UNIT 1  URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Structure

1.1 Introduction
1.2 Changing Global Perspectives on Urban Development
1.3 Urban Development Policy Perspectives in USA
1.4 Urban Development Policy Perspectives in China
1.5 Urban Development Policy Perspectives in Brazil
1.6 Urban Development Policy Perspectives in South Africa
1.7 Drawing Lessons
1.8 Let Us Sum Up
1.9 References and Selected Readings
1.10 Check Your Progress-Possible Answers

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In 1995, the world passed through a decisive phase. For the first time in history, the percentage of urban population in the globe crossed the 50 percent mark. We now live in an urban world. However, the meaning of urban is very different in the developed and the developing world. The developing world is confronting urban development as a phenomenon amidst widespread poverty. It looks towards urbanisation as a path to economic growth and development. Further, there are wide variations in the urban development trajectories among the developing countries too. There is a lot that one can learn from a study of these different approaches to urban development. It enables one to reflect upon the development choices of our own country. China, Brazil and South Africa in particular, are countries that are seen as newly emerging economies in the world along with India. These are all countries that had extremely low levels of urbanisation at the turn of the twentieth century. At least two of these, South Africa and Brazil have had a prolonged experience of colonisation. Thus they have a lot in common and hence the differences in development choices are even more interesting to study.

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the changing global perspectives of urban development
- Describe features of urban development in Brazil, China, South Africa

1.2 CHANGING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Till the mid half of the twentieth century, urbanisation was considered a concomitant of the development process and in particular, the state of industrialisation of society. The urbanisation of the Western or the developed world was seen as the norm and by those standards; the urbanisation, which was occurring in the developing countries was seen as ‘over urbanisation’. Urbanisation was seen to be disproportionate to the state of industrialisation.
The high population growth of these cities which was non commensurate with the development of infrastructure was seen as a problem. The solutions offered were more balanced, even growth and rural industrialisation.

This outlook changed towards the end of the twentieth century. Urbanisation began to be recognised not as a problem but as a positive force that was capable of driving economic growth. This changed perspective is clearly reflected in the World Development Report of 2009. The report titled ‘Shaping New Economic Geography’ argues that unevenness of development is a natural process. Given the concentration of innovation, knowledge in the urban areas, these areas are bound to develop and attract further investment thereby becoming growth centres. It sees migration as a positive force which evens out the impacts of growth over a period of time. This changed outlook on urbanisation is currently influencing many developing countries across the world to pursue aggressive strategies of urbanisation, seeking to make their cities more competitive and able to attract investment that has now become transient across national borders.

It is interesting to note that the axis of urbanisation which was in the West in the nineteenth and twentieth century has now shifted towards the East and the Global South. The earlier problems of poverty, underdevelopment, still persist but some of these countries have charted impressive growths in the last few decades. Developments in the BRICS (Brazil, India, China, and South Africa) in particular have attracted global interest. Almost all of these countries have focused attention on urbanisation as a key strategy of development. All these countries are part of the developing countries and though there are several clear differences in their regimes, governance systems, starting points on urbanisation; there are several lessons that they offer for us. This is the backdrop of the stories of urbanization in China, Brazil and South Africa that followed.

1.3 URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY PERSPECTIVES IN USA

USA does not have a specific urban policy, however, it has strategically addressed the urban development issues. The main thrusts are poverty reduction, social justice, ensuring employment, infrastructure networks and housing. The USA urban policy can be broadly categorised into five phases (Harvey, 2008):

i) Carter Urban Development Policy (1977-1981);
ii) Reagan Urban Development Policy (1981-1989);
iii) George H. W. Bush Urban Development Policy (1989-1993);
iv) Clinton National Urban Policy Report 1995; and
v) Current Urban Development Policy.

I) **Carter Urban Development Policy (1977-1981):** The deterioration of urban life in the United States is one of the most complex and deeply rooted problems of this age. The Federal Government has a clear duty to lead the effort to reverse that deterioration, these efforts are: (i) the leadership will deal with complex and deeply rooted problems; (ii) federal efforts alone will never be enough, everyone has a role; and (iii) if one has to preserve the special values of urban, suburban, and rural life, one must recognize that these values are interdependent. To a greater extent, than ever before, the
future of cities and the destiny of the Nation are joined. This link is now recognized by almost every American. Yet, throughout most of its history, America has been ambivalent about its cities.

