

CONTEMPORARY URBAN PLANNING

An Overview

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The Need for Planning

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- The need for Planning comes down to two words, interconnectedness and complexity.
- If there were few of us, then the technology would have been relatively simple.
- But that's not the case, as the population is massive and technologies are complicated.

The Need for Planning conti...

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- Let's take an example of a few acres of an urban land to understand interconnecte- dness.
- The amount and character of development on that land determines the traffic it generates.

The Need for Planning conti...

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- Single family houses on that urban land will produce different traffic levels than with the establishment of apartments.
- A neighborhood shopping centre would generate different traffic levels in comparison to the above mentioned categories.

The Need for Planning conti...

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- Therefore a Land Development decision is a traffic decision as well.
- The pavement material used also determines how fast the rainwater runs off from the land/property.
- Air quality, noise levels, water quality and the visual and social qualities of the area may be affected if the land is improperly planned.

The Need for Planning conti...

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- Land use decisions made by the community will make it either attractive or ugly thereby affecting human life and health.
- The society obviously needs the help of educational institutions, police, fire protection, recreation facilities to prosper.

The Need for Planning conti...

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- This in turn brings in municipal revenues to the Government and plays a key role in land use planning.
- Complexity is the condition that justifies planning as a separate profession and as a separate activity of government.

The Need for Planning conti...

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- In large metropolitan cities planning involves many departments and investment of billions of dollars.
- In small planning departments, a planner may be the jack of all trades

The Need for Planning conti...

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- But in a large planning office, there may be separate sections handling:
 - Zoning issues
 - Master planning
 - Planning related research
 - Environmental issues

The Specific Concerns of Planning

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- Planners are concerned with the shaping pattern of growth in order to have a sensible and attractive land-use pattern.
- Good land-use patterns give the community a smooth access to cultural, school, recreational and many other similar facilities.

The Specific Concerns of Planning continued..

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- High intensity commercial activities should be separated from residential areas.
- In modern communities, it also means separation of bicycle/pedestrian traffic from automobile traffic.

The Specific Concerns of Planning continued..

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- Community planners are also concerned about the location of public facilities to satisfy the general public's needs and also to have a better land-use pattern.
- In older communities, planners try to safeguard the historic buildings and similar landmarks.

The Specific Concerns of Planning continued..

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- Communities with serious economic problems and unemployment focus largely on creating conditions which encourage existing industry to remain with the expansion of new firms.
- In recent years, environmental issues have also been given importance in urban planning.

The Specific Concerns of Planning continued..

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- Development of regionwide road network with improved sewage disposal and water systems is what a planner is also concerned about.
- A coordination is needed between different municipalities or in other words, communities shall not be isolated.

Professional Organizations

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- United States of America has a professional organization named as American Planning Association (APA).
- APA publishes “*Planning*” 11 times in a single year.
- “*Planning*” is the best source to know about names, places, programs, controversies, courtcases etc.

Professional Organizations Conti..

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- In addition to this, American Planning Association (with the help of Planning Advisory Service) also publishes:

1. Numerous technical reports alongside

2. How-to-do-it reports

These are published for the practicing planners in particular.

Professional Organizations Conti..

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- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is the second organization after American Planning Association (APA).
- The AICP certifies planners.
- The planners have to pass a written exam and demonstrate their professional experience to AICP to get certified.

Satisfactions and Discontents

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- Planning is about trying to solve the problems in public interests.
- Planner often has the satisfaction of seeing the results for the efforts put by him/her.

Satisfactions and Discontents Continued

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- The field of planning can be frustrating as well since the plans set for the future may take time because of many reasons.
- APA and AICP have professional codes of ethics which enjoins the planner to serve both public interest and render loyalty to the client.

Satisfactions and Discontents Continued

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- Generally the planners find it difficult when public interests and clients loyalty cannot be entertained at the same time.

Useful Abilities

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- Not all planning works match but there is one basic skill which needs attention:

That is to understand Political environment around oneself.

- The ability to present your ideas in public successfully is extremely crucial.

Useful Abilities Continued

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- The ability to write well and explaining things clearly is also important.
- The writing and explaining works in planning needs a right attitude.

Thank You