



**Centre for the Study of Law and Governance
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi-110067**

Outline of Optional Course

LG 629 Urban Governance I: Definitions and Concepts

This course will engage the students in exploring various facets of urban governance. We will begin with exploring some of the main approaches and unpacking definitions and concepts which will lead towards a better understanding of the processes and patterns of urbanisation. This will be followed by analysing the causes behind the current urban crisis, both in the international (brief synopsis) and Indian context; an assessment of key stakeholders and their roles; and finally the mechanisms adopted by State and other development agencies towards improving the general quality of urban governance.

I. Definition and concepts of urban governance

- What is urban governance?
- How similar or dissimilar is it to urban planning and management?
- Understanding the larger processes of urbanisation

II. The Urban problematic- taking stock and addressing the challenges

- Condition of public services in cities-especially in developing countries.
- Reasons behind the poor distribution and quality of urban services

III. Who are the players?

- Understanding the form, condition, challenges and limitations of:
 - Urban local government
 - Civil Society- NGOs, CBOs, Academia, Media, Consumer forums etc.
 - Private (corporate) agencies
 - The Donor community

IV. Modes of engagement of the players

- Political (electoral) participation
- Popular (civic) participation
- Mixed forms of participation, Political will: progressive legislation for urban decentralisation
- International examples of recent legislation for better governance: case studies from countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Mozambique, South Africa, India and the Philippines
- Detailed study of Indian urban legislation: 74th Constitutional Amendment Act- provisions in the Act, list of activities, critique

VI. Mechanisms for change

- Transparency
 - i. Definition
 - ii. Quality and content of public information
 - iii. Issues regarding Right to Information

- iv. Sources (channels) of information dissemination
- v. Mechanism to operationalise transparency
- Accountability
 - i. Definition
 - ii. Various levels of accountability (such as bureaucrat to elected representative, bureaucrat to citizens and elected representative to citizens)
 - iii. Mechanism to operationalise accountability
- Collaboration- synergy
 - i. Definition
 - ii. Forms of collaboration (within and across sectors)
 - iii. Segregated look at the role of different players in collaborative projects
 - iv. Mechanisms to operationalise/initiate collaborative ventures