II) Reagan Urban Development Policy (1981-1989): Some of the Prospective of Regan Urban Development Policy are: (i) considered by many to be a retreat from proactive inner city revitalisation (ii) built on the premise of efficient national economic growth and allowing private enterprise to facilities revitalisation in distressed areas with minimal public sector involvement (iii) mix and quality of public services should be made by informed administrations at the state and local level (iv) economic investment was key, not social investment, and (v) retreated from a city explicit policy basis.


IV) Clinton National Urban Policy Report 1995: Some of the important features of Clinton Urban Development Policy are: (i) maintaining fiscal integrity (ii) middle class tax relief (iii) expanding opportunities to all (iv) expanding access to metropolitan opportunities (through leveraging private investment and jobs, not infrastructure) (v) ensuring access to financial capital (vi) expanding homeownership opportunity (vii) freedom from fear; and (viii) empowerment zones and enterprise communities.

V) Current Urban Development Policy: Some of the important urban policy perspectives of current government are as follows:

i) Strengthening Federal Commitment to cities:
   a) create a Whitehouse office on urban policy.
   b) fully fund the community development block grant.

ii) Stimulate Economic Prosperity in Metropolitan Regions:
   a) support job creation and access to jobs;
   b) enhance workforce training;
   c) increase access to capital for underserved businesses;
   d) create nation network of public-private business incubators;
   e) convert manufacturing to clean technology;
   f) strengthen core infrastructure;
   g) invest in skilled clean tech workforce;
   h) housing;
   i) tax reform, access to affordable credit; and
   j) increase supply of affordable housing through trust funds.

1.4 URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY PERSPECTIVES IN CHINA

In 1950, when the people’s republic of China was formed, the level of urbanisation was just 10 percent. For four decades after that, rural development and social
transformation was a priority for China. Thus even till 1990, the level of urbanization was just 20 percent. However, after 1990, the country’s approach towards urbanization has changed rapidly. Thus by 2000, urbanization had increased to 36 percent and by 2007, it had reached 46 percent. Some of the cities in China like Beijing have an urban tradition that spans millennia, while there are several others where urban development has been rapid and has transformed erstwhile villages and small towns into booming cities in a span of just a decade or so.

The country’s urbanisation history is rather uneven. The period of the Great Leap Forward (1958-1960) and the Cultural Revolution(1966-76) were two periods in particular where there was a very strong attempt to reverse an urbanising tendency through deliberate population movement to rural areas and encouragement of rural development policies. This period also witnessed the strengthening of the system of Hukou (a household registration system for key benefits) which acted essentially as a block to geographical mobility. The period of reform which followed in 1980 onwards saw the opening of Chinese borders to Foreign Direct Investment through the setting up of Special Economic Zones and a concomitant creation of cities. This pattern has continued through the turn of the century to unleash a period of unprecedented economic growth and urbanisation.

During post reform period, cities have played a central role in China’s social and economic development. In 2001, urbanization (Chengzhenhua in Chinese) was, for the first time, written into the 10th Five Year Plan (2001-2005) as an explicit development strategy. In 2001, cities and towns accounted for half of the national industrial output, 70 per cent of GDP and 80 per cent of all national tax revenue. Some 90 per cent of higher education and scientific research resources were located in cities and town (Human Settlement Group, IIED, UNFPA, 2011).

As noted in the Outline of the 10th Five Year Plan

“……enhancing the level of urbanization and shifting rural population benefits an increase in peasants’ income, enlarges the consumer market, optimizes the rural/urban economic structure…… with the advance of productivity in the agricultural sector and acceleration of industrialisation, the time is ripe for the promotion of urbanization and we should not miss such a chance to implement the strategy of urbanisation.”

