in the town provided this resource is property exploited.
6.5 POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES:

This is one of the major communication systems in the urban centres. They are the means for circulation of news and information in the human settlements. Athani town has one head post office and two sub-post offices with telegraphic facility (See Fig. No. 6.2) The town has telephone exchange office with a considerable number of phones and there are STD facilities from the town to other towns and cities. The town is also provided with TV station and Micro-wave communication centre.

As per the planning norms for post and telegraphs offices suggested by the planners for every 10,000 people there should be one post office and one telegraph office. Accordingly Athani town needs 5 post and telegraph offices at different localities of the city. Hence the town is inadequate by means of post and telegraph offices. It needs another 2 post offices and telegraph offices for the present population of 47082 (2011). The new post and telephone offices may be established in the newly developed or extension areas for the benefit of people. The Shivayogi Nagar, Shankar Nagar, Vidyagiri, Arooda Nagar may be considered in this regard.
6.6 **POLICE STATION**

There is one police station in the town. As per the norms for every 10,000 people one police station is suggested. Accordingly, the town needs 5 police stations for maintaining peace and order. They may be opened in residential, commercial and industrial areas to serve the people in a better manner.

6.7 **FIRE STATION:**

The Athani town has one fire station under the control of Muncipality. It is presently adequate in this respect, because for every 50,000 people one fire station is recommended.

6.8 **CIVIC AMENITIES:**

a) **Health:**

The Athani town has a good weather and climate. No problem of any ill weathered effect on health of the people. During summer season there is a hot weather and people are adjusted to this weather. People are having health problems other than weather and climate. Malaria, Fever, Jaundice etc. are the common diseases in the town but they are manageable.

The Athani town has one government Primary Health Centre (PHC) and one government Ayurvedic Hospital serving the population of the town. There are number of private nursing
homes and dispensaries. The existing number of beds works out of roughly 2 beds for a population of 1,000 persons. But the town has to provide these facilities for the surrounding villages and to the town also.

As per the norms of dispensary and Health Centre and hospitals for every 5,000 people, one dispensary, for 20,000 people one health centre and for 50,000 people one hospital are required. Accordingly the town needs some dispensaries and health centres in addition to the present hospitals. One more hospital should be opened in view of inadequate beds and for efficient service. About 5 dispensaries and 5 health centres have to be opened in slums, Janata colony for the medical needs of the people in the town.

b) Education:

Primary: The educational institutions are indicators of social and cultural development of the people. There are 14 primary schools providing education for children of upto 7th standard. So far as primary schools are concerned the town is adequate and the position indicates better situation in respect of primary schools.

High schools: The town has 4 aided high schools and 4 un-aided high schools. These are run by private institution. The Athani
town has adequate high schools. For every 15,000 people one high school should be provided for local citizens. The town has better facilities in this respect.

**Colleges:** There are Nine (9) colleges of different categories in the town, providing education Arts, Science, Commerce and Bachelor of Education, Technical Education Training, Urdu Training, Nursing etc. As far as educational facilities are concerned the Athani town has sufficient primary schools, high schools and colleges as per the norms. But since the town’s economic base is mainly agriculture, it is suggested to open agricultural training institutions.

The main educational institutions functioning in the town are as listed below:

1. KLE’s SMS College – Athani.
2. JSS College – Athani
3. BSW College – Athani
4. Murugarajendra ITI College – Athani
5. Aroodjyoti Teacher’s Education College – Athani
6. KLE’s Teachers Training College – Athani
7. Al Aju Teacher’s Training College (Urdu) – Athani
9. Shree Vivekanand NTC College – Athani
10. J.A. Secondary School – Athani
11. CSK High School – Athani
12. S.S. Girls High School – Athani
13. Sanjay Gandhi English Medium High School – Athani
14. A.K. Urdu High School – Athani

Along with the 14 primary schools, 20 kindergarten schools are functioning in the town. In addition to these educational institutions Government should also open hostels for college and other students who are economically backward. The present two hostels, run by the social welfare department are very inadequate to meet out the strength of outside students who are coming to the town for higher education. Hence it is high time to give much emphasis on this problem by the concerned authorities.

6.9 PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKS:

Playgrounds:

Playgrounds are very necessary for educational institutions and even for residential areas. Presently most of the education institutions have no playgrounds in reality except the major institutions like KLE’s SMS College and some few other institutions. However, there is a good stadium in the town i.e. Bhojraj Stadium. Playgrounds are the integral
parts of schools colleges and public. Hence some minimum area should be reserved for the development of playgrounds in the town. The total area available for the future development of parks, playgrounds and open spaces is 108 hectares. Out of this, a minimum of 30 hectares area should be reserved for the development of playgrounds. (See fig 6.3)

**Parks:**

Parks are meant to meet the needs of providing fresh air and peaceful enjoyment of the undisturbed nature. The Athani town has only two ill maintained parks. Out of the total 1850 hectares area 5.60 percent is under parks including playgrounds and theatres. Now about 10% area is available for this purpose. Hence it is suggested to develop parks in different places to maintain the scenic beauty in the town. In this regard the researcher suggests that, the two tanks located amidst the town may be developed as parks. The town municipal council should take steps in this regard. Apart from this the TMC should also take sincere steps in planting the trees along all the major roads in the town and in the interior roads wherever possible.

As per the norms, for parks and playgrounds for 1,000 populations unit 1.5 hectares area is required. The total area, required for parks and playgrounds at present will be 72 hectares. Thus there is
sufficient area (108 hectare) available for this purpose. Hence it should be utilized properly.

6.10 RELIGIOUS CENTRES:

Religious centres are most essential for welfare of mankind and to maintain the mental health and peace of the people. There are 25 Hindu temples, 14 masjid, 1 Jain basdi and 5 Ashrams/mathas (See Plate No. 6.1 and 6.2). It is suggested by the researcher to develop parks around these temples, masjids and mathas. These temples and parks/gardens can provide mental peace, spiritual knowledge and teach moral discipline to the public in the town. The Siddeshwara temple may be developed as a tourist centre as it has been attracting the people in large number.

6.11 LIBRARIES:

It is a fact that libraries are the temples of knowledge. There are two public libraries in the town. These are not sufficient to the present population size (i.e. 47082). Hence more number of libraries, at the rate of one for every 10,000 people i.e., three libraries should be opened in the town in different areas on the basis of convenience, to facilitate the
people for gaining the knowledge and to keep the people in touch with the current knowledge of the modern world.

6.12 COMMUNITY CENTRES:

The town municipal council Athani has developed 4 community halls for public functions. As per the norms for community hall and library, for 25,000 population unit 0.75 hectares of area is required. In view of this the town has sufficient area and community halls at present.

Recreation Centres and Social Clubs:

The recreation centres are most essential for relaxation and enjoyment at the end of days work. At present there is one cinema theatre and one drama theatre functioning in the town. The town has its own contribution in the field of art, music and drama. There is a greater need for the development of social clubs for social services. For the promotion of children activities there is a necessity of opening children halls or Balabhavans. As per the norms for every 20,000 population one cinema theatre is required. But today due to the facilities of television, this has lost its significance.