

## Minutes of meeting - Participatory Urban Governance

**Date:** Monday, 19/10/2020

**Time:** 6.30 pm -8.15 pm

**Venue:** Google Meet (online)

### Attendees:

1. Mr. Antrin Chakrabarty, Senior Researcher, CPR & State Team Lead, Slum Free and Slum-proof Cities, JAGA Mission

From CEPT Research and Development Foundation (CRDF):

1. Dr. Saswat Bandopadhyay, Professor, CEPT University
2. Dr. Sejal Patel, Professor, CEPT University
3. Vijaya Redekar Salanke, Research Associate, CRDF



### Discussion :

- Meeting started with an introductory address by Dr. Saswat Bandopadhyay followed by a brief presentation and the key questions.
- Mr. Antrin explained the philosophy of the mission and its evolution. The philosophy was to create institutions/ grass-root agencies through the execution of the mission. They will get trained through the execution of the mission and eventually become sustainable institutions and are expected to continue even after the mission.
- HUDD is a nodal agency and it is involved throughout the process providing umbrella support. Other institutions are created and embedded gradually in the mission.
- Mr. Antrin suggested that instead of focusing only on JAGA Mission, we should also focus on the Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEI) for a better empirical strength. UWEI is a submodule of JAGA which is created to tackle employment issues during pandemic. Also, he suggested that in such a case the participatory platforms in focus will be both SDA and SHG.
- The implementation module for overall JAGA Mission was tested through UWEI and this module is now formally inaugurated in the form of SOP for second phase of JAGA Mission.

- Contractor-Engineer nexus was completely avoided and women SHGs became implementing group. Overall vision was hand-holding of SDAs by SHGs and their training. This participation is supported from above.
- Odisha lacks a culture of bottom-up civic action or participation. But Government has started focusing on the fourth tier of Government. They want to empower the SDAs and train them so that they can address the affairs that concern them.
- They are already trying to strengthen the Local Government by constituting UASRRC. The committee comprises of Executive officer, Tehasildar, Superintendent of Police, Councilor, Urban Planner, representatives from NGOs, SDAs, CBOs as its members and District Collector as its Chairperson. Presence of District Collector in UASRRC makes the structure robust. Due to his presence, any administrative conflicts between Tahsildars and other members, in relation to land rights are avoided.
- JAGA Mission is a pan-State process. There are already very few barriers, but even if there are any, mission might stop in that particular areas, but it continues in other parts.
- Mr. Antarin mentioned that in Odisha, the Government is pro-poor and willing to give land rights.
- Mr. Antarin also highlighted that all the programmes in Odisha are converged. Water supply in slum is addressed by Mission Basudha, hence there is no separate budget head for water in JAGA Mission. This is also evident from the State budget. Missions are subcomponents of each other.
- The focus of JAGA Mission is on land rights whereas other programmes cover other sectors such as water supply, sanitation, street-lighting etc.
- The Mission grants residential land rights and only some livelihood based commercial land rights. The tenants living in the slums are also issued land rights as per Act.
- While talking about individual land rights he explained that 'Restricted' individual land rights (non-transferable) prevent monetization/ commodification of land.
- When Prof. Sejal Patel enquired about the 'Participation fatigue' as it is also seen in case of Kerala, Mr. Antarin replied that in case of Odisha, it is very nascent to be discussed at this stage.
- When asked about NGOs working in JAGA Mission, he mentioned that Odisha Government itself is welfare-oriented, hence role of NGOs in Odisha is largely execution oriented and the NGOs are largely under the umbrella of Government.
- He also threw light on how Odisha wants to do devolution through the path of deconcentrating and how NGOs are part of this.