(Human Settlements Group IIED, UNFPA, 2011)

Urbanisation was viewed as a stimulus for economic growth and a solution for rural-urban disparities. The significance of urbanisation was reiterated in the 11th Five Year Plan (2006-2010). The resolution to promote further urbanization was confirmed, with emphasis on a healthier development trajectory:

“……adhere to the coordination of the development of large, medium and small size cities and towns; enhance the carrying capacity of cities and towns; promote urbanisation actively and steadily to transform the dual rural/urban structure under the principles of step by step, saving land, intensive development and rational distribution.”

(Human Settlements Group IIED, UNFPA, 2011)
Given this backdrop, it may be easy to assume that China’s urbanisation story has been led by the centralisation of governance. On the contrary, the urban growth in China is local. It has been spurred by the enterprise of local bureaucrats and the freedom with the city governments to take several decisions with implications for local economic growth. Each city in China thus competes with each other for opportunities of economic growth. They have pursued distinct trajectories towards the same. According to the McKinsey report (2006), the bulk of China’s urban population resides in industrializing cities whose main challenge is to attract labour intensive industries and pull people out of poverty. There are other cities that are slowly transforming from an industrializing economy to one that is more specialised. Finally, there are only a handful of cities that have become modern cities. In these varying trajectories, cities employ a wide variety of tools to attract investment. These include facilitating land supply, using infrastructure development as a driver for economic growth, offering incentives for investors, loosening of migration policies and investing in technology development through a synergy between academic institutions and industry.

This rapid growth has human and environmental costs. The first is the unevenness of growth where the East coast has become the prime beneficiary while Western and Southern China remains underdeveloped. The second is the disenfranchisement of several thousand migrants to cities who work in cities but are denied other civic rights and the consequent separation of families wherein children stay in villages while parents work in cities. The thought of sustainability and justice, of conservation is muted and several cities face challenges of natural resources but these considerations are seen to be rising in the transforming cities. The potential in the Chinese story of urbanisation is however in the entrepreneurship and capacity for pragmatic solutions in city governments to deal with issues that confront them. The story of Chinese urbanisation is thus where there are several innovations, many of which are undocumented but all of these are nonetheless interesting ideas of how urban development can be an engine for economic growth.

1.4.1 Case Study of Shenzhen

Till 1983, Shenzhen was a sleepy fishing village in the Pearl River Delta. China’s first SEZ (Special Economic Zone) was set up here in 1979. In late 1980, its population was 94,000 rising up to 8.3 million in 2005. It has an annual growth rate of 19.6% with 80% of its current population being migrants. Its status as the SEZ meant a strong Central Government support for infrastructure creation, ability to offer considerable incentives to investors and a favourable geographic location in proximity to Hong Kong. The first few years saw massive investments of FDI in Shenzhen for high intensity low cost labour industries. However this began to decelerate in 1990s. This is when Shenzhen rediscovered itself as a centre for financial services, high technology and logistics. The continuous high growth has generated several pressure points- availability of land and high density, availability of water and electricity, high levels of pollution and availability of educated and skilled labour. The city has coped with this through transformation of the city centre and its redeployment for high tech industries, through additions to the water and electricity supply and through the extension of some of the most extensive policies towards migrants seen in China. These however continue to be areas of challenge for the city which epitomises China’s transformative urbanisation.
In this section you studied the changing global perspective on urban development and urban development in USA and China. Now, you should be able to answer the question relating to this section given in Check Your Progress-1.

Check Your Progress 1

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1) What is the current urban development policy of the Obama government in the USA?

2) What are the features of urbanisation in China?

