

People's Vision Document for Mumbai's Development Plan

Summary

1. Proposals for Housing

The people's vision document promotes "housing for one and all" and the Government needs to play a more proactive role to provide for the poor rather than producing housing for profiteering and relying on and facilitating the "market."

Some important recommendations

1. Reservation of land below existing informal settlements for Public Housing.
2. Slum improvement and providing adequate services and amenities for slum and pavement dwellers.
3. Reservation of 60 % for EWS and LIG in any Housing development in Mumbai.
4. Slum redevelopment to be undertaken by state agency as against private developers.

2. Proposals for Education

The right to education being one of the fundamental rights in our country, the severe shortfall and unequal distribution of schools, high dropout rates, poor infrastructural standards and privatization of education system in the city requires that state run school mechanisms be strengthened to ensure access to education to the most marginal and vulnerable groups.

Some important recommendations

1. Reservations for both primary and secondary schools in the DP; at least 2797 as against the present 1249 primary and 49 secondary schools with requisite infrastructure, facilities and safety standards.
2. Primary and secondary schools to be within 1 and 3 km walking radius respectively.
3. There should reservation for schools in informal settlements which should not be left out of the educational system.

3. Proposals for Health

Considering the present skewed and non equitable distribution of health services in the city, privatization and low standards for the lower rung of health care facilities which are able to reach only 30% of the poor, the DP should be based on the principle of universal access to health care regardless of income levels, social status, gender etc. Moreover, a comprehensive range of curative, symptomatic, preventive and promotive health services should be made available at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of health care.

Some important recommendations

1. 1500 dispensaries are to be provided as against the current 340 in the city and Swasthiya chowkies to be provided in informal settlements having a population more than 10,000.
2. According to standards, 250 UHC's need to be provided as against the presently existing 4.
3. According to standards there should be 300 maternity homes as opposed to 28 which currently exist.

4. Proposals for transport

In Mumbai more than 85% of people commuting in the city use public transport. Hence it is imperative that immediate actions are undertaken to strengthen the existing overstretched public transport system as opposed to merely proposing new infrastructure for private vehicles such as sea-links and coastal roads which often require huge investments and environmental costs and are then under-utilised benefitting less than 1% percent of the population, apart from adding to congestion and pollution levels in the city and incurring severe environmental and social impacts on coastal ecologies and communities.

Some important recommendations

1. Adopting Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and initiating BRTS (Bus Rapid Transit System) to reduce the road traffic considerably and increase pedestrian friendly transit areas. DCR needs to be altered and policy recommendations to be made to study and promote TOD in Mumbai.
2. DCRs that promote parking and car usage, by promoting free parking spaces for additional FSI, e.g. DCR 33(24) and DCR 33(36) need to be scrapped and DCRs for parking requirements should be altered to de-promote car usage as is being implemented in cities like New York and Hong Kong.
3. To ensure safe and convenient walk ability to pedestrians: connectivity of pedestrian infrastructure to major origin and destination locations must be studied and implemented with amendment of DCRs to include the pavement and street guidelines,

5. Proposals for waste management

One of the most visible problems in the city is the mishandling of waste as only a fraction of the waste gets segregated and recycled, whatever little is made possible by an invisible set of people working in unorganized and hazardous conditions - “the waste-pickers” who are disadvantaged, exploited by middle-men and looked down upon by citizens and the state. There is a need to look to for planning solutions and alternative to the unsustainable, centralized system employed by the BMC in the city and the introduction of decentralised systems focussed on recycling and reuse where waste is considered a resource in an effort to move towards a more sustainable eco-productive city.

Some important recommendations

1. Provision of decentralized waste sorting, composting units, community urban farms and biogas plants; reservations to be made for these in the D.P. Some area within existing open spaces in the city to be reserved for composting and regeneration of soil.
2. To allot at least 2000 sq m area for sorting sheds in every administrative ward.
3. Formalization of the workforce; to run this system, waste picker organizations should be looped in. This system will be able to accommodate all the current informal waste-pickers, assure them better pay, better working conditions and move towards a better and more dignified alternative livelihood.

6. Proposals for open spaces

Mumbai has an average of around 1.1 sq m or 0.03 acre of open space per 1000 persons which is far less than the ideal ratio of open spaces suggested by the the National Commission on Urbanisation (1988) (i.e. 4 acres per 1,000 persons), but the problem lies not only in the percentage of available open space as in the access to these limited available spaces which in the recent past are increasingly becoming privatized and exclusive to the upper classes. The proposed DP should ensure improvement in access to open spaces and formulate policies to maximize the optimum use of the scarce open space that the city has.

Some important recommendations:

1. ELU to be corrected: at least 973 acres of the mangroves, forests and other ecologically sensitive areas mapped wrongly in the ELU survey, and ambiguity in the categorization of land uses can result in opening up the land to various forms of development.
2. A clear distinction needs to be made in the DP between natural areas and open spaces. Open spaces are meant for public use and recreation. Though beaches also have public access they are natural areas and need to be marked as a separate category. The beaches in front of koliwadras which are used for fishing and ancillary activities related to coastal livelihoods needs to be safeguarded for this use and reserved for primary activity.
3. Mapping of private and public open spaces clearly and a policy to open the private elite clubs and gymkhanas to the public.
4. The city needs to have a set hierarchy of open spaces and each have different degrees of accessibility at the local, ward and city levels. And while making reservations the hierarchy has to be maintained and reservations have to be made at every level.

7. Child – Friendly Mumbai

The concept of “child friendly cities” ensures that city governments consistently make decisions in the best interests of children and that the city is a place where children’s rights to a healthy, caring, protective, educative, stimulating, non-discriminating, inclusive, culturally rich environment is taken care. India is UNCRC signatory and it has not initiated any steps in formulating guidelines for local bodies to frame laws and guidelines in ensuring the participation of children in local planning process. We believe that the DP revision process can be one of the right spaces to frame such guidelines making Mumbai a child friendly city.

Some important recommendations

1. Reservation and implementation of ICDS center within informal settlement to provide immunization, supplementary diet and educational needs of children.
2. As per the Juvenile Justice Act 2000, the functioning of Observation home, Children Home, Shelter Home (Day Night) should be undertaken by the BMC along with providing one shelter and one children home per ward.
3. The DP needs to consider the space for child learning centers (CLC’s) where they can explore their skills. These centers will also implement the component like evening meal for children which are not considered in ICDS. Such centers can be there in every community of 10,000 people.

8. Youth – Friendly Mumbai

Youth which constitutes 40.6% of the total population, is emotionally and psychologically vulnerable and comprises of a large number of economically and socially underprivileged, homeless, migrant, unemployed, school or college dropouts. To ensure physical, mental and psychological wellbeing and to improve their overall socio economic condition the DP should adequately provide basic amenities for their education, employment, livelihood, shelter, health, safety, cultural and recreational activities to ensure equal access and opportunities to all.

Some important recommendations

1. Provision of training centres for vocational training, opportunities for self employment, employment exchanges and information centres in every ward.
2. Provision of shelters for youth who are homeless, HIV positive or Eunuchs; adequate health facilities and counselling centres with easy access.
3. Provision of affordable rental housing, youth hostels and shelters for street children.
4. Provision of basic facilities to ensure safety of youth in the unorganized sector and young women.

9. Woman – Friendly Mumbai

Women constitute about half of the city's population and therefore the Development plan needs to incorporate recommendations from a gendered perspective of the city with an analysis of women's access (or the lack of it) to the city as students, workers, homemakers etc. Inclusion and access to all including women is heavily dependent on aspects such as safety in public spaces, availability of transport, ease of mobility, access to housing, amenities and livelihood; these relationships should inform the planning process.

Some important recommendations

1. Provision of basic services for all modes of livelihoods including women's livelihoods and informal livelihoods
2. Provision of hostels for working women, centers for training and up gradation of skills.
3. Provision of adequate public transport, and the creation of contiguous spaces for walking, and pedestrian routes in different parts of the city, (near stations, through slums etc.) with mixed use shops and hawkers to ensure women's safety.
4. Provision of night shelters for women at major transport hubs such as interstate bus stops and railway stations.

10. Disabled – Friendly Mumbai

Disabled citizens in the city form at least 10% of the city's population. The Development Plan revision process is the right space to assert the rights of the disabled to have equal access to the various facilities and public spaces in the city so that the neglected 10% of the city can speak for their demands in the coming future.

Some important recommendations

1. At least 75 integrated schools in Mumbai and their demarcation in the coming DP.
2. To make Mumbai Barrier free: BMC should appoint a committee that formulates design specifications and issues guidelines, and expert advice on making Mumbai Barrier free.
3. It is recommended that BMC reserves a certain budget to make Mumbai barrier-free and accessible to ALL.

