

Delhi CSO Discussion on NURM
 First floor, Conference Room
 Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)
 BB-5, Greater Kailash Enclave,
 New Delhi – 110048

Date & Time: 25 May 2006, 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm
 Facilitator: Parth Shah

1.0 Outcomes

Classification of Reforms

To understand the reforms, they were divided into groups (**A – Decentralisation, B-Land, C-Institutions and Finances, D - Poor**) and teams were created around every group.

	Reforms	A	B	C	D
	State Level Mandatory Reforms				
1	Effective implementation of decentralization initiatives as envisaged in the Constitution (Seventy-fourth) Amendment Act, 1992	✓			
2	Repeal of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976		✓		
3	Reform of Rent Control laws, by balancing the interests of landlords and tenants		✓		
4	Rationalisation of stamp duty to bring it down to no more than 5 per cent within seven years		✓		
5	Enactment of public disclosure law			✓	
6	Enactment of a community participation law, so as to institutionalise citizens' participation in local decision making	✓			
7	Association of elected municipalities with the city planning function	✓			
	Municipal Level Mandatory Reforms				
1	Adoption of a modern, accrual-based, double entry system of accounting			✓	
2	Introduction of a system of e-governance using IT applications, GIS and MIS for various urban services			✓	
3	Reform of property with GIS, and arrangements for its effective implementation so as raise collection efficiency to 85 per cent			✓	
4	Levy of reasonable user charges, with the objective that full cost of operation and maintenance is collected within seven years			✓	✓
5	Internal earmarking of budgets for basic services to the urban poor				✓
6	Provision of basic services to the urban poor, including security of tenure at affordable prices				✓
	Optional Reforms (Common to State and local bodies)				
1	Revision of bye-laws to streamline the approval process for construction of buildings, development of sites, etc		✓		
2	Simplification of legal and procedural frameworks for conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.		✓		

	Reforms	A	B	C	D
3	Introduction of Property Title Certification System in ULBs.		✓		
4	Earmarking at least 20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both Public and Private Agencies) for EWS/LIG category with a system of cross subsidization		✓		
5	Introduction of computerized process of registration of land and property		✓		
6	Revision of bye-laws to make rain water harvesting mandatory in all buildings to come up in future and for adoption of water conservation measures	✓			
7	Bye-laws on reuse of recycled water	✓			
8	Administrative reforms, i.e., reduction in establishment by bringing out voluntary retirement schemes, non-filling up of posts falling vacant due to retirement etc., and achieving specified milestones in this regard.			✓	
9	Structural reforms				
10	Encouraging Public-Private partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓

Team Members

Group A Decentralisation	1. Mr. A K Singh (Sulabh)
	2. Ms. D Leena (Hazard Centre)
	3. Mr. Sachin Rao (CCS)
	4. Mr. Rajendra Ravi (Lokayan)
	5. Mr. Alope Michyari (CASA)
	6. Mr. Mohammad Tariq (Toxic Link)
	7. Mr. Bhupinder Singh Rawat (Jan Sangarsh Vahini)
	8. Mr. Makarand Bakore (CCS)
Group B Land Reforms	9. Dr. Renu Khosla (CURE)
	1. Mr. Indu Prakash Singh (Action Aid India)
	2. (To be nominated) (Hazard Centre)
Group C Institutions and Finances	10. Dr. Parth Shah (CCS)
	1. Mr. David Foster (Development Alternatives)
Group D Services for the poor	11. Ms. D Leena (Hazard Centre)
	1. Dr. Renu Khosla (CURE)
	2. Mr. Sachin Rao (CCS)
	3. Mr. David Foster (Development Alternatives)
	4. Mr. Rajendra Ravi (Lokayan)
	5. Mr. Alope Michyari (CASA)
	6. Mr. Santosh Kumar (Indcare Trust)
	7. Mr. Mohammad Tariq (Toxic Link)
	8. Mr. Arupendra Mullick (Development Alternatives)
9. Mr. Bhupinder Singh Rawat (Jan Sangarsh Vahini)	

Responsibilities of each Group

1. To explore the various dimensions of the reforms
2. To understand the positive and negative impacts of the reforms
3. Make a presentation on their findings and recommendations

