

CONTEMPORARY URBAN PLANNING

An Overview

Dr. AbdulAziz Bubshait

The Need for Planning

2

- 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...

3

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Need for Planning conti...

4

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Need for Planning conti...

5

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Need for Planning conti...

6

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Need for Planning conti...

7

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Need for Planning conti...

8

- 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

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Need for Planning conti...

9

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

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Specific Concerns of Planning

10

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Specific Concerns of Planning continued..

11

- High intensity commercial activities should be separated from residential areas.

- In modern communities, it also means separation of bicycle/pedestrian traffic from automobile traffic.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Specific Concerns of Planning continued..

12

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Specific Concerns of Planning continued..

13

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

The Specific Concerns of Planning continued..

14

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Professional Organizations

15

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Professional Organizations Conti..

16

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Professional Organizations Conti..

17

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Satisfactions and Discontents

18

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

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Satisfactions and Discontents Continued

19

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Satisfactions and Discontents Continued

20

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

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Useful Abilities

21

- 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.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Useful Abilities Continued

22

- The ability to write well and explaining things clearly is also important.

- The writing and explaining works in planning needs a right attitude.

CP 101 KFUPM, Dr. Abdulaziz A. Bubshait

Thank You