

Course Name: GENDER INCLUSIVE URBAN SPACES: ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

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Week: 04

Lecture: 10

Module 4.3 - Engendering Urban Sustainability and Livelihood Programs

Welcome, everyone. I am Reshma, and now we will discuss the various urban development and livelihood programs and schemes by the central and state governments of India. As you know, urbanization is increasing rapidly. In India, 30% of the population lives in urban areas. The fast-paced urbanization poses serious challenges to the socio-economic conditions of the country. For example, there is unemployment, and there is excessive utilization of existing infrastructure in cities, such as housing, sanitation, transportation, health, education, utilities, etc.

This program mainly has six components. The first one is Employment through Skills Training and Placement. The second one is the Self-Employment Program. The third one is Social Mobilization and Institutional Development. The fourth one is Support for Urban Street Vendors.

The fifth one is Shelter for the Urban Homeless. And the sixth one is the Capacity Building and Training Program. The mission also aims to provide shelters equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner. In addition, the mission would address livelihood concerns of urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, and social security. As of now, more than 4 lakh self-help groups have been formed under this scheme, and they have been assisted in setting up individual or group micro-enterprises for self-employment.

In the case of the southernmost state of Kerala, it is the State Poverty Eradication Mission that functions as the National Urban Livelihood Mission. So, moving on to the second one, the State Poverty Eradication Mission. The State Poverty Eradication Mission, popularly known as the Kudumbashree Mission, launched in 1998, is the implementing agency for urban poverty eradication programs of the Government of India. The

grassroots of Kudumbashree are neighborhood groups that send representatives to the ward-level area development societies, or the ADS. The ADS sends its representatives to the community development society, which completes the unique three-tiered structure of Kudumbashree.

Kudumbashree has been recognized as an effective strategy for the empowerment of women in rural as well as urban areas. Bringing women together from all spheres of life who fight for their rights or for empowerment. I hope this is clear to you. So, moving on, the third and the last urban livelihood program is the Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme. This scheme was launched in 2010, and it aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in urban areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to an urban household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.

This also aims to provide a strong rights-based social safety net for the people in urban areas of Kerala by giving a fallback employment source when other employment alternatives are scarce or inadequate. So, these are the various urban development and livelihood programs and schemes by the central and state governments of India. Shall we have a quick recap of what we have studied till now? Well. Basically, there are five programs focusing on urban development and three programs focusing on urban livelihood.

The urban development programs were JNNURM, Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart Cities Mission, AMRIT, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban. The main urban livelihood programs were the National Urban Livelihood Mission, State Poverty Eradication Mission, and the Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme. Now, even though the state and central governments have introduced several programs aimed at achieving sustainable cities and inclusive urbanization, there are some challenges like environmental degradation, resource scarcity, and the marginalization of communities that need to be addressed. So, this is all about urban development and livelihood programs by the state and central governments of India. In order to tackle these issues and to upgrade the quality of life of people, especially the urban workforce, the central and state governments have been actively introducing new schemes and reinventing existing ones to address these specific issues. So, shall we take a look at some of these schemes and programs? Alright. There are five major programs that focus on urban development. They are the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission or JNNURM, the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban, Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for

Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, also known as AMRUT, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban. Now, let us take a closer look at each of these programs. So, the first one is the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, or JNNURM. This mission was launched as a massive city modernization program by the Government of India in 2005. The mission has two components.

The first one is basic services for urban poor and the second one is integrated housing and slum development program. Both components are aimed at improving the quality of life of people by providing basic facilities and amenities. 63 cities were identified under this mission. The mission was closed in 2014 and it was succeeded by AMRIT. So, this is about Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

Now, moving on to the second one, that is the Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban. This mission, launched in 2014, aims at making urban India free from open defecation and achieving 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste in 4,041 statutory towns in the country. It also equips the urban local bodies to design, execute and operate sanitation systems. The Phase 1 of Swachh Bharat Mission was completed in 2019 and the Phase 2 is being implemented between the years 2020-21 and 2024-25 to cement the work of Phase 1.

So, we have discussed about two programs so far. The first one was JNNURM and the second one was Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban. Moving on. The third one is Smart Cities Mission. National Smart Cities Mission launched in 2015 is an urban renewal program by the government of India with the mission to develop smart cities across the country, making them citizen-friendly and sustainable.

The Union Ministry of Urban Development was responsible for implementing the mission in collaboration with the state governments of the respective cities. The mission initially included 100 cities with the deadline for completion of the project set between 2019 and 2023. The effective combined completion of the project is now at 11%. Moving on, the fourth one is Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, also known as AMRIT. AMRIT was launched by the Government of India in 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban renewal projects. AMRIT aims to support 500 cities having a population greater than 1 lakh. This scheme only covers 60% plus of Indian urban areas. And the government is actively considering a

follow-up scheme which will cover 100% of the urban areas. Moving on, the fifth one is Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban is a flagship mission of Government of India launched in 2015. The mission addresses urban housing shortage among economically weaker section, low-income groups and middle-income groups, categories including slum dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to all eligible urban households by the year 2022. Currently, more than 50 lakhs of houses have been constructed under this scheme. So, these are the main urban development programs and schemes by the central and state governments.

Now, let us take a look at major programs focused on improving the livelihoods of people in urban areas. The first one is the National Urban Livelihoods Mission. The second one is the State Poverty Eradication Mission. And the third one is the Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme. Now, let us discuss each of these programs in detail.

So, the first one is the National Urban Livelihoods Mission. The National Urban Livelihoods Mission, launched in 2013 under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, aims to reduce poverty and vulnerability among urban poor households. It enables them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities.