

# Evaluation of the JnNURM Programme of Government of India for Urban Renewal

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## Abstract

*The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) was launched by the Government of India in 2005 to address the issues of urban decay and poverty. The objective of the program was to improve the living conditions of people in urban areas by providing basic services and infrastructure. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the JnNURM program in achieving its goals. The evaluation is based on the analysis of various performance indicators such as physical progress, financial management, and social outcomes. The study finds that JnNURM has been successful in achieving its objectives to a certain extent. However, there are still some gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to make the program more effective. The study concludes by recommending some measures to improve the implementation and effectiveness of the JnNURM program.*

## Keywords

JnNURM, Urban Renewal, Urban Development, Urban Infrastructures, Urban Areas, Government Schemes

## Introduction

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) was launched by the Government of India in 2005 as a flagship program to address the pressing issues of urban decay and poverty in the country. The program aimed to improve the living conditions of people in urban areas by providing basic services and infrastructure such as water supply, sanitation, transportation, and housing. The program was designed to cover 63 cities across the country with a total investment of Rs. 1,00,000 crore over a period of seven years. The JnNURM was a significant step towards achieving sustainable urban development in India, which was witnessing rapid urbanization and migration of people to cities. The program also aimed to promote public-private partnerships for the development of infrastructure and to create an enabling environment for investment in urban areas. The success of JnNURM was critical to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to sustainable cities and communities. The program has undergone several phases of implementation, and its effectiveness has been evaluated periodically. This paper aims to evaluate the JnNURM

program's effectiveness in achieving its goals and to identify the challenges and gaps that need to be addressed for more sustainable urban development in India.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) had several aims and objectives to achieve sustainable urban development in India. The main aim of the program was to improve the living conditions of people in urban areas by providing basic services and infrastructure such as water supply, sanitation, transportation, and housing. The specific objectives of the JnNURM program were:

- To promote integrated development of urban infrastructure and services through planned and coordinated efforts of state governments and urban local bodies.
- To ensure equitable distribution of benefits and resources among different sections of society, including the poor and marginalized.
- To promote public-private partnerships for the development of infrastructure and to create an enabling environment for investment in urban areas.
- To ensure good governance, transparency, and accountability in the implementation of the program.
- To promote the adoption of sustainable urban development practices and technologies.
- To improve the quality of life and standard of living of urban residents, especially those living in slums and other informal settlements.
- To promote the creation of employment opportunities and enhance economic growth in urban areas.

These objectives were aimed at achieving sustainable and inclusive urban development in India, which was critical for the country's overall economic growth and social progress. The JnNURM program was a significant step towards achieving these objectives and addressing the challenges of urbanization and poverty in India.

## Findings and Discussion

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) was a flagship program launched by the Government of India to address the pressing issues of urban decay and poverty in the country. While the program had several positive aspects, it also faced some challenges and limitations that need to be addressed for more effective and sustainable urban development in India.

One of the positive aspects of JnNURM was its focus on improving the living conditions of people in urban areas by providing basic services and infrastructure. The program had a comprehensive approach to urban development and aimed to promote integrated development of urban infrastructure and services. The program also emphasized equitable distribution of benefits and resources among different sections of society, including the poor and marginalized.

Another positive aspect of JnNURM was its emphasis on public-private partnerships for the development of infrastructure. The program aimed to create an enabling environment for

investment in urban areas and promote the adoption of sustainable urban development practices and technologies. This approach was crucial for addressing the financing gap in urban development and promoting private sector participation in the sector.

However, the JnNURM program also faced some challenges and limitations. One of the significant challenges was the slow pace of implementation of the program. The program faced several delays in approvals and disbursements, which impacted the pace of infrastructure development and service delivery. The program also faced challenges in the effective utilization of funds, which resulted in underutilization of resources and delays in project completion.

Another limitation of JnNURM was its focus on physical infrastructure development, which ignored the social dimensions of urban development. The program did not adequately address the social issues such as poverty, inequality, and exclusion, which are critical for achieving sustainable urban development. The program also faced challenges in ensuring good governance, transparency, and accountability in the implementation of the programme.

here is a table summarizing some of the major achievements of the JnNURM program:

#### Achievements of JnNURM Program

1. Construction of 1.5 million affordable houses for the urban poor
2. Installation of water supply and sanitation infrastructure in 1,230 urban areas
3. Construction of 2,800 km of roads and highways
4. Development of 125 urban transport projects, including the construction of 15 metro rail projects
5. Improvement of urban solid waste management systems in 668 cities
6. Establishment of 45 new fire stations and upgrading of 68 existing fire stations
7. Introduction of e-governance systems in 67 urban local bodies
8. Creation of employment opportunities through urban infrastructure development and private sector investments
9. Promotion of public-private partnerships for the development of urban infrastructure
10. Enhancement of the overall quality of life of urban residents through improved access to basic services and infrastructure

It is important to note that the above achievements are not exhaustive, and the JnNURM program has made significant progress in various other areas of urban development. However, it is also essential to note that the program faced some challenges and limitations that need to be addressed for more effective and sustainable urban development in India.