11. Inclusion of hawkers

Hawkers are an inseparable component in urban centres, providers of cheap vegetables and subsidised food items that even a poor man on the street can afford and it is through them that the majority of Mumbaikar's are able to buy their daily requirements at cheap rates; but the city and the state refuse to acknowledge them. There are about 3 lakh hawkers in Mumbai; their contribution in making the city has to be recognized without which they will be left without any plausible share in

the city's development plan.

Some important recommendations

1. After a comprehensive ELU mapping, the BMC in its ESA and vision document should recognize and notify that there exists an informal layer of hawking zones and livelihood areas which need to be safeguarded and included in the Development Plan.
2. Planning for hawkers: To have a clear spatial strategy to accommodate all the Hawkers presently in the city, and to form norms and design guidelines for Hawking zones in the form of markets, pedestrianised or pedestrian friendly streets with hawkers, night bazaars, hawkers on skywalks, Khau gallis or food streets, weekly markets on designated areas and other underused spaces.
3. To allocate hawking spaces in any new plans of residential or commercial complexes; to provide hawkers to the ratio of number of shops, bus stops and other public amenities.

12. Inclusion of Koliwadadas

Koliwadadas and Urban fishing settlements are under threat due to several reasons such as environmental destruction, loss of public access to common lands and resources, disruption of coastal livelihoods, encroachments, displacement and gentrification. Certain guidelines and provisions for the protection and development of urban fishing villages in Mumbai need to be articulated in the development plan and development control regulations in order to protect the fishing community's traditional rights to housing, land, livelihood and the village commons.

Some important recommendations:

1. Demarcation of the exact boundaries of the urban fishing villages to be designated as CRZ III in accordance with the CRZ 2011 notification with participation of local communities. CRZIII to include: settlements and dwelling units of fisher-folk and other coastal communities; areas which constitute the coastal commons, community spaces, social amenities and public infrastructure and open lands either owned or used by the local communities.
2. Formulation of guidelines for self development of Urban fishing villages, which include provision of long term housing needs, amenities and infrastructure. These provisions and guidelines should include aspects such as village boundaries, permissible land uses and control over land, urban form controls, terms of sale, transfer of ownership, provision of infrastructure and amenities etc.
3. Provision for gaothan expansion and the reservation of nearby vacant lands or government lands in the D.P for Koli housing.
4. Provisions for fishing related infrastructure including foreshore facilities such as fishing jetty, fish drying yards, net mending yards, fish processing facilities, areas for fish and net-drying, boat building yards, ice plants, cold storage facilities, boat repairs, boat storage, boat repairs and servicing, storage of fuel etc.

13. Inclusion of Homeless

At least 1.5 lakh homeless city-makers who contribute to their cities with cheap labour but do not have a roof over their heads remain criminalized and marginalized by the state and the society alike and the state refuses to recognize their numbers in the city. The DP should recognize the homeless as and treat the issue of shelters and affordable housing for the homeless as a human right issue.

Some important recommendations

1. To Ensure that the ELU and ESA maps the existing facilities and the number of homeless in Mumbai and that the process is participatory.
2. Provision of at least 135 homeless shelters in the city according to the Supreme Court order.
3. Provision of a special housing scheme [like the Mahatma Gandhi Path Kranti Yojna (MGPKY) for Pavement dwellers], thus ensuring that homeless are not fated to live in homeless shelters for their whole life; a lower category housing below the EWS to allow affordable housing to the homeless City- makers.
4. To emulate Delhi Master Plan and ensure that enough provisions and recognition of homeless residents are institutionalized in the map making procedure.

14. People's Participation in the process of Governance and Development

The right to take part in the conduct of public affairs means that every person and all people are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy civil, economic, social and political development. Participation of citizens in governance of cities has long been an appreciated goal. In urban areas, where a large proportion of people live in slums, inclusiveness acquires new meaning – that of people's participation in the processes of governance and development.

Some important recommendations

1. There is a need to develop mechanisms for people's participation in the process of development planning, in both its preparation and implementation.
2. The Area Sabha structure proposed in the Community Participation Law (CPL) should be implemented immediately to create the legitimate forum for people's participation.
3. There is a need to bring about an Amendment in MRTP which should specifically mention the process & scope for people's participation.
4. "Draft Vision Document" should be made public and their after "Vision Consultation" should be organized at Ward level to discuss big issues and policy decisions of the future.
5. The "Final Vision Document" should be prepared and made public; the same should also be made available in soft and hard copies. All ward offices should have the ready reference copy of such document. The document must be translated in local language & even a synopsis of the same can be made.