Re-imagining Urban Childhoods

[ CONFERENCE REPORT ]

Collective thinking on ‘Child Friendly Cities’
BvLF and CFSC(NIUA) jointly organized an international conference, ‘Re-imagining Urban Childhoods’ to gain insights from experts on various aspects of child friendly cities.

Thriving and happy children are indicators of a healthy and sustainable society with high levels of well-being. Children form an understanding of their environment through everyday discoveries and encounters in the park, at school, during a stroll in a neighbourhood street or imagining and inventing games and stories every day. Thus, built environment plays a crucial role in shaping children’s narratives of the city, and their understanding and experience of urban spaces.

Growing up in the cities is as complex as it is exciting, with multitudes of stimuli scattered in these everyday experiences of children. While there are plenty of opportunities, the urban environment is also wrought with threats that impact the overall growth and development of a child. A well-planned and sensitively designed built environment can be a powerful force to facilitate positive and holistic development of children and pave way for delivering their rights to live safely, access education, and enjoy everyday freedoms. While this is being acknowledged by a number of cities, the momentum has to be built to enable a paradigm shift towards an urban development agenda that takes into account the needs of children that comprise approximately one third of the residents of any Indian city.

This Conference was organized by the Child Friendly Smart Cities initiative of National Institute of Urban Affairs with twin objectives of disseminating the knowledge gathered over four years as well as providing a platform for urban local bodies, urban planners and policy makers to learn from successful city level plans and projects that have been responsive to needs of children from across the world. Participants collectively contemplated on the everyday experiences for children in cities and the innovative ways in which these can be enhanced to make growing up fun.
The key objectives of the conference were:

1. To share insights and learning from the experience and understanding of CFSC initiative and deliberate on ways this knowledge can be taken forward by city agencies.

2. To learn from impactful good practices incorporated by ULBs and urban professionals in design and planning of live, learn, play environments for children in cities.

3. To take lessons from ideas and projects shared by various international experts and explore their replicability and adaptability in the Indian context in terms of concrete steps, ideas and innovative solutions going forward.

4. To take forward this dialogue towards finding synergies between diverse sectors and mediums; shaping a new collective of urban professionals and amplifying the voice for child friendly cities.
The presentations and deliberations were spread across three technical sessions

**SESSION 01**
**Counting children to make them ‘COUNT’**

*Data-Driven Urban Planning*

It is understood globally that data is a key vehicle for driving policy decisions. The work undertaken through CFSC initiative clearly highlights the lack of disaggregated data for children within the urban sector in India; consequently, making children unheard and underrepresented, more so infants and toddlers, girls and children with disabilities. Data is useful only if it informs policy and planning decisions.

The deliberations in this session focused on the need for better baselining and mapping of data related to children as a key tool towards addressing the gaps within policy and planning.

**SESSION 02**
**Designing for children**

*Design of spaces where children live, play, learn and move*

It is now better understood that built environment is critical in safeguarding the basic rights of children such as education, nutrition, and overall health. National and international best practices demonstrate that when children are kept at the centre of built environment design helps shape live, learn and play environments that foster overall development of all age groups and abilities. This session extracted ‘big ideas’ to better equip policy makers, urban designers and architects in manifesting the rights and needs of children by ensuring access to basic services and children responsive design of urban built environment to make it more inclusive, nurturing and fun.

**SESSION 03**
**Innovative Ideas for inclusion**

*Innovative ideas and strategies for including needs of children through urban design, planning and management*

In order to make impactful changes it is critical to make space for children’s voice within urban planning and policy domain in order to improve everyday life of all children. The child friendly urban development prerogative in India has reached a stage where a lot of progress and innovation has been made.

This session presented best practices and on-ground initiatives which have contributed to the overall health and well being of children in cities. By making children an integral part in the making of cities, and learning from the innovative cross sectoral initiatives which can be replicated and scaled up, Indian cities can ensure quality of life for all.
The conference brought together eminent urban thinkers, planners and designers, practitioners and city administrators to speak about the strategies that have been at the core of planning of cities that are children centric and are globally acknowledged as liveable and inclusive cities. How did these cities manage this change? How were national and city level policies instrumental in driving development in this direction? The discussions focused on the transformative strategies and planning frameworks as well as innovative design and smart solutions adopted by cities and neighbourhoods to achieve the status of being ‘child-friendly’.

**AGENDA**

**Date:** March 1, 2019  |  **Venue:** Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

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<tr>
<th>Session duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am-9:50am</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and overview of CFSC initiative</strong></td>
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<td>Jagan Shah</td>
<td>Director, NIUA</td>
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<td>9:50am-10:00am</td>
<td><strong>Setting the context</strong></td>
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<td>Rushda Majeed</td>
<td>Country Representative, BvLF</td>
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<td>10:00am-10:30am</td>
<td><strong>Special Address</strong></td>
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<td>Darell Hammond</td>
<td>Senior advisor, Urban 95, BvLF and Founder of KaBOOM</td>
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<td>10:30am-11:00am</td>
<td><strong>Key-note address and launch of CFSC knowledge products</strong></td>
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<td>Durga Shanker Mishra</td>
<td>Secretary, Housing and Urban Affairs</td>
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<td>11:00am-11:30am</td>
<td><strong>TEA/ SNACKS</strong></td>
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Key discussion themes of session:
Rethinking the crucial role of ‘DATA’ to create baselines and assess gaps in provisions and infrastructure, thus facilitating informed decision making and urban planning.

11:30am-11:45am
Alka Singh
Head - Policy & Advocacy, Save the Children, India

11:45am-12:00pm
Sudeshna Chatterjee
CEO, Actions for Children’s Environment (ACE), Delhi
Board member, International Play Association

12:00pm-12:15pm
Siddhartha Benninger
Urban Development Planner, CDSA, Pune (iNagrik)

12:15pm-1:00pm
Interactive Session with panelists and discussants
Discussants: Ramesh Negi, Chairperson, DCPCR
Varsha Joshi, Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD)

1:00pm-2:00pm LUNCH
TECHNICAL SESSION 02
Designing for children

Key discussion themes of session:
Best practices related to the design of live, learn, play and mobility in cities taking into account specific needs of children.

2:30pm - 2:45pm
Simon Battisti
GSD Alumnus and Tirana-based Architect, Albania

2:45pm - 3:00pm
Abhimayu Prakash
Program manager, Global Designing cities initiative, NACTO, New York

3:00pm - 3:15pm
Kabir Vajpeyi
Principal Architect, VINYAS - Centre for Architectural Research, Design, Capacity Building, Advocacy and Policy, Delhi (Developed BaLA Guidelines)

3:15pm - 3:30pm
Aadish Nargunde
Child Friendly Smart City Centre, Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA)

3:30pm - 3:50pm
Interactive Session with panelists and discussants
Discussants: Akshay Kaul, Landscape architect, Akshay Kaul and Associates, Delhi
Urvi Desai, CEPT, Ahmedabad