1.5 URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY PERSPECTIVES IN BRAZIL

Brazil is South America’s largest country, occupying nearly half the continent; and with a population of 187 million, it is the fifth most populous country (and the fourth most populous democracy) in the world. Brazil has urbanised rapidly over the past few decades. According to a 2000 census, over 80 percent of the population lives in urban areas. However, much of this urbanisation has been unequal; population has grown around state capitals and neighbouring municipalities of larger metropolitan areas, while other regions have experienced negative growth rates. The result has been pockets of poverty with increased social exclusion and environmental hazards. Brazil began as a federated republic in 1889. Throughout the twentieth century, the country experienced periods of development where the government sought to manipulate urban space to shape society. Post-Brasilia, from 1964 to 1985, the country was under the rule of military leaders, and until 1990 there were no popular elections for President. However, beginning in the late 1970s, Brazil gradually returned to democratic rule, and in 1982, direct elections were held for state governorships. This process of re-democratisation has actively shaped the nature of urban development policies in Brazil.
The process of re-democratisation expanded the political arena to include diverse sections of society who demanded urban reform through active struggles. The struggle for urban reform began in the 1960s, when progressive sectors of Brazilian society demanded structural reforms to the legal regulation and use of public land. The main issue was agrarian reform in the countryside. However, the military coup of 1964 gave rise to an authoritarian political system (lasting until 1984) which did not allow these reforms to be carried out. Urban reform issues reappeared in the 1970s and 1980s during a period of slow and gradual political openness in which social movements slowly gained greater visibility and political weight, and were able to construct an autonomous discourse and social practice. The movement’s demands were presented as rights in an effort to reverse social inequalities on the basis of a new social ethic. At the time, Brazil’s urban landscape had undergone significant changes. Marked by a high rate of rural-urban migration between 1940 and 1991 during which time the urban population increased from 31.2% to 75% of the country’s total population. Brazilian cities grew without basic infrastructure. Major consequences resulted, especially the spatial segregation of neighbourhoods which were largely neglected, lacked the basic conditions for adequacy and developed with the complicity of the public authorities.

In 1988, the struggle for urban reform was taken up again. In the beginning, the movement’s struggle was focused on local issues, such as demands for housing. However, by the end of the military regime, it had begun to incorporate ideas of the right to a more social life: the idea of the city, the city of all people, a home beyond one’s house, a home accessed by paved roads, public services, schools, and transportation. In 1986, the National Urban Reform Movement defined the concept of urban reform as a new social ethic which rejects the use of the city as a source of profit for a few while conversely subjecting many to poverty. Thus, this new social ethic politicizes the debate about the city and creates a discourse and political platform for urban social movements, in which access to the city is the right of all its residents and not restricted to a few, or rather, the wealthiest. The struggle brought together several organizations, movements, professional organisations. The church too came out strongly in defence of the social role of property which was a major contribution in a deeply religious society like Brazil.

The culmination of these struggles was the establishment of an internal regulation in the Constituent Assembly which permitted the use of popular initiatives to present amendments to the Brazilian Constitution of 1988. More than 12 million signatures were gathered for popular amendments which contained the earlier discussed reforms. Conservative forces argued that the principles of social justice were being used as a pretext to prevent the country’s development (development was a term long used to disguise the issue of the inequality of urban space) and that intervening in urban policy would give the state too large of a role. While all the proposals for reform were not incorporated in the constitution, some important ones were. With the popular amendment, Brazilian public rights began to guarantee not only private property and individual interest, but also the protection of collective interest above the various uses of individual property. Other achievements at that time were the affirmation and establishment of effective municipal autonomy and the expansion of popular participation in city management, both through direct institutional mechanisms like plebiscites, referendums, popular initiatives and public consultation, as well as other forms of direct participation such as councils, conferences, forums and public hearings.
This ensured the community’s participation in the development of Master Plans, the main urban planning instrument for municipalities. Further they paved the way for many other reforms such as the recognition of the right to housing as a fundamental right in the Brazilian Constitution in 2000 and the approval of the City Statute in 2001.

The City Statute (Federal Law No. 10.257/01) is the Brazilian development law that regulates the chapter on urban policy in the 1988 Brazilian Constitution. It sets the overall guidelines to promote urban policy that must be observed by the Union (federal government), the states (state governments) and municipalities. The City Statute specifically addresses:

- instruments designed to ensure the fulfilment of the social function of property, progressive taxation over time on urban property and expropriation for urban reform purposes;
- criteria for municipalities to develop and apply Management Plans;
- regulatory instruments for the use of and access to urban lands occupied by low-income people; and
- democratic city management instruments; public hearings; councils; and city conferences in national, state and municipal plans.

