

Efficiency of Existing Land Use Planning Practices for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: A Study of Mysore City Master Plan 2031

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ABSTRACT

Land use planning has historically been seen as the primary legal mechanism by which Indian cities manage expansion, distribute infrastructure, and reconcile conflicting demands on urban land. Following the implementation of the 2031 Agenda for Sustainable Development, master plans are now anticipated to extend beyond merely overseeing physical expansion; they are required to actualize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the urban level. This study evaluates the effectiveness of current land use planning methodologies in India by analyzing the Revised Master Plan (Revision-II) 2031 developed by the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) for the Mysore-Nanjangud Local Planning Area. Through a comprehensive examination of the master plan report and land use proposals, this paper delineates specific planning stipulations — including housing distribution, the Eco Planning District, transportation initiatives, heritage preservation regulations, and economic zoning — in relation to the pertinent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), primarily SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and assesses the degree to which the technical land use framework of the plan can achieve SDG-compliant results. The research indicates that although the Master Plan 2031 incorporates numerous elements aligned with SDG objectives, especially regarding housing, heritage, and green/blue infrastructure, it is deficient in explicit SDG indicators, monitoring systems, climate risk evaluations, and participatory processes as advocated by the New Urban Agenda and NITI Aayog's SDG localization framework. The study determines that the effectiveness of current land use planning in fulfilling the SDGs is limited and mostly coincidental, rather than intentional, and it suggests a series of strategies including indicator-based monitoring, SDG-specific development control regulations, and enhanced public engagement to better align statutory master plans with the 2031 Agenda.

Keywords: land use planning; Sustainable Development Goals; master plan; Mysore; urban planning; SDG localisation; SDG 11.

INTRODUCTION

The strategic planning of land utilization is vital for encouraging sustainable urban growth, assuring harmonious economic development, ecological safeguarding, and social fairness. Established land use planning mechanisms are crucial for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). This dialog integrates worldwide perspectives and frameworks to assess the possibilities and difficulties of existing land use planning efficiency in supporting SDGs within urban settings, delivering pertinent insights for the Mysore City Master Plan 2031 context.

Urban locales provide both the source and the venue for confronting most of the difficulties encapsulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations (2015) formulated 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 goals, among which SDG 11 clearly demands that cities and human settlements be transformed into inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable environments. The 2030 Agenda is a universal framework instead of a compilation of city-specific regulations, making its realization dependent on national

and sub-national instruments, with India predominantly translating this through statutory master plans, development plans, and town planning schemes formulated under state Town and Country Planning statutes (Government of Karnataka, 1961). City governments widely consider land use planning to be the most significant instrument for achieving sustainable development, as it establishes residential areas, permits economic activities, allocates land for open spaces and ecological considerations, and configures transport and infrastructure networks (SDG Resource Center). UN-Habitat's International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning delineate planning as a public-interest activity that ought to integrate the economic, social, environmental, and cultural dimensions of sustainability (UN-Habitat, 2015), with the New Urban Agenda later affirming the centrality of urban planning in the localization of SDGs at the city level (UN-Habitat, 2016). The evolution of India's urban planning system is significantly rooted in the 1961 Town and Country Planning model, which was formulated over fifty years before to the SDG framework and aimed primarily at regulating land use rather than evaluating sustainability impacts. This highlights the important question tackled in this study: to what extent are the land use planning processes enshrined in prevailing statutory master plans competent to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, and what are the identified gaps? The article explores this question through a targeted case study of the Mysore Urban Development Authority's Revised Master Plan (Revision-II) 2031 for the Mysore-Nanjangud Local Planning Area, which manages a heritage city expected to have a population of roughly 2.1 million by 2031 (Mysore Urban Development Authority, 2013).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

An extensive and increasing array of studies associates land use planning with the realization of the SDGs. In their survey-based research on Greek government leaders, Kalfas, Kalogiannidis, Chatzitheodoridis, and Toska (2023) identified a statistically significant positive association between urbanization quality metrics, integrated land use approaches, and the success of sustainable development outcomes, concluding that compact design, managed urban expansion, and disaster-aware land management are essential for SDG fulfillment. Their conclusions reinforce the broader notion that land use planning transcends a neutral technical function, serving as a dynamic mechanism for the realization of SDGs, particularly those associated with sustainable agriculture, affordable energy, and resilient urban areas (SDG Resource Center, n.d.). In a comparative content analysis of the master plans for Chicago, São Paulo, and Delhi concerning SDG 11, Teklemariam (2022) discovered that the level of public participation integrated into the planning process was a crucial factor in determining whether a plan was equity-focused and aligned with SDGs; among the cities examined, Delhi's master plan process demonstrated comparatively weaker public engagement strategies. This result holds importance for the ongoing study since it implies that the success of Indian master plans in fulfilling the SDGs cannot be judged exclusively by land use allocation, but should also incorporate the participatory framework that facilitated the plan's creation.

According to UN-Habitat (2015, 2016), national urban policies and city master plans are vital for the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs, as indicator 11.3.1 directly evaluates the ratio of land consumption to population growth, which can only be monitored through land use planning data. Watson (2009) indicates that planning systems rooted in colonial and mid-twentieth-century traditions within the Global South often continue to displace or marginalize the urban poor, even while professing sustainability, a caution that is particularly relevant to slum-free city proposals such as those in the Mysore Master Plan. Within the Indian framework, NITI Aayog has assumed a pivotal role in adapting the SDGs to urban settings. The SDG India Index (NITI Aayog, 2021) together with the recently announced SDG Urban Index and Dashboard, developed in partnership with Germany's GIZ, assesses cities using 77 indicators related to 46 SDG targets, designed to bolster SDG monitoring at the urban level (NITI Aayog & GIZ, 2021). A study on the Sustainable Development Goals and their application in urban planning across Indian states indicated that national programs such as AMRUT, PMAY, and HRIDAY act as the principal mechanisms through which investments related to the SDGs are directed to cities, even when the master plan documents do not explicitly cite the SDGs. This corresponds with the overarching conclusion in the literature that SDG integration in Indian urban planning generally transpires indirectly through sector-specific missions, instead of through the master plan as a singular spatial tool.

Classical planning theory supplies further background for the interpretation of these discoveries. Lynch (1981) asserted that an optimal city structure must be intelligible, vibrant, and suitably adapted to the needs of its populace, standards that foreshadow multiple SDG 11 goals concerning inclusivity and livability, while Healey (1997) advocated for a collaborative planning approach where legitimacy arises from inclusive stakeholder deliberation, a principle mirrored in UN-Habitat's commitment to participatory planning. Hall and Tewdwr-Jones (2020) outline the development of statutory planning systems from land use control to an expansive approach to spatial and sustainability governance, a journey that Indian master plans, such as the one scrutinized in this study, have only partially achieved.

Urban Land Use Planning and SDGs Alignment

The importance of spatial planning frameworks in incorporating the SDG agenda into local development initiatives is gaining recognition. Initiatives in Europe concentrate on embedding the 2030 Agenda within spatial development through inclusive governance and multi-level partnerships, despite obstacles in aligning global aims with local realities (David et al., 2024). This highlights the need for versatile, context-dependent methodologies that weave normative sustainability ideals into land use frameworks. In addition, municipal and regional administration initiatives must ensure that policy priorities are in harmony with the SDGs. Investigations into municipal governance in Brazil highlight the imperative for increased political resolve and the inclusion of climate change aspects into land use and development frameworks (Carvalho et al., 2024). This emphasizes the crucial importance of governance systems in augmenting planning efficiency.

Assessment Frameworks for Sustainable Planning

The incorporation of sustainability into spatial planning necessitates strong evaluation techniques. In peri-urban regions, spatial sustainability assessment frameworks that integrate GIS and multi-criteria analyzes facilitate the concurrent evaluation of social, economic, and environmental aspects (De Toro et al., 2023). These instruments are essential for reconciling the compromises involved in urban growth and infrastructural advancement, guaranteeing that land use fosters enduring resilience and fairness. Furthermore, synchronizing land use strategies with overarching sustainable development initiatives, such as the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals, necessitates thorough mapping and collaborative integration methods (Koundouri et al., 2021). These techniques provide a more transparent understanding of the alignment between urban policies and global sustainability obligations, allowing for modifications that enhance unity and effectiveness.

Participatory and Inclusive Planning Approaches

The effectiveness of sustainability planning is improved by participative techniques that consider community priorities and local expertise. Studies conducted in rural Australian regions indicate that the participation of community members in the joint formulation of sustainability initiatives associated with the SDGs strengthens advocacy and encourages socially just urban expansion (Szetey et al., 2021). The incorporation of participatory frameworks into urban master plans, exemplified by Mysore, can promote tactics that are locally relevant and enhance ownership.

Participatory and Inclusive Planning Approaches

Sustainability planning benefits from participatory methods that incorporate community priorities and local knowledge. Research in rural Australian communities demonstrates that engaging inhabitants in co-creating sustainability plans aligned with SDGs empowers advocacy and promotes socially equitable urban growth (Szetey et al., 2021). Extending such participatory frameworks to urban master plans, such as in Mysore, can foster locally pertinent strategies and ownership.

Challenges and Obstacles in Existing Practices

A variety of issues restrict the success of land use planning in furthering SDGs. China's assessment of urban development quality emphasizes spatial efficiency and industrial structure as essential limiting variables

(Song et al., 2021). These restrictions imply that the simple allocation of land uses, without tackling the foundational economic and physical frameworks, may impair planning effectiveness. In addition, resolving the conflicts between global SDG initiatives and local administrative competencies is challenging, particularly under conformative planning systems that exhibit poor governance (David et al., 2024). The master plan for Mysore is expected to confront comparable difficulties, demanding adjustments for greater local governance and agency coordination to bolster plan effectiveness.

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Challenges and Obstacles in Existing Practices

Several challenges limit the efficacy of land use planning in advancing SDGs. China's urban development quality assessment highlights spatial efficiency and industrial structure as critical limiting factors (Song et al., 2021). These constraints suggest that mere designation of land uses without addressing underlying economic and infrastructural patterns may reduce planning effectiveness.

Furthermore, reconciling tensions between global SDG formulations and local administrative capacities remains complex, particularly in conformative planning systems with weak governance (David et al., 2024). Mysore's master plan likely faces similar issues, requiring adaptations for stronger local agency and governance coherence to enhance plan outcomes.

Opportunities for Strengthening Land Use Planning Efficacy

Spatial planning can adeptly harness an array of policy instruments, comprising rules ("sticks"), incentives ("carrots"), and guidance ("sermons") to facilitate and track SDGs (David et al., 2024). Fusing these tactics into Mysore's master plan might elevate policy coherence, responsiveness, and engagement with stakeholders. The deliberate inclusion of SDGs inside municipal strategic initiatives facilitates local governments in articulating distinct, communicable sustainability targets, bolstering planning and management procedures (Guarini et al., 2021). The adoption of these managerial paradigms in Mysore might augment strategic lucidity and the supervision of execution processes.

Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Urban Development

A commonly disregarded element that impacts the sustainability of land use planning is the assimilation of cultural heritage into urban growth. Valuing cultural heritage as a diverse resource promotes the inclusion and resilience of urban initiatives, along with SDG targets of sustainable communities (Hosagrahar et al., 2016). Mysore, celebrated for its profound cultural legacy, may capitalize on this characteristic to develop sustainable urban identity and tourism while furthering environmental aims.

Statement of the Problem

In India master plans notably the Mysore-Nanjangud Master Plan 2031, are mostly developed as land utilization and development governance documents in accordance with a planning law that was established long before the Sustainable Development Goals framework. Land is categorized into residential, commercial, industrial, public/semi-public, transportation, agricultural, and ecological sectors based on expected population and traditional planning standards, yet the plan does not directly address the SDGs, does not outline SDG-associated indicators or targets, and lacks a monitoring system to evaluate its contribution to the 2030 Agenda. This generates a division between the core substance of the plan, which is predominantly in harmony with SDG goals, and its potential for verification, oversight, and reporting as a

mechanism for SDG implementation. This study tackles the question of efficacy: can a standard land use master plan, produced without a specific SDG framework, effectively facilitate the achievement of the SDGs, and if it fails to do so, what precise shortcomings impede that efficacy?

Objectives of the Study

- To analysis the land utilization planning structure implemented in the Mysore-Nanjangud Master Plan (Revision-II) 2031.
- To align the primary land utilization and development regulation stipulations of the Master Plan with the pertinent Sustainable Development Goals and objectives.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of current land use planning methodologies in tackling SDG 11 and associated objectives relating to housing, transportation, heritage, ecological, and economic advancement.
- To discern the deficiencies in the existing planning methodology that hinder its effectiveness in advancing the 2031 Agenda.
- To propose strategies for enhancing the coherence of statutory master plans with Sustainable Development Goal localization frameworks in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative, document-centric case study methodology. The principal source document is the Revised Master Plan (Revision-II) 2031 for the Mysore-Nanjangud Local Planning Area, Volume II: Land Use and Transportation Proposals, compiled by SAI Consulting Engineers Pvt. Ltd. for the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA, 2013). The land utilization proposals, demographic forecasts, planning district information, and transportation initiatives included in this document were gathered and organized for examination. These regulations were subsequently analyzed using a content-mapping process in relation to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their respective aims, employing the comparative content-analysis technique utilized by Teklemariam (2022) in his examination of master plans in Chicago, São Paulo, and Delhi. Secondary sources, such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda (United Nations, 2015), the New Urban Agenda (UN-Habitat, 2016), the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (UN-Habitat, 2015), and the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and SDG Urban Index reports (NITI Aayog, 2021; NITI Aayog & GIZ, 2021), were utilized to define the normative standards for evaluating the master plan's provisions. The examination is confined to the released Master Plan report and excludes original survey data from people or officials inside the planning region; this constraint is recognized in the final section.

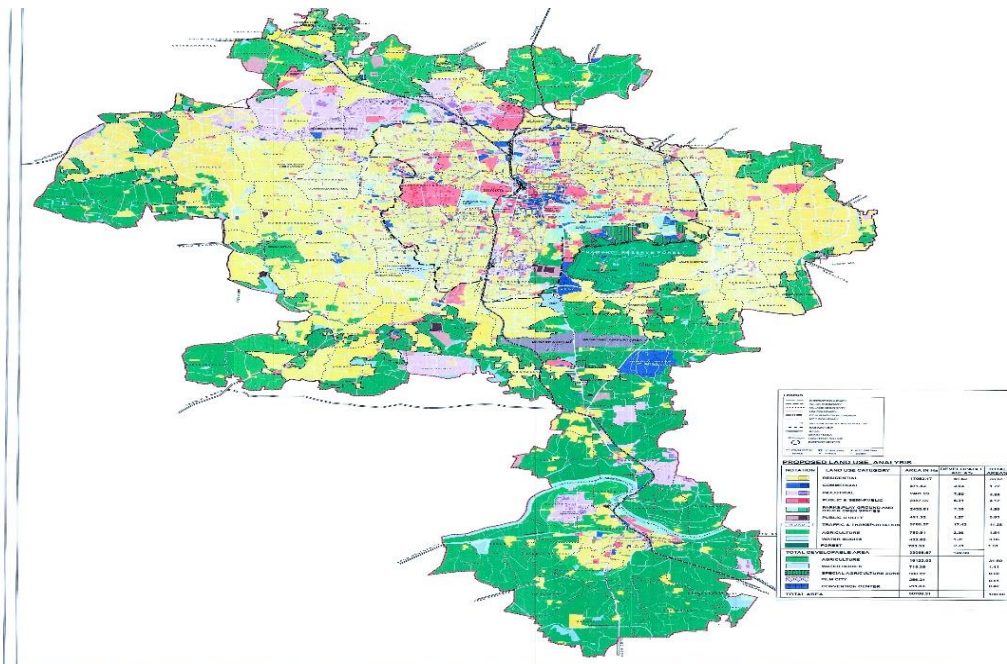
Study Area: Mysore-Nanjangud Local Planning Area

Mysore the second largest city in Karnataka and a former princely capital, now acts as a divisional headquarters, with a population of roughly 1.014 million according to the 2011 Census (MUDA, 2013). The city is celebrated as a heritage, cultural, royal, and garden city, and was evaluated as the second cleanest city in India in a 2010 poll included in the master plan document. The Mysore-Nanjangud Local Planning Area, under the jurisdiction of MUDA as the mandated planning authority per the Karnataka Urban Development Authorities Act of 1987, covers an area of approximately 507 square kilometers and is organized into 45 planning districts, which includes a distinct Eco Planning District (PD-9) that incorporates the Chamundi Hills. The Master Plan 2031 estimates that Mysore city's population would expand to over 21.00 lakh by 2031, and the total population of the Local Planning Area, which includes Nanjangud town, is anticipated to be 23.77 lakh (MUDA, 2013). To facilitate this increase, the scheme recommends a total urban expanse of 292.42 square kilometers for Mysore city, within which land distribution is summarized in Table 1.

Land Use Category	Area (Ha)	% of Total Area
Residential	15,735.06	53.81
Commercial	800.88	2.74
Industrial	1,812.70	6.20
Public / Semi-Public	1,981.33	6.78
Public Utility	192.48	0.66
Open Space	1,611.62	5.51
Traffic & Transport	4,568.26	15.62
Agriculture	1,098.16	3.76
Waterbody	372.68	1.27
Forest	763.92	2.61
Special Agricultural Zone	305.41	1.04
Total	29,242.51	100.00

Table 1: Revised Master Plan (Revision-II) 2031, Volume II (MUDA, 2013).

Source: Compiled by authors.



The table illustrates that residential areas represent over fifty percent of the anticipated conurbation space, while traffic and transportation infrastructure accounts for upwards of fifteen percent, demonstrating the plan's commitment to supporting future population increases and mobility demands. Crucially, no new land has been earmarked for industrial utilization beyond current holdings, and the plan distinctly states that the existing vacant residential land is expected to accommodate demand even beyond 2031, illustrating a

compact-development philosophy that aligns with SDG target 11.3 on inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

Figure: 1 study area Map

Source: MUDA, Master plan 2031

Mapping Master Plan Provisions against the SDGs

Table 2 delineates the key substantive elements of the Mysore-Nanjangud Master Plan 2031 in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) they most closely align with. This mapping endeavor employs the content-analysis methodology utilized in comparative examinations of master plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (Teklemariam, 2022) and references the SDG target list released by the United Nations (2015).

Master Plan 2031 Provision	Related SDG(s)	Nature of Linkage
Slum-free city proposal and residential land allocation (53.81% of conurbation area)	SDG 1, SDG 11	Directly addresses target 11.1 on adequate, safe and affordable housing; poverty-linked shelter deprivation.
Eco Planning District (PD-9) for Chamundi Hills; forest and waterbody zoning (763.92 Ha forest, 372.68 Ha waterbody)	SDG 6, SDG 13, SDG 15	Supports ecosystem and watershed protection, climate resilience and terrestrial biodiversity conservation.
Special Agricultural Zone and retention of agricultural land (305.41 Ha) within the conurbation	SDG 2, SDG 15	Preserves peri-urban food-producing land, partially aligned with sustainable agriculture targets.
Traffic and transportation network, Mono Rail corridor, parking and pedestrian facilities (15.62% of area)	SDG 9, SDG 11	Contributes to resilient infrastructure and target 11.2 on safe, affordable and sustainable transport systems.
District Centres and decentralisation of Central Business District functions	SDG 8, SDG 11	Supports inclusive economic growth and reduces congestion-related inefficiencies in the urban core.
Heritage conservation, Special Control Areas and Development Control Regulations for monuments	SDG 11 (target 11.4)	Protects cultural and natural heritage as mandated under the global urban sustainability agenda.
Land allocation for IT, Bio-Technology, tourism and household industries	SDG 8, SDG 9	Seeks to diversify the economic base and generate employment through non-polluting activities.
Public utility and public/semi-public land for health, education and civic amenities (6.78%)	SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 11	Provides the spatial basis for universal access to health and education infrastructure.

Table 2: Author's analysis based on provisions described in the Revised Master Plan (Revision-II) 2031 (MUDA, 2013) and the SDG framework (United Nations, 2015).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Housing and the Slum-Free City Objective

The Master Plan distinctly commits to the aim of rendering Mysore a slum-free urban area, aligning with the federal government's strategy to proclaim at least ten Indian cities as free from slums (MUDA, 2013). This aim is directly connected to SDG target 11.1, which demands access to appropriate, safe, and reasonably priced housing for all individuals. Nevertheless, the proposal lacks a defined numerical baseline for slum inhabitants, a resettlement timetable, or a criterion for evaluating progress toward the slum-free aim, which restricts the ability to independently validate its contribution to SDG 11.1. This conclusion corroborates Watson's (2009) admonition that planning systems might utilize the discourse of inclusive housing while failing to incorporate the monitoring mechanisms essential for evidencing effects.

Ecological and Heritage Conservation

The establishment of a specialized Eco Planning District for the Chamundi Hills, alongside the preservation of forest (763.92 Ha), waterbody (372.68 Ha), and Special Agricultural Zone (305.41 Ha) property within the urban area, is one of the more significant SDG-aligned elements of the plan. These distributions align with SDG 15 (Life on Land) and, to a lesser degree, SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), as the preservation of forests and aquatic ecosystems fosters biodiversity conservation and local climate management. In a like manner, the establishment of Special Control Areas surrounding historical monuments and heritage sites, supported by specific Development Control Regulations, directly addresses SDG target 11.4 concerning the preservation of global cultural and natural assets. These results indicate that the areas of heritage and ecological conservation are where current land use planning most closely aligns with Sustainable Development Goal terminology, despite the plan being established prior to and not referencing the SDG framework.

Transportation and Mobility

The Mysore urban conurbation region allocates 15.62 percent for traffic and transportation infrastructure, proposing a future Mono Rail corridor, multi-level parking, pedestrian subways, and geometric renovation of crossings (MUDA, 2013). These suggestions pertain to SDG goal 11.2, which emphasizes the necessity for safe, cheap, accessible, and sustainable transport systems, alongside SDG 9 related to resilient infrastructure. Nevertheless, the transportation strategies proposed in the plan are mainly centered on increasing capacity and mitigating congestion, rather than prioritizing emissions reduction, modal shift goals, or accessibility for disabled individuals, indicating that the sustainability component of SDG 11.2 is only somewhat incorporated in the plan's technical framework.

Economic Activity and Employment

The strategy designates land for Information Technology, Bio-Technology, tourism ventures, and domestic industries, clearly categorizing these as environmentally friendly economic pursuits aimed at diversifying Mysore's economic foundation (MUDA, 2013). This aligns with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). The choice to refrain from designating further industrial land, opting instead for unoccupied areas inside the current Thandavapura industrial park, demonstrates a level of land-use efficiency aligned with SDG indicator 11.3.1 regarding the proportion of land consumption to population increase.