3:45pm - 4:15pm
TEA / COFFEE
# Key discussion themes of session:
Innovative ideas are all about integrating technology, planning and design to shape urban environments responsive to children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker/Panelist</th>
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| 4:15pm - 4:45pm | Rushda Majeed  
*Country Representative, BvLF* |
| 4:45pm - 5:00pm | Sukanya Krishnamurthy  
*Assistant Professor of Urbanism and Urban Architecture at the Faculty of the Built Environment at Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands* |
| 5:00pm - 5:15pm | Sachin Bhoite  
*Associate Urbanist, ARUP International Development, London* |
| 5:15pm - 6:00pm | Interactive Session with panelists and discussants  
*Discussants: Sarbjit Sahota, Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist at UNICEF India*  
*Sarika Panda, Head- Integrated transport management and road safety* |
| 6:00pm - 6:15pm | Summing up and way forward  
*Kanak Tiwari, Team Lead, Child Friendly Smart Cities, NIUA* |
Everybody feels that their own childhood was the best – running in the neighbourhood, climbing trees, playing cricket on streets, going to school with one notebook, best friends, cycling up and downhill – not holding the handle of the bike… these are happy childhood memories for many. This is what we need to create for our younger generations.
Knowledge products covering a spectrum of subjects and best practices shaping children’s quality of life, health, wellbeing, learning and the overall experience of cities, developed under CFSC initiative, were released by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra and Mr. Darell Hammond. The following five books were launched and disseminated at the conference:

1. Status of Children in India, Baseline study 2018: This second edition of Baseline Report aims to serve as an easy-to-use reference for data on urban children. The objective of the study has been to collate available data on urban children in one place and present it in a useful and disaggregated form to aid policy makers in understanding areas of concern for children of different age groups, gender, geographical locations and abilities. Understanding that children of different age groups and contexts are generally not visible in datasets, resulting in lack of focused interventions for improving their living conditions, health and overall development, a second edition of this report was brought out with additional datasets pertaining to young children (0-5 years) and most updated data on urban children.

2. Children in the urban vision of India: This study reviews the national urban missions of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission), analyzing the mission guidelines and implementation processes that have helped nudge cities towards becoming child friendly. Presenting the various interventions adopted by different Indian cities under these missions, it provides a number of scalable best practices which can be emulated by cities globally. It also discusses a Version 2.0 of every mission, and recommendations on what it would need to have to be children-friendly.

3. Place Matters-Handbook of Global Best Practices on Place Making For Children: The second in the series, the study brings together a carefully chosen collection of case studies that demonstrate the powerful positive impact of well-designed built space for children, specifically lovingly and sensitively designed ‘nodes of interest’ where children live, play and learn.

The collection also showcases best practices of local area or neighbourhood level planning and design that have huge significance in affording young children their everyday freedoms and make it safe and
fun for them and their caregivers to move about freely from one ‘node of interest’ to another.

The handbook is designed to extract and disseminate ‘big ideas’ from small-scale, impactful interventions to be adopted and adapted by Indian cities, organizations, schools, neighbourhoods, and residents. Aptly titled, ‘Place Matters’, it highlights the local initiatives and designs that have been critical to a city’s overall success.

4. Delhi Urban Childhood Report (Advance copy): This study collates available data on children in Delhi from different sources and presents it in an easily understandable and usable form for decision makers, NGOs, private and public organizations, to make informed focused interventions that would improve the quality of life of families and work towards betterment of children in the city. It includes a secondary study of the city as well as a primary study undertaken in two areas of Delhi capturing the on ground realities of children’s usage of neighbourhood spaces.

This study concentrates on the various socio-economic, spatial and physical planning aspects which impact the quality of life of children in Delhi. One of the objectives of this study is to provide disaggregated data on children, the status of their health, education and living conditions and the related facilities to inform the Master Plan of Delhi for the year 2041.

5. Creating accessible parks and play spaces- A how-to guide for Indian cities (Advance Copy):
The Child Friendly Smart Cities (CFSC) initiative partnered with Gudgudee (a design studio) for preparing a handbook drawing on knowledge gained from early childhood research, best practices in creation of play spaces for children, and lessons from Indian context to create a toolkit of possible interventions for making play spaces accessible, inclusive and fun for all children.

The objective of the handbook is to provide a ready reference for Indian cities and local governance to undertake creation of new or regeneration of existing play areas for children. The aim is to provide an inventory of implementable design ideas for decision makers, elected representatives, park designers, community including parents, teachers and caregivers to develop inclusive and accessible parks and play spaces.
6. Child in the city comic strip: This collection of comic strips has been developed by Shubhajit Bagchi and Sankho Chatterjee, two urban designers inspired by CFSC initiative and Urban 95. These strips are a representation of everyday encounters and experiences of young children in cities associated with their ‘live’, ‘play’, ‘learn’ environments and how they ‘move’ from one to the other. These encounters are shaped by the design of the built environment which can either facilitate or hinder their free movement.

The conference also showcased Children’s Independent Mobility & Urban Neighbourhood, PhD thesis by Megha Tyagi, Research Scholar, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee and Reinstating the child in the city, Master’s thesis by Aparajita Santra, Masters in Urban Design, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.
Inaugural Session

Speakers:

Jagan Shah, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs
Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Rushda Majeed, Country Representative, BvLF
Darell Hammond, Senior advisor, Urban 95, BvLF and Founder of KaBOOM

Everybody feels that their own childhood was the best – running in the neighbourhood, climbing trees, playing cricket on streets, going to school with one notebook, best friends, cycling up and downhill – not holding
The inaugural session started with an address from Prof. Jagan Shah, Director NIUA. He opened the conference highlighting the everyday concerns pertaining to children embedded within the built environment and urgent need to address them through urban discussions and collective work. Further citing the work CFSC initiative has undertaken at NIUA towards addressing these gaps, he reflected on how the issue itself has matured and is better understood, since the first conference on ‘Big Cities, Small Children’ in November 2014, organized by NIUA in New Delhi.

He highlighted how the knowledge collated by CFSC initiative on various aspects that directly affect children within the urban environment and the partnerships with various valuable organisations and institutions, national, locally and at city level, has helped in creating awareness and a strong voice for addressing children’s issues within the built environment. Prof Shah also stressed on the impact the CFSC initiative has made through the consistent work the initiative has undertaken in 4 years.

Special Address by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra

The opening address was followed by a special address from Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA. He stressed on a number of aspects such as:

Making children the focus of planning and designing of cities as by investing in them, cities will reap great dividends by ensuring high quality human capital to shaping experience of children while growing up. He identified that for this, cities need to correctly assess their numbers, their specific needs and the challenges they face. He also emphasized that not only should children be at the centre of planning, they should be a part of the decision-making process, stating that this has been successfully achieved by many cities across the globe, and a number of Indian cities are also becoming a part of this list. He however stressed that these local interventions and scattered successes need to be consolidated, adapted and scaled up, so much so that ‘Child Friendly Cities’ becomes a norm, and not an exception.

Shaping experience of children in cities: He emphasized that these young children would grow up and whether the city would be able to retain them as productive citizens or not depends a lot on what they experienced of the city while growing up, thus making it imperative for planners and policy makers to acknowledge children as the primary users of cities.

He promoted the idea of responsibility of cities towards resident children. With children growing up in an environment charged with too much information, numerous stimuli and multiple stresses of urban life, to find ways in which planning and design can be channelized to resolve issues like addiction to electronic devices or rising cases of anxiety among youngsters, respiratory problems due to pollution, drug abuse.
He pointed out that for planners, designers and decision makers to make effective interventions it is important to follow a systematic process of:

- **Collating data on children, disaggregated by age, gender, and ability;**
- **Understanding that the vulnerabilities are enhanced for children on streets, for children with disabilities, and children living in hazardous conditions;**
- **Planning to incorporate the needs for the most vulnerable and safeguard their basic rights of access to health and education**
- **Focusing on the space where learning is taking place and ensure that the barriers to reach school be removed.**
- **Providing quality housing** ensuring adequate open spaces, well-ventilated building with natural light in every house, and well-designed safe streets as part of every new and re-development proposal.