These reforms have set the stage for several policy innovations in cities of Brazil which incorporate the elements of inclusivity and sustainability. The case of Curitiba where the principle of planning for the poor first was incorporated to create a model of a clean and green city, Porto Allegre, where participatory budgeting enabled the city to set its priorities for the poor first, the city of Rio where a massive upgradation programme of favelas (slums) is undertaken are all examples of these innovations that have been made possible due to a high degree of decentralisation, popular participation and political commitment to goals of inclusivity and sustainability. Brazil’s urbanisation story is thus one of possibilities of how problems such as squalor, poverty and inequity can be dealt with through determined action by both people and policy makers. It is not without pitfalls. Thus, high proportions of external and public debt are concomitants of the urbanization in the country. However, the country still has the potential to become one of the largest growing economies of the world.

1.5.1 Case of Porto Allegre

Porto Allegre is a city in the state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil and is home to about 1.3 million residents. The local government of Porto Allegre, like several other local governments functioned as a consortium of landed and business interests till 1988. In 1988, a coalition of Left Parties led by the Worker’s Party was elected to power and held it for consecutive terms in 1992 and 1996. The coalition government faced a challenge similar to most Brazilian cities – that is to build a city government responsive to needs of those who were excluded from city services. The coalition government began an effort at participatory budgeting which has progressed to transform the nature of local governance in the city.

The making of the municipal budget in Porto Alegre today is in effect a bottom-up process. The key innovation has been the creation of district and citywide budget councils constituted of delegates elected in open assemblies at the neighbourhood and district levels. Over the years, these councils have come to play an increasingly significant role in negotiating both the broad objectives and
details of the budgetary allocations. The councils also play a role in organizing people, build skills in articulating demands, translating them into specific proposals and advocating for them. The introduction of participatory budgeting has considerably changed the priorities of local government spending to prioritize needs like sanitation, housing as opposed to the patronage interests reflected earlier. As the experiment has advanced, it has also widened the scale of participation and advanced representation at every stage in the programme. The municipality has expanded its range of services and a redistributive dimension has been introduced.

In this section you studied urban development in Brazil. Now, you should be able to answer the question relating to this section given in Check Your Progress-2.

Check Your Progress 2

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1) Mention some of the urban reforms in Brazil?

.....................................................................................................................
.....................................................................................................................
.....................................................................................................................
.....................................................................................................................
.....................................................................................................................

1.6 URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

PERSPECTIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is another nation that is urbanising very rapidly. Over 55% of its population is urban and estimates indicate that the current rate of urbanization is about 4.9%. The largest proportion of this urban population (about 67%) is located in the four metropolitan areas of Pretoria/Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. The country also has a number of medium sized towns in the South and the East but the four metropolitan areas are the real engines of its economy, generating over 80% of the GDP of South Africa. The system of apartheid which characterised the country is expressed in almost every aspect of South African cities, in particular the larger ones. The system of apartheid with its accompanying town planning, transport policies and systems of governance perpetuated by economic forces resulted in cities with extremely high proportion of inequity and exclusion. Thus, there is low-density, well serviced white neighbourhoods and there are extremely over crowded, poorly serviced black neighbourhoods which are spatially segregated. Black townships and housing is usually the worst in these cities and is either in the form of matchbox housing or shacks. Cities like Durban and Elizabeth have about half their population in such shack housing which is informal. Most of the economic opportunities are located in the well services parts of cities. The neighbourhoods were governed by distinct authorities. Spatial segregation thus was a marker of differential opportunities.
In 1990, when the system of apartheid ended and the country embarked on a truly democratic path, the crucial challenge that it faced in terms of urban development was to continue its high growth trajectory while tackling the challenge of systemic exclusion. Several legislations were passed to materialize this vision. The South African constitution thus enshrines an access to adequate housing as a Constitutional right. The Local government Transition Act, 1996 attempted to bridge the distinct local governance systems while the Development Facilitation Act, 1995 provides for fast tracking of land development for urban growth while also providing for integrated planning of cities.

