

EDITORIAL



This issue presents the second collection of papers chosen from the first digital ICCPP conference held in 2020, which requested the participants to examine the issue of the Covid-19 and its impact on cities. Needless to say that this impact has been huge, not least because Covid is a global pandemic, but also that both India and Sri Lanka have seen the worst. People have been seriously affected and there appears to be no resolution in sight. Hence, it has not made it easy for the participants to conduct research in the cities during this time. So much so, the ICCPP-2021 has been abandoned.

The first paper by Netal Subhash Chandak, Harshwardhan, P. & Nagpure, examine how people re-establish the relationship between urban structure and humanizing aspects of Indian cities after the Covid-19 pandemic. Looking at the case of Delhi, India, they argue that the pandemic has undermined the roots of humanizing aspects in shaping the urban structure. However, people have carved their own ways to sustain life, sparking a concern about how urban structure will remain humanized dealing with the contradicting values like social disconnection and community disintegration emerging as the new normal.

The paper by Vanshikha Praveen Singh, Harshwardhan, P. and Nagpure look deeply into the threshold spaces as communal anchoring nodes in super diverse communities combating the Covid-19 Pandemic. Focusing on the case of Kumbharwada, India, they point out how community participation in Dharavi has emerged as a concrete prototype for social distancing and contact tracing to curtail the impact at a large scale. They point out that the cohesive threshold spaces are effectively utilized through community participation to combat the pandemic today and in future producing a successful model.

Buddhi Chathuranjeli De Silva, Nihal Perera, and Nandika Denipitiya do not appear to be disturbed by the pandemic. Instead, they focus their attention to the emerging green buildings in Sri Lanka. Looking at the vegetated building facades and their contribution to environmental sustainability, they show that with the demand for sustainability, green walls now appear on clients' requirement lists but mostly as visual and aesthetic representations. These requests of clients, what architects provide, and what is built, indeed, question the meaningfulness of the vertical gardens.

Hafsa Imtiaz has been disturbed by the state of terrorism in Pakistan for quite some time and in this issue, we finally bring his paper to fruition. Examining the relations between city and terrorism, he evaluates the impact of terror on urban culture and the fabric of Lahore, Pakistan. He shows how the urban fabric has reacted to the alarming levels of terror bomb blasts, leading to fear, panic, as well as physical transformations of the fabric of the city. A better understanding of the built fabric and the society is required to secure the city for future generations. He points out that the elements added to the city in response create further paranoia instead of a secure environment.

In a refreshing article, Hapuarachchi S.P. and Kariyawasam S.S. look completely away from the city. They are perturbed by the plantation areas of Sri Lanka, in the hill country and how the estate workers' housing provision is affected by the state policies. Hence, they offer an evaluation of the housing policies related to the plantation housing in Sri Lanka, and suggest that policies must pay attention to the tea productions as well as housing provision.

Overall, this issue throws light on an interesting array of issues that relate both to the cities in distress either due to the pandemic or the permanent threats of terrorism as well the quiet countryside unaffected by the happenings in the cities.

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