“Everybody feels that their own childhood was the best — running in the neighbourhood, climbing trees, playing cricket on streets, going to school with one notebook, best friends, cycling up and downhill — not holding the handle of the bike... these are happy childhood memories for many. This is what we need to create for our younger generations.”

— Shri Durga Shanker Mishra
Rushda Majeed, Country Representative, BvLF laid down the background and explained the BvLF’s overall work towards early childhood since 1960s globally and in India. She stressed that to truly reimagine urban childhood, it is very important to look at the urban environment from the height of 95 cm, the average height of a 3 year old.

Rushda’s presentation underlined the fact that the brain develops at its most rapid pace in the first five years of life. Interactions between caregivers and children in the early age shapes these connections and the healthy development of the brain. Connections also are established later in life but never to that scale, making the aspects related to built environment very important for children and caregivers. She drew attention to the fact that cities are important because children are never alone, so the design of urban ecosystem has to address the needs of both children and caregivers.

**Impact of built environment on their health**

The session stressed on the fact that children are most susceptible to the impacts of living in a city such as fumes from cars, exhaust – while at the same time, their lungs and brain are developing the most rapidly. At a height of 95 cms, they are exposed to more air pollution. As young children have a higher respiratory rate and are exposed to greater levels of pollution.

*Figure 1 The brain develops at its most rapid pace in the first five years of life a person’s*

*Figure 2 range and access of services for children linked to their mobility and age*
they absorb double the amount of pollutants for their weight than adults, thus making it important to design city spaces keeping children’s health and wellbeing as a precedent.

**Design cities for infants, toddlers, and their caregivers:**
Rushda explained about BvLF’s focus area centering on the younger kids can allow us to design and plan better cities and neighbourhoods and policies, because they have such specific and heightened needs. Given their small size and rapidly developing brains, things look, sound and feel very different to babies and toddlers. Planning with young children and their caregivers in mind can, actually, address many problems the city is facing, such as mobility, lack of green spaces, unsafe housing, poor sanitation etc. The session established that countries around the world and now cities in India are immersed in a discussion about urbanisation and the future of cities and we should all make sure that young children become a core part of that conversation.

**Keynote Address by Darell Hammond**

“None of us alone are going to be able to solve this problem at a scale that it exists, so that kids get set on a trajectory that they are able to thrive. So, it’s not about one organization, it is not about one mission. It’s about all of us.

So how do we become better together faster?”

- Darell Hammond

Darell in his address highlighted the importance of collectively thinking, working, and making urban environment where children not only survive but also thrive. He also stressed on the need to explore ways in which market forces can be used to improve cities for all children and the role of urban environment in inhibiting or empowering the children to learn and play needs to be explored and understood. The key takeaways were:

**Focusing on planning and designing for informal play and sports:**
General presumption is that more than play, sports is important, especially with limited budgets of municipalities to improve parks and play spaces, sports facilities get a preference. Darell pointed out that kids play and learn everywhere- on the streets, health clinics, under trees. Hence, it’s not just about playground, it’s also about the street leading to play, street furniture, traffic, side walk, health clinics, shops, tree covers, everything that concerns focus of urban designers and planners. He also highlighted that spaces for early childhood are very rare and little focus is given on the caregivers, even though it is clearly understood that parents, or caregivers always accompany children in that age group. Darell suggested a checklist to ensure basic and necessary facilities must be formulated to create inclusive spaces for all.
Formulating policies and regulations: Darell appreciated the work undertaken by CFSC initiative at NIUA in India and Bhubaneshwar and propagated the idea of replicating this example for global knowledge building and sharing, and using the Indian cases as pilots. He suggested that moving forward, it is important that these cases are better wrapped with policies and regulations in order for them to go beyond practices and become more scalable. He appreciated the current urban missions and encouraged government to take these strong decisions, and make positive changes within the built environment. He attributed strong political will to think differently and beyond the box to bring about innovative ways in which cities can be made more responsive to the needs of children and caregivers.

Engaging actively with the community:
He shared the examples of Bogota, Columbia, Recife and Tel Aviv where through active engagement of community and visionary decision makers could ensure that these cities could be improved for all its children and consequently for all citizens. He also stressed that in addition to producing all the knowledge being produced and frameworks being developed, behavioral change is critical and needs to be well invested in.

Data and Mapping: He also insisted that in India the role of data is really important and mapping location of parks and where children go will be a very important tool to really understand what is really needed and where. He explained this with the Istanbul project of BvLF, which focused on GIS mapping of neighbourhoods in order to support better decision making.
Session 1: Counting children to make them ‘COUNT’

Speakers:
Alka Singh: Head, Policy and Advocacy, Save the Children
Sudeshna Chatterjee: CEO, Actions for Children’s Environment (ACE), Delhi, Board member, International Play Association
Siddhartha Benninger: Urban Development Planner, CDSA, Pune (iNagrik)

Discussants:
Ramesh Negi, Chairperson, DCPCR
Varsha Joshi, Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation
The deliberations in this session highlighted data as a key tool to make informed decision making. The session focused on the need for better baselining and mapping of children focused data as a key tool towards addressing the gaps within policy and planning.

**Need for disaggregated data**

Alka Singh from Save the Children opened up the session with a brief account of the on ground studies conducted by the organization to collate data on marginalized sections of children in urban centres of India. In her presentation, she addressed the need for political commitment towards making urban inclusive so that no one is left behind, no place is left behind and no ecosystem is overlooked. She also highlighted the targets set by SDGs within the urban sector to make the settlements inclusive, safe, productive, resilient and sustainable, thus underlining the value of investing in the early childhood. She established that the role of all these studies and data collection has been imminent in framing problem statements.

> “We must unpack and look deeper into the urban averages in our statistical data models, to be able to reach the pockets of vulnerable population, very specific age groups and then revise our programs and policies.”

-Alka Singh

The presentation drew attention to the need for disaggregated data and how insufficient and unanalyzed data can be misleading. By taking the example of crime against children statistics in cities, she explained how this data can be misleading considering 95% of the cases of assault or abuse on children happen in family or school setting, the probability of which being reported is unlikely. She also pointed out that the data may not be presenting a huge section of the migrant population, which is not identified by the local institutions. Thus, it was concluded that it is important to analyze the data and come up with more sophisticated mechanisms for urban areas.

The session also raised the question of where this data will feed into and if our governance structures are able to incorporate it and the voices of children into their planning.
Role of data in shifting focus on the existing cities and built environment

Varsha Joshi, Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, steered the deliberation towards the existing cities and how data and mapping can help in making the required built environment and city planning interventions in them. She pointed out the challenge in devising implementable solutions for what is existing, such as unauthorized and unplanned settlements in cities.

“To make universal design for walkable, cyclable, safe places going forward and in order to push the agenda for making cities better for children, it is important to engage with different government departments that can take place only when the data argument is made through comprehensive studies and analysis.” – Varsha Joshi

Upgrading the existing data collection systems like NFHS-5, Census etc.