2.0 Discussions

Dr. Parth Shah

- We may not be able to change the reforms mandated by NURM
- We can explore how each one of us can play a role in it

Dr. Renu Khosla

- The positive aspect of NURM is of the fund allocation for the poor. The voices of the poor are not being heard in the consultations. We must insist that 50% of the funds be used for the poor.
- If the legal aspects are not taken care of, the poor will not get services
- There is a wide opportunity in NURM as Delhi has not made a proposal yet.
- We must be on the examination committees of the City Developments Plans to ensure pro-poor measures.
- There should be an measurable index for consultation. We can create a tool-kit for community participation.
- Bhagidari reached RWAs. It should do down to the slum dwellers

Mr. Promod Chawla

- There has been a slaughter of civic services
- There is a need for socially responsible accounting involving the CSOs
- The state has a budget but no profit & loss statement. This hampers accountability.

Mr. A K Singh

- NURM objectives should be clear
- There is a need for capacity building in Municipalities
- Revenue generation at Municipal levels needs to be improved
- Community should be involved in the implementation from the beginning

Mr. Sudhir Vohra

- Government has the responsibility to listen to quieter groups
- 52% of the population uses 8% of land
- Stakeholders need to be educated as they do not know how to participate

Ms. D Leena

- NURM is pushing liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation, along with economic reforms
- NURM is anti-poor. There is a need for some basic changes in the mission.
- Instead of co-opting with it, we should critically examine it
- We need to go to the grass-root levels and spread awareness in urban areas.

Mr. Bhupinder Singh Rawat

- NURM will displace the poor. They do not have land rights
- Planning is not participatory but top-down
- Commonwealth Games will displace 65 lakh people
- CSOs should voice their concerns

Mr. Ramesh Ramanathan

- Lets respect that others are as moral as we are, unless there is genuine evidence. Ideological differences are not mala fide. Debate should find a common ground instead of being divisive
- Lets look at the substance of the reforms
- Please offer an alternative if we are against a particular reform
- NURM is an imperfect mission and has imperfect execution. But changes happen in degrees of imperfection improving overtime.
- NURM is a good opportunity to implement the 74th Amendment
- All correspondence of such consultative meetings should be put on a website
- There are two levels to work at: Evaluation of the reforms and monitoring their implementation.
 - To evaluate the reforms we can form groups and call Ministry officials for discussions
 - MoUD has one IAS officer assigned for each state.

Mr. Indu Prakash Singh

- Housing should be a mandatory reform
- NURM cannot fund wages

Mr. K.C. Sivaramakrishnan

- CSOs must be realist and understand their limitation in this program. MoUD should clarify the role of CSOs and the space for consultations. CSOs are not a substitute for government representatives.
- CSOs should know whom to deal with in the Government, especially in cases of overlapping jurisdiction.
- State Government should be clear and accept participation from civil society. It should state the reasons for disagreement with the CSOs.
- Delhi is a national ambivalence. Due to multiple agencies, nobody is in-charge. CSOs participation will be meaningful only for parts of a city. If they oppose a flyover, they will have to confront the consequences of the flyover.
- The Government has ignored the Constitution by making the Delhi Ward Committees as Zonal Committees comprising only of councillors. RWAs and CSOs have no institution to relate to.
- Delhi may not go in for the NURM project as it has various ways to get the money anyway such as the Commonwealth Games.
- In Delhi, space for CSOs is limited. Its more at the community and micro-level than city level.

Mr. B.N. Singh

- The poor have been relocated to the peripheral of Delhi
- The effective way to influence change is by getting into the administrative structure. The Lt. Governor of Delhi can nominate 10 persons from CSOs into the Municipal Corporation under Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957. One-fourth of the members of the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) can be nominated from the CSOs, businesses etc but Delhi does not have a MPC. Is Delhi exempted from it?
- We should try to fight the battle by getting into the system, instead of from outside

It was decided that groups will be formed around reforms, who will study the issues and make a presentation. All efforts to ensure maximum participation of Delhi CSOs will be

made. Those outside of the meeting will have eight days after the preparation of the minutes to join any of the above groups. All participants agreed to forward this invitation to their contacts.

3.0 Participants

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