# The Governance of Urban Public Spaces in Historic City Vijayapur: In the Public Interest or in the Interest of Local Governance?

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Abstract: The paper talk on the space where people of the land are natural elements. specially in consideration of the urban areas where the life of urbanites is spar to get a space and place to breath so it is the responsibility of the local governance and authorities to provide the same. This also explains how a governance can be managed to achieve the goal of a good livable urban public spaces. This chapter discusses the implications of governance transfer processes in public spaces with evidence from Vijayapur. It deploys an analytical framework based on the notion of rights over public goods to reflect on how those arrangements shape the attributes that make up the public essence of those spaces and their publicness.

Keywords: governance, public, management, public realm, stakeholders, public-private partnerships

## 1. Introduction

This chapter discusses forms of urban public spaces and historic aspects of city with its local governance that are emerging in Vijayapur out of a rearrangement of governance responsibilities between local government, communities and private interests. This is not a phenomenon peculiar to Vijayapur. However, the city's size, its history of private and voluntary involvement in public space provision and management, and the multiplicity of stakes in those spaces make it a laboratory in which to observe how public space governance has responded to pressures on existing governance systems and to try to understand the full implications of those responses. Should we be concerned about the transfer of public space governance from elected local governments to organised groups of stakeholders? Does this make those spaces more private than public? What are the aggregate consequences of transferring public space governance to third parties for the city?

For some, direct stakeholder involvement in governance represents a more effective way of ensuring that towns and cities remain viable and competitive, with potentially more efficient, demand-sensitive and differentiated ways of delivering services and managing public spaces.

This chapter discusses the implications of governance transfer processes in public spaces with evidence from Vijayapur. It deploys an analytical framework based on the notion of rights over public goods to reflect on how those arrangements shape the attributes that make up the public essence of those spaces and their publicness.

## The Context: Declining Public Space Budgets and Increasingly Diverse Demands

The offloading of governance management and responsibility over public goods in general and public spaces in particular in the inner-city fort wall has a long history, The background has been the long process of redesign of the role of the state under a powerful mix of ideological aspirations for a reduced state and the move to adapt the economy and society to a better economy condition of the city. This process has been given a considerable push with the recent financial crisis and the austerity measures that have come to dominate many western economies Local authorities have used this devolution of power framework to transfer in part, or as a whole, governance and management responsibilities for local public services to interested parties in civil society, under what some have termed contractual governance For public spaces, this has been substantiated in many forms: in the proliferation of long leases to allow the transfer of public land containing, or designated to contain, parks and green space to not-for-profit trusts; in the increasing use of the right-to-manage legislation to transfer the management of local authority housing estates and their grounds to resident-led bodies; and in the use of public-private partnerships and private finance initiative mechanisms in build-operate-transfer contracts to secure private capital investment for redeveloping and managing public facilities.

Difference between Economic Development and Human Development

Economic Development	Human Development
1 The increase in income between two points of time is	1. Human development refers to the increase in capabilities to
referred to as economic development.	referred to as economic development. choose the best among
	the opportunities available to improve the life.
2 In this paradigm, people are conceived as means of	2 In this paradigm, people are regarded as means as well as
development; they are regarded as resource.	they are regarded as resource. ends of development; they are
	both the subjects and objects of development.
3 Increase in income is the sole indicator of the process of	3 The process of human development, apart from income-

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economic development. So, it can also be called income	indicator has in it people's capability-augmenting indicators
development.	such as literacy, education, health, gender equity, food
	security, self-dignity and so on.
4 Women are treated merely as biologically determined	4 Women are treated as social units. They are regarded as.
population units	both the subjects and objects to the process of development.
5 It is assumed that the increased income automatically	5 It is believed that it is only through conscious efforts that
translates itself into the lives of people.	increased income can be translated into the lives of people
6 Economic development is measured in terms of GDP or	6 Development is measured by a composite index of human
GNP. It is a unitary kind of concept	development (HDI) comprising three indicators namely,
	health, education and income
7 There is no scope for measuring women's development. It	7 Women's development is measured by Development Index
is a Related gender-neutral development paradigm.	(GDI). It is a gender-sensitive development paradigm

#### Development in which people matter most

The notion of human development, in which, besides income, people - living as well as unborn-and overall life matter, has found its best exposition in the writings of Mahbub-Ul-Haq, Amartys Sen and Jean Dreze and in the Human Development Reports (HDRs) of UNDP, and of the Human Development Centre of Pakistan. This does not mean that it is a new discovery; it is only being discovered

consciously, and is being made to acquire operational character. The idea that special arrangements must be judged by the extent to which they promote "Human good" dates back to Aristotle. (384-322 B. C). Aristotle is said to have argued that wealth is evidently not the good we are seeking. For, it is merely useful and for the sake of something else. In his opinion, a good political arrangement distinguishes itself from a bad one by its successes and failures in enabling people to lead "flourishing lives"



Political Map of Bijapur District : Jan 2006 Identical Not to Scale

#### Assessing publicness

There is good evidence of an increasing number of public spaces in Vijayapur governed through arrangements that diverge from the norm This has led to questions about how public they really are, manifest in recent policy concerns with the consequences of the proliferation of public spaces outside direct local government control This is reflected in turn in the popular press and informs the debate around a potential loss of 'publicness' caused by those governance

arrangements. However, assessing 'publicness' is not a straightforward matter. Most of the literature on the subject adopts a normative stance, centred on ideal models of publicness, against which individual spaces could be measured. The problem is that cities are made up of a vast array of public spaces performing different functions for different groups of people, with varying practical and symbolic meaning and significance, creating different stakes in those spaces and giving rise to a myriad of potential conflicts. There is only a weak rationale for the idea that a

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place such as large symbolic appeal and tradition of events and large demonstrations, should have its publicness measured with the same gauge as a small local park, used primarily by local elderly people, dog walkers and young mothers and their children. Moreover, whereas there are spaces that might be easily classified as fully public or fully private, for many more this is far more nuanced, and most will have attributes that might exhibit different degrees of publicness or privateness.

## 2. Conclusions

This chapter has looked at a few cases of emerging arrangements for the governance and management of public spaces in Vijayapur to explore their potential implications for publicness. The first observation is that most of the debate so far about changes in public space governance in Vijayapur and elsewhere has insisted on linking the offloading of governance to third parties to an increase in corporate power and privatisation. This might hold true in some new public spaces resulting from large urban regeneration projects, especially in the so-called POPS. However, the exclusive focus on potential corporate control has ignored the subtler and finer-grained process of negotiation over the rights that make up publicness in existing public spaces and therefore fails to incorporate a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between different communities of stakeholders, elected government and society. As the four cases suggest, the disengagement of local government from public space management in Vijayapur seems to be leading to a complex and varied process of reallocation of different rights over publicness attributes, creating a landscape of multiple 'publicness's' catering to diverse groups of interests, rather than a narrow contraposition between public and private, or between individual and corporate.

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