Ms. Joshi suggested that existing data collection systems can be informed to make the data more useful. With the preparation starting for the upcoming census 2021, it is imperative to engage with the office of Registrar General, Census of India to include the important schedules to bring out the best of the process.
Evidence base for making informed decisions and coming up with realistic solutions

Expanding on the discussion on SDG goal 11 and children in cities, Sudeshna’s presentation explored the idea of measuring the progress of this goal on ground. She pointed out the importance of spatial data and mapping in this and how participatory mapping can help in coming up with realistic solutions.

She explained the findings from her on ground study and participatory mapping exercises that helped in a better understanding of the lack of proper living conditions and housing. Elaborating on these on ground exercises, she highlighted scoping the process to ward level, the lowest level of decentralization of urban governance, to identify the vulnerable pockets. Using geotagging and GPS, the spatial data was mapped capturing information on a number of aspects like safety and security, health, education, play and recreation etc.

She expanded on the whole process of mapping various parameters using different participatory tools such as adolescent survey and observational checklists for mapping the physical environment. The findings from the survey displayed a major gap in the habitability of the living spaces in the ward due to inadequate space and stability of the structures, looming health hazards due to lack of infrastructure and irrational resource management. The findings also pointed out that the perception of safety was lacking, especially for adolescent girls. They felt their safety was compromised in homes, on the routes to schools. The findings

“What are the real children issues and what is the evidence base to make an informed decision, because whether it’s planning, design or policy, it is important to come up with realistic solutions to the problem that we face.”

-Sudeshna Chatterjee
also indicated that there was sheer lack of open recreational spaces leading to sedentary lifestyle and social issues particularly impacting young girls in the area. The streets were the major areas of recreation and play for the community and children. All these issues were acknowledged by the ward committee and various recommendations were proposed with the vision of creating a child friendly ward.

Quantified cities movement: Involving community participation to collect information

Siddhartha started his presentation with an emphasis on evolving a culture where children are involved in the city building. Explaining that Quantified Cities movement initiative uses the same mechanism where citizens collect data which is then shared with the ward officers, elected representatives and decision makers. Using a mobile app called iNagrik, they collected data related to behavior, what different age groups are reporting on, what are the trending issues in the ward etc. He added that QCM is not only about collecting data and mapping, but also pushing this data to the right institutions and agencies. With participation from mohalla committees, schools and children, they were able to encourage reporting on various indicators of quality of life.

“There needs to be a cadre of children who are busy walking around their neighborhoods, checking them out, pointing out what is wrong and what can be improved. There needs to be a very active participation, children need to feel they are part of a decision making process. We are calling them citizen guardians”

-- Siddhartha Benninger

With children and adolescents being the major smart phone users, they became a big contributor to the whole exercise. Children in the age group of 0-14 years reported on every indicator in the application, with trending issues on walkability and public toilets. Comparing the reports coming from adults and children, he pointed out that children had more diverse and active reporting.
With walkability as the major parameter, the findings of the analysis of the collected data drew attention towards a number of issues or obstacles such as ambient smell, parked cars, trees etc. Showing the case of a ward in the old city of Pune, he elaborated on how they divided the solutions into short term basic changes to medium term changes such as building the footpath, or tactical changes. With a successful intervention, the application is now also being used by the Pune police. With a number of stakeholders, the initiative has been successful in drawing the attention of the concerned departments towards the persisting issues.

Data as an important element towards creating equitable cities
Summing up the session, Mr. Negi spoke about the two most important factors for successful cities and governance- equity and enabling actions. Taking example of the proportion of infrastructure designed for cars to that for the pedestrians in Indian cities being largely skewed towards the car owners, he drew attention towards the lack of equity in the city design and planning. He stressed on the fact that equity would come only with data.

Four key fundamentals discussed by Mr. Negi for making cities equitable for children were:

1. **Identity** is crucial for children especially from migrant and poor sections and street children.
2. **Nutrition** is the biggest problem in the developing countries, especially for children in urban areas.
3. **Data on water supply and sanitation** is very important as most deaths in children are due to water borne diseases.
4. **Sensitization** of our decision makers and counsellors can encourage better community participation.

“Urban scenario in India cannot be really said to be equitable. Unless you have clear and accurate data, the equity principle cannot be applied by planners and the government.”

“Ward wise data on street children, on malnutrition and mapping of this data in every ward is imperative to making cities for children.”

– Ramesh Negi
Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary (Mission Director Smart Cities)
Building Collective consciousness on child friendly cities

Kunal Kumar started the discourse with an overview of the smart cities, and how it is important to look at them from different perspectives, and in a contextual way. He introduced the idea of cities as a system of multiple integrated systems.

Quoting from his experience, he elaborated that decisions taken for city impact the city functioning in a dynamic way. He emphasized that while working in silos may seem more efficient, this perspective needs to change. In the case of child friendly cities, there are many interrelated elements that have to be considered to inform the city and be informed by it.

To drive real change within our urban ecosystem can take place only when we define our own smart city and form a collective consciousness.

Adopting child friendly lens to smart cities

He acknowledged that the best smart cities are those, which are open to new ideas. It is very important that the perspective of people of all kinds and age groups are kept in consideration in decision-making and sincere efforts must be made to improve cities so that they work for everyone.

Elaborating on the case of walkability in cities, Mr. Kumar stated that 10% of the pedestrians in cities are children or elderly as oppose to their population share of 30%, drawing out that a lesser number of children prefer to walk in cities. He weighed in on the need to figure out reasons for this to inform the planning and design process. He again highlighted that child friendly cities inform different things and is informed by different things.
Enabling children’s participation

Deliberating on the great deal of investment going into digital education, he established how critical it is to think about the role of children in the coming future and how they are going to participate in the city. Their relation to society in general is left out from this entire discourse. Through collective discussions, it is important to look at all the integral elements and build narratives that enhance the capacities of city bodies and create cities that empower our children.

Managing micro data

Highlighting an example of Pune city, where a study on street children was undertaken, and it showed that the city had more than 10,000 children on the streets, he further highlighted the importance of granular details to understand and mainstream the needs of children in cities to make them a part of cities.

Investing in social behavior

"Ease of living is how welcome you feel to live in a city. It is important to see how welcome, safe and inclusive children feel in the cities."

He stated that it is very important to invest in social behavior for cities to be more welcoming. He emphasized on the fact that how children feel about their city is based primarily on how the city makes them feel. Understand that there is no city without its people, and the need to capture the essence of everyone’s needs and reflect it in the way the city functions is vital and can be manifested through our collective consciousness.

He further shared the ITCN framework being undertaken by BvLF and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs towards improving the lives of all children. He also introduced the National Urban Learning Platform (NULP) developed by the ministry for the capacity building and engaging with cities to sensitize them, build knowledge and to share the tools for building child friendly cities.
Session 2: Designing for children

Speakers:
Simon Battisti: Director, Qendra Marrëdhënje, Tirana, Albania
Abhimanyu Prakash: Program manager, Global Designing cities initiative, NACTO, New York
Kabir Vajpeyi: Principal Architect, VINYÄS - Centre for Architectural Research, Design, Capacity Building, Advocacy and Policy, Delhi
Aadish Nargunde: Child Friendly Smart City Centre, BUKC, Bhubaneswar Development Authority

Discussants:
Akshay Kaul, Landscape architect, Akshay Kaul and Associates, Delhi
Urvi Desai, Assistant Professor, CEPT, Ahmedabad
The deliberations in this session highlighted ‘big ideas’ adopted by cities, organizations and urban professionals in ensuring well-designed facilities and children responsive planning and design of built environment to make it more inclusive, nurturing and fun.