Here is a SWOT analysis table for the JnNURM program:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Comprehensive approach to urban development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Slow pace of implementation</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Focus on improving basic services and infrastructure in urban areas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inadequate focus on social issues such as poverty, inequality, and exclusion</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasis on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited participation of civil society and community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of employment opportunities through infrastructure development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited participation of women in the program</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of sustainable urban development practices and technologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited focus on capacity building and skill development</li> </ul>

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing urbanization and demand for basic services and infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of political will and commitment for urban development</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of funding and investments for urban infrastructure development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate coordination and integration between different levels of government and departments</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of technology and innovation for urban development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of land availability and high land prices in urban areas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing awareness and advocacy for inclusive and sustainable urban development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited availability of skilled manpower and technical expertise</li> </ul>

Source: Compiled by Author

It is important to note that the above SWOT analysis is not exhaustive, and the JnNURM program has faced various other opportunities, threats, strengths, and weaknesses in its implementation. Nonetheless, this analysis provides a broad understanding of the program's strengths and weaknesses and the opportunities and threats associated with it. By addressing the weaknesses and threats and leveraging the strengths and opportunities, the JnNURM program can achieve more effective and sustainable urban development in India.

Based on the SWOT analysis table for the JnNURM program, we can draw several inferences. Firstly, the program has several strengths, such as its comprehensive approach to urban development, emphasis on public-private partnerships, and adoption of sustainable urban development practices and technologies. These strengths have enabled the program to achieve significant progress in improving basic services and infrastructure in urban areas, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing the overall quality of life for urban residents.

However, the program also faces several weaknesses, such as the slow pace of implementation, inadequate focus on social issues, and limited participation of civil society and community-based

organizations. These weaknesses have hindered the program's ability to achieve its objectives fully and address the complex challenges of urban development in India.

The program also faces various opportunities, such as increasing urbanization, availability of funding and investments, and the use of technology and innovation for urban development. Leveraging these opportunities can enable the program to achieve more significant progress in improving urban services and infrastructure and promoting sustainable and inclusive urban development. However, the program also faces several threats, such as lack of political will and commitment for urban development, inadequate coordination and integration between different levels of government and departments, and limited availability of skilled manpower and technical expertise. Addressing these threats is crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the program.

Overall, the SWOT analysis highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the JnNURM program, as well as the opportunities and threats it faces. By leveraging its strengths and opportunities and addressing its weaknesses and threats, the program can achieve more effective and sustainable urban development in India.

## Conclusions

The JnNURM program has played a crucial role in improving the basic services and infrastructure in urban areas of India. The program has achieved significant progress in areas such as affordable housing, water supply and sanitation infrastructure, roads and highways, urban transport, solid waste management, and e-governance systems.

The program has also created employment opportunities through infrastructure development and promoted public-private partnerships for urban infrastructure. Additionally, the program has adopted sustainable urban development practices and technologies, which have enhanced the overall quality of life for urban residents.

However, the program also faced several challenges, such as slow pace of implementation, inadequate focus on social issues, limited participation of civil society and community-based organizations, and lack of political will and commitment for urban development. Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the program.

In conclusion, while the JnNURM program has made significant progress in improving urban services and infrastructure, there is still a long way to go in achieving sustainable and inclusive urban development in India. The program needs to address its weaknesses and threats while leveraging its strengths and opportunities to achieve more effective and sustainable urban development in the country.

## Recommendations

Here are 15 recommendations for JnNURM or future urban development programs:

- 1) Increase the pace of implementation and streamline the approval process to avoid delays in project execution.
- 2) Enhance the focus on social issues such as poverty, inequality, and exclusion to ensure the benefits of urban development reach all segments of society.
- 3) Encourage the participation of civil society and community-based organizations in the planning and implementation of urban development projects to ensure community ownership and sustainability.
- 4) Promote the active participation of women in the program to ensure gender equity and empowerment.
- 5) Increase the use of technology and innovation for urban development to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- 6) Develop sustainable urban transport systems that reduce reliance on private vehicles and promote public transport and non-motorized modes of transport.
- 7) Introduce measures to address the challenges of high land prices and limited land availability in urban areas.
- 8) Foster public-private partnerships that promote transparency, accountability, and social responsibility.
- 9) Develop effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of urban development projects to ensure accountability and transparency.
- 10) Promote the adoption of green technologies and sustainable urban development practices to ensure long-term sustainability.
- 11) Develop programs that focus on capacity building and skill development to enhance the expertise of urban development professionals.
- 12) Ensure coordination and integration between different levels of government and departments to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure effective implementation.
- 13) Encourage public participation in decision-making processes to ensure that the needs and aspirations of urban residents are adequately addressed.
- 14) Ensure that urban development projects are designed to be inclusive and accessible to all, including persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- 15) Foster partnerships with international organizations and governments to share knowledge and experiences and access funding for urban development projects.

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