Like the Chinese system, local governments in South Africa are seen to be primarily responsible for service delivery as well as local economic development while the tasks of redistribution, etc. are entrusted to the provincial governments. This has meant that most city governments are engaged in attracting new investment opportunities and in improving service delivery. The country has very successfully used the organization of events such as World Cup football (which took place in 2010) to enhance its infrastructure and economic competitiveness.

The downside of the South African urbanization story remains that apartheid no longer continues in its original form but is expressed substantially enough in the access to housing, services, and economic and other opportunities. However, the system of ‘Soweto’ where cities were considered the preserves of the rich and blacks whose access to city was otherwise restricted were brought in mainly to serve as labour has been broken. Migration is now free. This has brought some of the contradictions to the fore as witnessed by the increasing occupation of public lands by poor black population and thus an increase in informal housing. New challenges are thus being generated in South African cities.

1.6.1 Case Study of Johannesburg

Johannesburg is a city of about 3.0 million populations but forms a conurbation with nearby provinces of Pretoria and Vereeniging of about 8.0 million. In the apartheid era, the city, home to white South Africans had extremely visible areas of prosperity with standards equivalent to the First World. Poverty, on the other hand, was invisible and hidden in the Soweto. The post apartheid era has thrown up the simultaneous challenges of commitment to redistribution and reconciling the same with need to enhance economic investment, identify resources and counter powerful vested interests at multiple levels.

The period 1980-2000 saw a reducing rate of economic growth for the country as a whole. In Johannesburg, this translated into a closure of manufacturing industries, creating high levels of unemployment especially among African youth. While the South African constitution is committed to the autonomy of local municipal governments, the above mentioned pressures and the resultant restructuring of governments and challenges of service provision in under serviced areas have preoccupied the local officials. Further while much of the poverty in South Africa continues to be rural, urban poverty has increasingly become more visible. Post apartheid Johannesburg thus demonstrates several of the symptoms of a transitional economy. The end of apartheid saw a system of weak decentralisation at the local level. However by the end of 2000, autonomy of local governments was fully established. In Johannesburg, basic service provision
Urban Development Policies: A Global Overview

Poverty in Johannesburg continues to be geographically concentrated and been unable to fully counter the impacts of exclusion perpetuated by apartheid planning systems. However, there is evidence to show that the situation has become much more dynamic with many more middle class blacks and emergence of significant social differentiation among the blacks themselves. Johannesburg thus stands as a testimony to how a challenge of systematised exclusion can be countered while managing economic growth.

In this section you studied urban development in South Africa. Now, you should be able to answer the questions relating to this section given in Check Your Progress-3.

Check Your Progress 3

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.
b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1) What are the features of urbanisation in South Africa?

1.7 DRAWING LESSONS

India is a large country characterised by diversity and a democratic system which has developed strong roots. The country also is characterised by inequalities and in particular, institutionalized systems of inequity like those based on caste, religion and ethnicity. Policy making in India has few parallels with the systems in the countries described earlier and yet there are several lessons that we can learn from these countries.

The first is about the outlook towards urbanisation. The experience of all these countries shows that urbanization as a conscious strategy of development yields positive results. At a stage where agricultural employment becomes stagnant, it helps to relieve the pressure of employment on the farming sector and brings in new modes of enhancing productivity. It thus also channelizes the energies and the creativity of the youth, thereby cashing on the demographic dividend available to these countries. India has urbanised at a moderate pace, our outlook towards urbanisation is unclear. The spatial dimension to policies is by and large neglected; our cities develop in an unplanned manner. The experience of China in particular, offers immense lessons for an integrated approach to economic and spatially directed development.
The second major area for learning is in terms of the difference that effective local governments make to the growth potential and quality of life in cities. In China and South Africa, the stakes of local governments in economic development have enabled these governments to devise ways in which to attract investments and growth opportunities. In Brazil, decentralisation has enabled the inclusivity and sustainability to become political agendas, allowing local governments to pursue pro- poor and inclusive policies through innovations. In India, the decentralisation agenda began to be developed through the 74th Constitutional Amendment but the task remains unaccomplished. Most urban local bodies in the country have very little autonomy to either chart their economic futures or innovate for inclusivity. The potency of effective decentralisation is thus, a tremendous lesson offered by these countries.

Another area for learning is the management of migration. China discouraged migration directly through the Hukou; it has been forced to engage in a gradual reform of the system to encourage urban development. South Africa created divided cities by compelling labour to move to cities in allotted areas. It is still grappling with the impacts of the systematised apartheid on its cities. Brazil encountered migration and inequity through a revolutionary process which then transformed the principles of urban governance totally. In India, cities are theoretically open to migrants but we have not redressed the issues of identity, inclusion in city fabric and services in a systematic way, instead forcing them to find their own solutions by way of slums and informal livelihoods. The experiences of the three countries should illustrate to us that dealing with urban poverty and migration is an urgent challenge, especially if it is to be channelled to improving the prospects of a city.

1.8 LET US SUM UP

As the world becomes urban and the axis of urbanisation shifts to the Global South, challenges of urbanization that did not exist before and for which little knowledge is available are emerging. There is thus a lot of value in such countries learning from each other than following the prescriptions of the West which never experienced such challenges. China, Brazil, South Africa represent countries which have followed broadly the same developmental trajectory as India and thus their urbanization experience offers several invaluable lessons for us. However, the urban policy perspectives of the USA have also been discussed in this unit. The experiences of these countries offer a lot of lessons, particularly in the areas of perspective on urbanisation, decentralisation and management of migration.

The current phase of urbanisation is one which the world has never experienced before. Urbanization amidst poverty, the experience of large scale cities urbanization while the climatic changes create new risks for living environments are daunting aspects of this urban experience, for which little knowledge exists. Learning from each other is perhaps the best way of learning at this stage. Lessons from China, Brazil, and South Africa with broadly similar development trajectories are thus very useful for us to reflect on our own policies and work towards redesigning them.
1.9 REFERENCES AND SELECTED READINGS

Beall, J; Crankshaw, O and Parnell, S (2002), Uniting a Divided City, Earthscan, London.


South Africa Housing department (1997): Urban Development Framework

1.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS- POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

1) What is the current urban development policy of the Obama government in USA?
   a) Strengthening Federal Commitment to cities.
      i) Create a Whitehouse office on Urban Policy.
      b) Fully fund the community development block grant.
ii) **Stimulate Economic Prosperity in Metropolitan Regions.**
   a) Support job creation and access to jobs.
   b) Enhance workforce training.
   c) Increase access to capital for underserved businesses.
   d) Create Nation Network of Public-Private Business incubators.
   e) Convert manufacturing to clean technology.

2) **What are the features of urbanisation in China?**

The features of urbanisation in China are
   a) Strong decentralised system of local government
   b) Local governments as the key stakeholders in economic development
   c) Economic strategy to attract investment on a long term basis
   d) Infrastructure creation to drive urbanisation
   e) Use of land as a leverage for investment and
   f) Gradual reform of migration policies.

**Check Your Progress 2**

1) **Mention some of the urban reforms in Brazil**

The process of urban reforms in Brazil is characterized by popular struggles. These struggles were rooted in the inequity in Brazilian cities whose governments represented landed and patronage interests. The key agendas of the reform were:
   a) Decentralisation and empowerment of local governments;
   b) Participation; and
   c) Equity and inclusion through acceptance of social ends along with private interests.

This has helped to subsequently open up the doors for several innovative practices and systems at the local level directed at social and environmental sustainability.

**Check Your Progress 3**

1) **What are the features of urbanisation in South Africa?**

Urbanisation in South Africa has been fairly rapid. Over 55% of its population is urban and estimates indicate that the current rate of urbanization is about 4.9%. The largest proportion of this urban population (about 67%) is located in the four metropolitan areas of Pretoria/Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

Another key feature of urbanisation in South Africa is the legacy of colonization which restricted opportunities of urbanization only to the White population and used black labour only as a servantile population. South Africa has a high proportion of decentralisation. Thus responsibilities of economic growth and planning, service provision are key functions of these governments.