**Design of early childhood education and care centres**

Kabir Vajpeyi emphasized on the importance of improving anganwadis and day care centres and presented the guidelines developed by him: ‘**Building as Learning Aid (BALA- guidelines)**’. Focusing on anganwadis as a space for not only young children but adolescent girls and women, he emphasized on a holistic planning and design of these spaces. Institutions working on solutions towards improving the status of anganwadis, should focus on responding to everyday needs of children. All these institutions must converge, remove the barriers for learning and focus on children.

Anganwadis are convergent structures, serving a huge section of women and children. However, the space that they occupy is minimal thus being overlooked in the urban development plans and strategies. It is imperative to look at the design of this very small space that eventually feeds into the school systems as well as the community. It is important to weave learning experiences in the design of the settings and engage all the senses of children.

“It is very important that we look at the physical space as a convergent space. A child comes from a home, passes through the neighbourhood and comes to a learning space. It is very important that we dot this path with experiences of different kinds.

Later on if a child is going to learn about densities, about materials which are heavy and light, it is very important that these experiences are there in the early childhood and we can consciously plan this in the built environment.”

- Ar. Kabir Vajpeyi

Illustrating cases from his work, he pointed out that currently there is a huge gap in the anganwadi infrastructure (approximately 0.5 million to be built in the country) and how there is very little understanding of the design of these spaces. He emphasized on simple methods of flooring, walling etc. which can make a huge difference in the kind of impact these spaces have on children. He explained how small interventions can change the overall experience of space for a child. It’s not just about creating such spaces but also about training people, teachers and caregivers to better connect with children and facilitate them towards learning from experience. It is important to understand how we want the children to experience their city.

He also added how these examples have been instrumental in orienting the institutions in helping anganwadis and organisations working with children, on how they can improve the space with a little investment and have lasting impact on the lives of all children. He also highlighted that these interventions have improved the peer to peer learning for children, and helped in curbing absenteeism and made the built environment a learning resource.
Policy and Practices to Mainstream Infant, Toddler, and Caregiver–Neighborhood Planning (ITCN)

Simon began his presentation by highlighting on the importance of the first 1000 days of life and how the built environment shapes it. Elaborating on his work in Tirana, he highlighted that while there have been master planning exercises in the city, planning at neighbourhood level has been lacking. One of the other issues was lack of consideration of street design. However, with the new mayor of Tirana playing a key role in averting further deterioration of the city, actions have been taken for bringing the focus of the communities and people towards making the city better. One of the major work of the mayor has been to ensure massive community efforts towards cleaning the city. Another initiative by the city of Tirana is building 17 new schools in response to overcrowding. He highlighted that while the design of these schools has been taken up by some of the renowned architects, the streets leading to schools and areas surrounding schools have not been considered.

Thus, to mainstream the needs of children, for sensitizing people and decision makers and building this into the intelligence of the city, the ITCN framework comprising different processes, guidelines, monitoring and evaluation tools can be of significance.

The presentation described the process of defining ITC neighbourhoods in Tirana with the purpose of bringing well-designed play and mobility for ITCs where they live. Due to sheer absence of neighborhood units and schools system being evenly distributed across the city, schools became the areas of intervention. These schools were opened up to become public parks and build ITC enhanced street design infrastructure. Another important aspect that was discussed was the mapping of pollution on the mobility routes and how it impacts the placement and design of facilities.

Citing cars as the insulated bubbles of safety, he discussed the reason for people using cars instead of walking, thus underlining the need for safer streets. The idea of ITC network revolves around ‘built environment as the protective bubble’. Design features like keeping speeds and noise low, create a meta-bubble of protection. The ITC neighborhood extends our bubble of protection from the personal to the public, making safe walking the inheritance of every person in the city.
ITCN aims to put all these necessary facilities and services used by children and caregivers into clusters within this protective zone. These facilities are all connected, creating a mobility zone which becomes the ITC enhanced urban design area. It was also ensured that these interventions are low cost with signage, lighting, planting and paving forming the part of urban design scheme.

Describing the process of making ITC neighbourhoods, Simon enlisted the policy makers, city engineers, private sector architects and families as stakeholders to this process. The process has been spread across 10 policy objectives, with policy measures and indicators and design guidelines for each one of them.

Simon concluded with the thought that ITC design is not based on the exclusion of anyone else, it is something where people of different age groups can co-exist happily and the ITCN framework document that has been developed focuses on all the design knowledge and provides the procedure and tools that can be applied in many different cities.
Designing streets for kids

Abhimanyu started with a reflection on how every day while going to school, children are risking their lives. Almost 500 children die globally each day in road accidents, pointing to the reality that soon road crashes are going to be a leading cause of death among children (4-15 years). Besides safety, air pollution also contributes to a large number of premature deaths among children.

Abhimanyu presented the Global Street Design Guidelines developed by NACTO-GDCI designed to inspire leaders, inform researchers and practitioners and empower children communities about various tools to improve their streets.

He emphasized that it is important to classify streets into various typologies for better distribution of traffic and ensuring that more children can walk and cycle to schools. Through the Streets for Kids study supported by BvLF the focus is to understand surroundings in addition to the street itself ensuring:

- Safety and accessibility
- Health and comfort
- Inspiration and education

The premise of the guidelines for ‘streets for kids’ is to consider the needs of children of all ages and analyse the surrounding built environment. It is not only limited to the children of all age groups, but pregnant women as well as all forms of caregivers. For this it is important to observe how all of these groups interact with their immediate surroundings, the built facades, larger neighbourhood etc.

“The first public realm that any child experiences outside their protective private bubble is the street.

Streets are the platform to move, to play, to learn to ride, celebrate, places to make money and even to spend it. Streets are the largest continuous network of public spaces in a city.”

-Abhimanyu Prakash

Figure 8 Flipped pyramid with pedestrians on top for design of streets
The presentation stressed on the need to make collective efforts towards reimagining our existing cities and to prioritize the real users among pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, motorists, service providers and informal vendors. For this it is important to make streets multimodal. In addition, it is necessary to look at the different speeds different age groups move at, and different space requirements to make sure that our streets and sidewalks are designed to accommodate all of them. With a mix of different modes the children and families will use various modes to reach their destinations. This improved mobility can be induced by introducing new destinations in the existing neighbourhoods, improve the comfort in public transportation and improve the public spaces around them by adding new amenities or upgrading the existing spaces. The presentation also showed examples of designing cycling infrastructure to carry families, caregivers and children together. It also touched upon how the transit infrastructure can be made safer and comfortable for children as well as caregivers.

Abhimanyu wrapped up by showing some examples of physical interventions such as tactical urbanism, school zones, and reuse of parking spaces to eventually transform them into inviting and safe spaces for children of all ages and abilities.
Making cities child friendly – A case of Bhubaneswar

Aadish, through different initiatives incorporated by BDA (Bhubaneswar Development Authority), shed light on how they sensitized local children, caregivers and communities towards specific needs of children of all age groups and abilities.

