

Public-Private participation and Role of Citizen in Smart City

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Abstract: The “smart city” is an umbrella for cities that use information technology to improve services and provide better quality of life for its citizens. Citizen participation is often highlighted as an important part of the smart city concept. Participation can be political – influencing political decision making, but also non-political where citizens participate to help the city solve its problems.

Keywords: “Smart cities”, electronic participation, transparency.

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I. Introduction

„Smart city“ has been coined as a term to describe urban development based on improvement of quality of life, better services, reduced environmental footprint and sustainability. Technology is an important part of the “smart city” concept.

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Smart city“ has been coined as a term to describe urban development based on improvement of quality of life, better services, reduced environmental footprint and sustainability. Technology is an important part of the “smart city” concept. Smart cities projects address many applications areas within areas like communication, culture, energy, environment/climate, health, tourism, and transport. “Smart cities” are closely related to “smart buildings” and “smart devices” but neither cities, buildings nor devices are smart in themselves. The whole concept relies on the smartness of the city administration, politicians and the citizens to utilize technology in “smart” ways. Definitions often include administrative aspects like good governance and city management, where citizen participation plays an important role. One popular definition is:

“Projects of smart cities have an impact on the quality of life of citizens and aim to foster more informed, educated, and participatory citizens. Additionally, smart cities initiatives allow members of the city to participate in the governance and management of the city and become active users”.

“A smart city is a municipality that uses information and communication technologies to increase operational efficiency, share information with the public and improve both the quality of government services and citizen welfare.

II. Smart City Features

Some typical features of comprehensive development in Smart Cities are described below.

1. Promoting mixed land use in area based developments–planning for ‘unplanned areas’ containing a range of compatible activities and land uses close to one another in order to make land use more efficient. The States will enable some flexibility in land use and building bye-laws to adapt to change;
2. Housing and inclusiveness - expand housing opportunities for all;
3. Creating walk able localities –reduce congestion, air pollution and resource depletion, boost local economy, promote interactions and ensure security. The road network is created or refurbished not only for vehicles and public transport, but also for pedestrians and cyclists, and necessary administrative services are offered within walking or cycling distance;
4. Preserving and developing open spaces - parks, playgrounds, and recreational spaces in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens, reduce the urban heat effects in Areas and generally promote eco-balance;
5. Promoting a variety of transport options - Transit Oriented Development (TOD), public transport and last mile Para-transport connectivity;
6. Making governance citizen-friendly and cost effective - increasingly rely on online services to bring about accountability and transparency, especially using mobiles to reduce cost of services and providing services without having to go to municipal offices. Forming e-groups to listen to people and obtain feedback and use online monitoring of programs and activities with the aid of cyber tour of worksites;
7. Giving an identity to the city - based on its main economic activity, such as local cuisine, health, education, arts and craft, culture, sports goods, furniture, hosiery, textile, dairy, etc;
8. Applying Smart Solutions to infrastructure and services in area-based development in order to make them better. For example, making Areas less vulnerable to disasters, using fewer resources, and providing cheaper services

III. Smart city challenges and concerns

Fostering collaboration is key to creating a smart citizen who will be engaged and empowered and positively contribute to the city and community. New and innovative collaboration methods can improve engagement. Smart city projects should include plans to make the data transparent and available to citizens, often through an open data portal or mobile app. This enables residents to engage with the data and understand what it is used for. Through a smart city app, residents may also be able to complete personal chores, such as viewing their home's energy consumption, paying bills and finding between the public and private sector and city resident's efficient public transportation.

Smart city opponents worry that city managers will not keep data privacy and security top of mind, fearing the exposure of the data that citizens produce on a daily basis to the risk of hacking or misuse. Additionally, the presence of sensors and cameras may be perceived as an invasion of privacy or government surveillance. To address this, smart city data collected should be anonymized and not be personally identifiable information.

IV. The Role of Citizens

The first, and most important question, is the purpose of citizen participation. Most authors regard participation as an important manifestation of democracy. Through participation citizens are able to influence how their city is managed, developed and maintained. In most cases, authors advocate a more

Direct form of democracy as an ideal, where citizens actively influence the decisions being made. The Role of Citizens in "Smart Cities"

Direct democracy (Held, 2006) implies that citizens have the power to make political decisions by themselves. In an indirect democracy, political decisions are made by elected representatives. The citizens may decide not to reelect representatives if they are dissatisfied with their performance.

V. Direct Democracy:

Binding (local) referendums is probably closest to the ideal of direct democracy. The citizens vote on specific issues, and the result cannot be disputed by elected representatives. But binding referendums are seldom used, both for legal and political reasons. Switzerland is the most well-known example where local (binding) referendums are used.

VI. Indirect Democracy:

Other authors see participation as an enhancement of indirect democracy. Indirect democracy is the common model in western democracies. The citizens vote for parties or representatives to act on behalf of themselves until the next election. To give citizens more influence on agenda setting, different tools have been implemented i.e. petitions, consultative referendums and consultations.

VII. Political participation :

OECD (2001) developed a model that focuses on the level of interaction between the government and their citizens. Adapted (by the authors) to smart cities this model spans three different levels:

- Information only. This is one way communication with no feedback from the citizens. The purpose is to keep citizens informed about political and managerial issues.
- Consultation. A two way communication where the citizens are asked for input on specific issues. The city decides on the issues to be discussed, and collects and process the feedback from the citizens.
- Participation. Citizens enter a partnership with the city, and take an active role in the political decision making. Citizens can raise issues they want to discuss, and the city listens for their inputs.

The OECD model discusses interaction in general, with no specific emphasis on digital interaction. However, digital interaction may improve the interaction between the city and the government. We will later discuss some tools that facilitates such interaction. In order to take active part in political decision making, citizens need to be well informed about the recent history, current state, and future plans of the municipality or city. Therefore, the smart city must make necessary efforts to publish updated and relevant information. Transparency is not only about documents and records, but also meetings, processes, benchmarking, decision makers and disclosure of information

Development of 'smart cities' requires continuous and joint effort of all participants in the process. Urban stakeholders include governments, scientific institutes, companies, citizens and NGOs who innovate together to up the quality of life of the 'smart cities'. However, the connection between citizens, technologists, and nisurbats is not strong enough. In order to improve the current urban settings India needs to design a pattern to develop a universal platform between stakeholders on a local level. Cities around the world are facing the impact of series of emerging megatrends like accelerating urbanization, new technological developments, increased connectivity, demographic shifts, climate change, scarcity of natural resources and many more changes. But so, has the need for cities and regions to collaborate on global issues like climate change and public safety. In this context, it has become important for a city to understand its national, regional and global position. This enables the city and its stakeholders to set

appropriate policies, develop an effective strategy and plan for actions accordingly, all aimed at the sustainable development of the city

VIII. DEVELOPING SMART CITIES

Today is the age of technological revolutions! Technology and science have brought many conveniences to the citizens of the world, most of which we are not even aware of. The idea of a 'smart city' has drawn problems of urbanization or to start solutions, such as efficient electrification and reliable public transport which will instantly drive economic growth. By implementing those solutions large amounts of capital, exceptional managerial skill, and significant alignment of interests— all of which are often in short supply in city governments but abound in the private sector are required. That is the main reason that South Korean 'smart cities' like Song do (the city built on reclaimed land) [5] used PPPs to define infrastructure types, and the roles of public and private parties when they were looking and arranging the means and ways for financing 'smart cities'.

IX. Conclusion:-

This paper focuses on the role of citizens in the smart city (or smart municipality). To be “smart” is not about size, but about how the city or municipality facilitates dialog, interaction and collaboration with its citizens. The key message is that most research on e-participation has focused on political involvement, and not on community involvement. Information technology makes it easier to do both. We have shown different tools that can be used to facilitate citizen influence on political decision making, and we have discussed some specific cases where the citizens help their city, not from a political standing point, but as experts or volunteers. The whole idea of smart cities requires both participation on political issues, but also helps from experts and volunteers to succeed.

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