Absence of Explicit SDG Architecture

Regardless of the prior alignments, the master plan document does not reference the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda, or the New Urban Agenda at any stage. There is an absence of an SDG indicator framework within

the plan, no baseline-target-monitoring structure similar to that of the NITI Aayog SDG India Index or SDG Urban Index (NITI Aayog, 2021; NITI Aayog & GIZ, 2021), and no designated institutional mechanism for the periodic review of the plan's implementation in relation to SDGs. The public involvement procedure detailed in the plan's preface, featuring formal and informal interactions with the Development Authority, elected leaders, the Institution of Engineers, and citizens, is less comprehensive than the participatory approaches noted in comparative studies of Chicago and São Paulo's master plans, which incorporated structured, multi-stage public engagement within the planning process itself (Teklemariam, 2022). This corroborates the widespread conclusion in the literature that the alignment of SDGs at the urban level in India generally occurs indirectly, through national missions that are integrated with the master plan, rather than employing the master plan as a singular, measurable SDG-execution framework (Sustainable Development Goals and Their Incorporation in Urban Planning).

Gaps in Existing Planning Practice

- Lack of a defined SDG reference framework or indicator set in the official master plan document.
- There is an absence of foundational data, objectives, or a monitoring timetable to assess SDG-related initiatives, including the goal of a slum-free city, throughout the duration of the plan.
- Insufficient incorporation of climate risk evaluation and disaster resilience strategies, notwithstanding Karnataka's vulnerability to flooding and various climate-related pressures highlighted in national SDG-urban documentation.
- Participatory planning procedures are more limited in both breadth and profundity compared to those found in comparative worldwide and national master plans.
- No institutional connection has been discerned between the master plan and the reporting framework of NITI Aayog's SDG India Index or SDG Urban Index.
- Sustainability factors are included implicitly within land use distribution (such as ecological zoning) instead of being explicitly supported by certain SDG objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the aforementioned results, the document presents the further recommendations for enhancing the coherence of statutory master plans, particularly future amendments to the Mysore-Nanjangud Master Plan, with the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Master plans ought to include a distinct section for cross-referencing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aligns each significant land use proposal with the relevant SDG targets it aims to promote, adhering to the mapping methodology demonstrated in Table 2 of this document.
- Planning authorities have to implement quantifiable metrics, utilizing the NITI Aayog SDG Urban Index approach, to monitor advancements in housing, land utilization efficiency (SDG indicator 11.3.1), vegetation coverage, and transportation mode distribution throughout the planning duration.
- Development Control Regulations ought to be routinely assessed in relation to SDG-related benchmarks instead of solely conventional planning standards.
- Public engagement methods ought to be expanded beyond formal presentations to elected officials and professional organizations to incorporate organized public consultations at the planning-district level, in alignment with the collaborative planning framework (Healey, 1997).

- State Town and Country Planning law ought to be revised to mandate the explicit incorporation of the SDGs and climate resilience in the formulation and updating of master plans.
- A specialized SDG monitoring unit ought to be formed within urban development agencies to facilitate the alignment of reporting between the master plan and national and state SDG metrics.

CONCLUSION

This research aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of current land use planning methodologies in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals, utilizing the Mysore-Nanjangud Master Plan (Revision-II) 2031 as a case study. The examination reveals that the strategy encompasses a significant array of stipulations about housing, heritage preservation, ecological zoning, transportation, and economic diversification, which align closely with various SDG objectives, especially those under SDG 11. In this regard, the current land use planning practices in Mysore are not detached from the essence of the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, the plan's effectiveness as a tool for realizing the SDGs is limited by the lack of a clear SDG framework, quantifiable indicators, oversight systems, and adequately profound participation processes. The congruence between the master plan and the SDGs is primarily coincidental, resulting from the intersection of established planning concepts with the sustainability agenda, rather than the plan being specifically crafted as a mechanism for achieving the SDGs. Enhancing this alignment necessitates legislative reform to explicitly incorporate SDG considerations into the Town and Country Planning framework, alongside institutional reform to link master plan execution with national and state SDG monitoring systems like the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and SDG Urban Index. Subsequent investigations might broaden this examination via direct surveys of planning authorities and inhabitants, as well as through a comparative analysis of master plans from other cities in Karnataka, to ascertain if the trend of unintentional rather than intentional SDG alignment noted in Mysore is prevalent in Indian statutory planning practices.

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