One of the projects presented was ‘Community led total sanitation’, in which children were involved in the process where they helped in making the issue more vocal through active campaigning, at the community level. These exercises also help children take these lessons and adapt practices of hygiene throughout their life. He stressed on the importance of involving children in the change making process and encouraging them to take ownership. As a recognition of the efforts put in by children, the open spaces being used for open defecation were reclaimed and transformed into formal play areas with equipment designed and constructed with the help of local children.

The work done by BDA projects that participation of children has been one of the key aspects in Bhubaneshwar becoming child friendly. With initiatives such as designing parks where children were actively involved at multiple stages of the construction of the park from design to execution, it is evident that children do understand what they want in their space. It has also helped in inculcating better sense of ownership within communities.

Other initiatives that have been responsible towards making Bhubaneswar a child friendly city include formulating a park and open space master plan on the basis of existing norms and demand based surveys, creating a play equipment palette, planting palette and modular design blocks for designing parks, citizen connect, looking at ecological setting of different areas, among others.

One of the innovative and contextual initiatives was related to heritage conservation with kids. The kids were trained to read maps and identify landmarks. Based on these exercises, the signage design for a few heritage areas were designed in the local language and at a height that makes it legible for children.
Building child friendliness not only in the new, but also the existing urban stock

Urvi Desai gave the gist of the presentations in the afternoon session, and highlighted the importance of incorporating child friendly urban development elements in the existing city areas. She concluded with takeaways such as building convergence among various stakeholders in more challenging urban scenarios, mainstreaming the needs to make such projects far more accessible and replicable in all kinds of metropolitan cities and smaller towns and the importance of political will to give a push to such projects.

She also drew attention to the scale, relevant to children citing the Urban 95 concept and the stark difference between how adults and children perceive city spaces, and urged for bringing about a change at the minutest levels of design detail.

“Making things exclusively for children does not help achieve desired results, it is important to ensure that the city spaces work for everyone and ensure that children are included.”

-Aadish Nargunde
She ended with the thought that everyday freedoms of children can be enjoyed in the everyday spaces and while it is important to design schools and open spaces, it is also important to look at the design of streets, public spaces and the liminal spaces that form a part of their everyday spaces.

**Open spaces as learning spaces**

Mr. Kaul deliberated on integrating the design of open spaces with the built to enhance the learning process. He suggested that besides formal learning, children can also be made aware of the various issues and solutions (such as rain water harvesting) in the community through design of open spaces, also incorporating psychological development and disaster resilience into the design.

“We have moved on from participatory to co-design and co-production of spaces. We have a lot of organizations that are working with children to paint crosswalks, paint walls of their houses, to plant trees, to bring other children onboard.

*Children are their best advocates. Their capacity to envision is incredible.*”

-Urvi Desai

“It is important to involve the community not only in designing of the outdoor spaces, but also in maintaining and sustaining these spaces. Children can play an important role in this.”

-Akshay Kaul
Session 3: Innovative ideas for inclusion

Speakers:
- Rusha Majeed, Country Rep, BvLF India
- Sukanya Krishnamurthy, Assistant Professor of Urbanism and Urban Architecture at the Faculty of the Built Environment at Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands)
- Sachin Bhoite, Associate, Urbanist at ARUP International Development

Discussants:
- Sarbjit Singh Sahota, Emergency specialist, UNICEF India
- Sarika Panda, Head, Integrated Transport and Road Safety, WRI India
This session focused on best practices and on-ground initiatives which have contributed towards making children an integral part of cities, initiatives facilitating overall development and well-being of children and innovative exercises enabling children and community participation in cities.

**Infant, toddler, Caregiver Friendly Neighborhood (ITCN) Framework**

Rushda initiated the session with an emphasis on the needs of very young children (0-5 years) and their care givers and elaborated on the ITCN framework. It is a set of five documents prepared by BvLF in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to work with and guide the interventions by municipalities of 100 Smart Cities. It is focused around steps and measures for making these cities infant, toddler and caregiver friendly. These guidelines purposely focus on the children of 0-5 years age group, an under represented demographic group in Indian cities. It is intended to come out as a capacity building framework document for the urban local bodies of 100 smart cities. It is a collaborative effort of BvLF, BDP, NIUA co-led by Simon Battisti. International panels of experts including NACTO, Gehl Institute, 880 cities, UN habitat and Tim Gill have reviewed this document.

“**We are using the term infant and toddler deliberately. While it is important to design for children of all ages, we need to be more conscious of the specific needs of 0-5 years, which otherwise are an overlooked demographic. The needs of infant, toddlers and their ‘caregivers’, which are usually women in the Indian context, are very specific.”**

– Rushda Majeed

It is more about retrofitting the existing cities using small steps than about building new cities for infant, toddlers and caregivers, thus including both brownfield and greenfield components of the Smart Cities Mission. This is designing the cities keeping into account the 95cm view (view from the height of a 3 year old).

The set of five documents comprises a framework document, a compendium of global best practices catering to the Indian context including a number of examples from India, policy workbook that focuses on policies that focus on the proposed demographic group (0-5 years) and recommendations, a set of design guidelines for cities and a guide book facilitating city managers for collecting data and monitoring and evaluation matrix. The ITCN framework will be available on the National Urban Learning Platform (NULP) hosted by the MoHUA. The framework document will be constantly updated as new understanding and learning are formed.
Families as a visible part of cities

“Planning and design is just playing catch up. The fact that children, their growth pattern, psychology and sociology is being studied for a long time. Design on the other has not done it. We study architecture as a very generic tool. We do not focus on children as a specific demography.

What kind of role do we get? We are advocates for people who cannot express what they want or can express what they want but can’t draw or explain it out. We become advocates for certain forms of representation.”

- Sukanya Krishnamurthy

Elaborating on her experience working in different cities, Sukanya referred to a new understanding that is being catalyzed on the analysis of the urban environment with families as consumers of this environment. She stressed that the role of planning and design is crucial to creating inclusive cities where families do not remain a hidden stakeholder citing various examples across the world to provide context specific interventions focusing on infants, toddlers and caregivers. While children’s growth patterns and psychology of children have been an area of study since a long time, design and planning of cities and architecture have not focused on the specific needs of children.

She elaborated on different methods, mapping techniques and data collection that can be applied working with different demographics and taking into account the context and cultural setup. Diagnostic, expressive and situational are the three predominant methods to engage and respond to demographics of any particular place. As an example, well designed architectural drawings which express the block structure, dominant landmarks, and the movement patterns were successful in Eindhoven, where children and families could access and share information. These maps were able to point out that children’s (4-12 years) experience and use of the city spaces is different than how caregivers and adults assume. This helped the municipality of the city, which took it further.

She also talked about the workshop with ARUP in Amsterdam where the participants were made to experience the city spaces from 95 cm, thus highlighting the simple interventions which can be taken to drive the focus of the cities towards young children. This was a successful exercise for building capacities and empathy of the participants.
Using drawings and expressive mediums in the post industrial city of Porto, which has signed up for becoming a child friendly city she showed that the children living in apartment complexes in the city wished for trees and open green areas instead of buildings and large complexes.

Sharing her work in Pune towards tracking down the daily mobility patterns of the children and caregivers in informal settlements, she pointed out that the urban environment is not conducive for enabling the movement of mothers and very young children restricting them to their homes for the initial few months.

All these methods pointed out that while there are some commonalities like safety, the need for more green, healthy and walkable environments, but some things are very contextual like the densities, the cultural makeup, and the different ways in which people move, everyday geography of a caregiver and what can we do to make these better.

**Thus, largely the interventions are to develop a language that can be understood by different people and age groups and coming up with incremental processes to change things in a particular location for creating child friendly spaces in a city.**
Integration, Co-creation and Guidance

Sachin Bhoite in his presentation zeroed in on the three ways in which children can be made an integral part of the cities are integrating them into the larger planning and design processes, engaging them not only through participation and play but by allowing them to direct us and developing guidance tools which can not only help urban professionals but help in convergence across various sectors.

![Three approaches for Urban Programming, ARUP](image)

He explained the framework developed by ARUP with the Plan International for building resilience of urban children and the challenges in the urban programming. The three approaches that they adopted are:

- Urban systems thinking: Ensuring that every citizen including children is a part of urban system.
- Strength based approach: Not to see them only as recipients of aid and support, but strengthening them.
- Rights based approach: City government’s duties toward providing better environment for children.

The challenges include identifying the children based on their vulnerability, engaging with the urban stakeholders and finding whether the integration needs to happen at the local level, state level or national level to bring about the necessary reforms.

The four big areas to make cities better for children

He also pointed towards prioritizing focused areas of intervention. These include:

- Sustaining life: basic needs of food, water, shelter, health of children
- Envelope around the city: mobilizing the community, caregivers, neighbors, and actors involved in the development of child from the social perspective.
- Spaces and places: that help children connect with cities.
- Integration into planning: taking children’s needs into consideration.

![Children and youth participation facilitated by ARUP in Dhaka, Bangladesh](image)
This framework was then applied in one of the informal settlements in Dhaka, where children and youth as champions of change were involved to understand the impacts of the climate change on the community, coming up with indicators which can be measured by the children to monitor the impact of solutions and getting solutions and strategies in a participatory way, going upto the extent of doing cost benefit analysis. Children had a fair understanding of the ‘system analysis’ and came up with technical drawings of solutions like street upgradation displaying change in street widths, levels and building frontages, solid waste management plan figuring out the mechanisms and governance, girls safety in the slum, spaces for urban agriculture within their settlement. Children also assisted in making a model of the slum including the topography, surrounding water bodies and the flow of water from the sources that they use now to mark the gaps.

“The one message that came out for me from this was that you shouldn’t hold back what expectations you can have from a participatory or co-creative process you have with children. You will be surprised how aware children are, particularly those children who face these challenges themselves.”

- Sachin Bhoite
Involving children in the discussions and workshops

One of the highlights of the session was how engaging children in the workshops and conferences is important to gain a better perspective of their experience of a city. In lines with this, ARUP London in collaboration with LEGO organized a LEGO workshop for children of age 4-12 years. They set up a challenge for children related to issues of streets, buildings, cities, role of open spaces and air quality in cities.

“You ask a 4 year old what is a city and think they only know home and school. But you will be surprised they actually know what a city is. One of the good definitions that I got is that a city is a place where all of the people have to get along and has lot of buildings and lot of colour; this was a definition put together by 5 year olds.”

- Sachin Bhoite
Community engagement through local events

Sarika Panda brought to fore the significance of events like ‘Rahagiri’ day that can sensitize citizens as well as decision makers to make streets and cities safer for children. She talked about how the idea of Rahagiri started from a survey done by the students of The Heritage School in Gurugram, and it came out that 80% of children go to schools by either riding a cycle or walking. She stressed on the need to think on how to make these streets safer for children. Talking about her work, she mentioned that WRI through BOTNAR has been involved in implementing ‘Safer routes to school’ program in Rohtak, Haryana and how they have managed to bring on board 22 departments, schools and parents towards making streets safer and more fun for children.

Child friendly cities – an opportunity to address intergenerational issues

Summing up the session, Sarbjit highlighted that child friendly cities provide an opportunity to address intergenerational issues.

He also insisted that cities need to be designed based on real time data and not from the data provided by census 2011 which might be obsolete in the present context. Institutionalizing the system of collating and monitoring real time data at the level of municipalities is important to inform the policies, planning and design. He ended with the deliberation on the importance of investing in neighborhoods in addition to infrastructure expansion to manifest change.
The way forward

“*We need to work from both the ends and meet somewhere midway; that is we must have policies and institutional frameworks to actually make the child friendly planning and design interventions larger in terms of their impact. Then only will we be able to achieve anything at the city level.*

*Co-creation is equally important and that is why retrofitting interventions at the neighborhood scale is important, that is the scale children know.*”

– Kanak Tiwari

Immediate areas of action

— **Disseminating the learning**

The learning gathered from four years of Child Friendly Smart Cities initiative, include the eight knowledge products spanning across urban policies and missions, global best practices for planning and designing city spaces for children, indicators for assessing a city and monitoring the progress, Data baseline studies collating disaggregated datasets for children in urban India and capital city of Delhi, and a handbook for designing accessible play spaces. All these knowledge products and the learning from the conference will be disseminated extensively among the Urban Local bodies, civil society and urban professionals through Smartnet and CFSC website.

— **Generating awareness about the NULP and ITCN Framework**

The National Urban Learning Platform (NULP) has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) as a knowledge repository and capacity building platform for Urban Local bodies and decision makers. The platform will also host the ITCN framework, focusing on urban planning and design discourse on the specific needs of infants and toddlers (0-5 years) and their caregivers.

Dissemination of ITCN framework and creating awareness about the NULP among the ULBs, urban professionals and academia would help in shifting the focus on very young children, initiating a discourse on this and amplifying the voice on the need to create child friendly cities.

— **Collectively writing to the 15th finance commission**

Making a presentation to the 15th finance commission collectively by the organizations working for children to allocate funds and resources to cities to build children and families friendly infrastructure. Presenting them the data and on ground situation of children can ensure resource allocation towards children’s issues and infrastructure.

— **Writing to the Census of India about the data gaps identified by different institutions working for children.**

Collectively, writing to the office of the Registrar General, bringing their attention to the data gaps and missing datasets on children in urban domain as identified by various organizations like NIUA, BvLF, UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan India, NCPCR, DCPCR etc. before the initiation of the next Census scheduled in 2021. New important datasets for children can be added by collectively pushing for it, attending stakeholder discussions and facilitating the addition of new parameters.
Long term goals

— **Building a ‘collective consciousness’ towards child friendly cities- cross sectoral collaborations and capacity building of city authorities**

There is a need to develop a lens to understand needs of diverse people residing in urban areas. In having a collective thinking, all the possible integral and interrelated elements contributing to the development of children in a city need to be created and integrated into city functions. This will require building the capacities of city authorities.

This would also require going into the minutest details and collecting evidences at the sub-city level to come up with robust and implementable plans that span across all sectors.

— **Facilitating ITCN implementation in select smart cities**

Constant engagement with the city officials and decision makers, highlighting the role of planning of cities and design of built environment to facilitate urban environments that are responsive to the needs of very young children and their caregivers.

— **Assisting cities in creating micro level data banks for the resident children**

Under the CFSC initiative, capacity building exercises would be conducted to create awareness around the importance of data and mapping in assessing the gaps and requirements related to infrastructure for children. Interactive learning workshops and exercises would be conducted and a toolkit will be developed on creating data baselines for children in selected cities.
Annexure: Profiles of expert speakers and discussants

Prof Jagan Shah: Director, NIUA
Prof. Jagan Shah has 20 years of professional work experience in various aspects of urban development in India. He studied Architectural Design from School of Planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and Architectural History & Theory from the University of Cincinnati and Columbia University, USA. He has served as the Director of Sushant School of Architecture, Gurgaon and has taught at the School of Planning & Architecture (SPA) from 1998 till 2006. From 2007 to 2010, he was the Chief Executive of Urban Space Consultants, providing consultancy in policy formulation, spatial planning, heritage conservation, transportation and livelihoods development, for clients such as Infrastructure Development Finance Company, Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transport System, Jaipur Vivasat Foundation, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, India Foundation for the Arts and others.

He has a comprehensive list of publications to his name. He is the author of ‘Contemporary Indian Architecture’, 2008; co-author of ‘Building Beyond Borders’, 1995, and co-editor of ‘Round’, a collection of seminal Asian texts on architecture. He is also a founding member of the Modern Asian Architecture Network (MAAN).

Rushda Majeed: Country representative, BvLF
Rushda is responsible for the Foundation’s work in India. Previously, she helped manage Bloomberg Philanthropies’ India Smart Cities Challenge, a competition to select 100 cities for central government funding as part of the country’s Smart Cities Mission. Rushda has led research in 11 countries for Princeton University’s Innovations for Successful Societies to analyse reforms that improve government performance and accountability. She has also served as a core team member on the re-election campaign of a two-term Member of Parliament, advised a World Bank team on case study research, and managed a global leadership programme for a New York-city based non-profit.

Rushda has written numerous case studies on institutional reforms, and her writings on the subject have appeared in Foreign Policy magazine’s Democracy Lab. She has a master’s degree in international affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Eastern Kentucky University.

Darell Hammond: Senior Advisor, urban 95, BvLF and founder of Kaboom
Darell Hammond has more than 25 years of experience in community development, social innovation, public-private partnerships and volunteerism. He founded and served for 20 years as CEO of KaBOOM!, a national US non-profit dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the daily lives of all children, particularly those growing up in poverty. Currently residing in Tirana, Albania, where his wife is the Country Director for Peace Corps, he is advising the city’s Mayor on establishing a parks and recreation department and implementing the Tirana2030 Masterplan.

Hammond holds two honorary doctorate degrees, and was named an Ashoka Fellow and one of the Top 30 Social Entrepreneurs by Forbes Magazine. He has been awarded the Jefferson Award for Public Service, American Express NGEN Leadership Award, Satter Social Entrepreneur of the Year from NYU Stern School of Business, and Social Entrepreneur of the Year from the World Economic Forum’s Schwab Foundation. He authored a New York Times best-selling memoir, KaBOOM! - A Movement to Save Play.

In his role of Senior Advisor for the Foundation, he has been advising the team members and partners on the Urban95 strategy and implementation, with a focus on innovations in public space, data management and advocacy.

Durga Shanker Mishra: Secretary, Housing and urban affairs, MoHUA, GoI
He has served in various key positions for both the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh during his career, like as Principal Secretary (Appointment and Personnel), Secretary (Tax and Registration), Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), Managing Director of Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (SDCFC), collector of Agra and Sonbhadra districts, Vice Chairman of Kanpur Development Authority and as the municipal commissioner of Kanpur in the Uttar Pradesh government and as the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary, additional secretary in the Ministry of Urban Development, joint secretary in the Ministry of Mines, joint secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs and as the chief vigilance officer of the Airports Authority of India in the Indian government.

Alka Singh: Head Policy & advocacy, Save the children, India
She has an experience of over 16 years in Social Development Sector. Started career as a Research Officer at the premier research institute i.e. Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur and was hands on in evolving research tools and development interventions with the leading social scientists. Further worked for the communities in Thar desert of Rajasthan at the grass roots as well as the Senior Management and Policy & Advocacy under various projects at the State level. Primarily worked upon project formulation, donor relations, execution, programme management, monitoring and evaluation and Team Management for over 8 years for some of the most ambitious programmes of Planning Commission, The World Bank, UNDP, Government of Rajasthan and Government of Bihar.
Sudeshna Chatterjee: CEO, Action’s for children’s Environment (ACE), & Board member for International play association
An internationally acclaimed pioneer in the field of research, design and planning for children using a rights approach. In addition ACE has a multi-skilled professional team who are assembled as per the needs of the programs. Subject experts and interns also strengthen the work of ACE.

Siddhartha Benninger: Urban development planner, CDSA, Pune
Lawrence Siddhartha Benninger works at CDSA, Pune. He has extensive experience in regional and urban planning having carried out projects across India. He is the creator of the Quantified Cities Movement which enables participatory, decentralized and evidence based local area planning and management.

Ramesh Negi: Chairperson, DCPCR
Sh. Ramesh Negi has been a Member of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) 1984 batch. He carries with himself administrative experience of working in different cultural and geographical regions in the country i.e. tribal areas of Andaman Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, State of Arunachal Pradesh as well as urban environment of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Chandigarh.
During his long career he has held important positions as Chief Secretary Arunachal Pradesh, Administrator of Union Territories of Government of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli which is an appointment made under Article 239(1) of the Constitution of India, Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Jal Board, Chairman Delhi Transport Corporation, Managing Director DTDC and Principal Secretary Urban Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. He is credited with successful introduction of PPP Models in Solid Waste Management in Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Water Distribution and Conservation in Delhi Jal Board. He also facilitated setting up of Dilli Haats at Pitampura and Janakpuri to provide affordable recreational facilities for the common man in Delhi.
During his tenure as Project Director Urban Basic Services and Additional Commissioner in Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Mr. Negi focused on sanitation, nutrition and skill development of slum children in the NCT of Delhi. While working in the tribal areas of Andaman Nicobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa and Arunachal Pradesh he laid special emphasis on implementation of Mid Day meal scheme, implementation of RTE and National food security act.

Varsha Joshi: Commissioner, NDMC
IAS officer of 1995 batch, AGMUT cadre, presently serving as Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation. I was previously Secretary Power as well as Commissioner Transport, with the Government of NCT Delhi, earlier Joint Secretary in the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Govt of India, and before that, and Director with the Census of India. Infrastructure, Urban Planning, Gender Issues and Leveraging Data for Development are my major areas of experience and interest.

Kunal Kumar: Joint Secretary & Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission), MoHUA, GoI
Kunal Kumar, IAS presently holds the position of Joint Secretary & Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India since May 2018. Earlier, he was Municipal Commissioner at Pune Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra for close to 4 years. He has been working in the State of Maharashtra since 1999 and has served across various cities of Maharashtra. Mr. Kumar has worked as District Collector in three districts of Bhandara, Jalgaon and Aurangabad and has also worked as Municipal Commissioner in Kolhapur Municipal Corporation.
With his focused vision and great leadership qualities, several innovative concepts and ideas were incorporated in the “Smart Cities Mission” vision of Pune. The effort towards citizen participation to crowd source ideas through the “Maza Swapna, Smart Pune” contest, where citizens could propose smart solutions to key issues facing the city was widely acclaimed. He played an instrumental role for Creation of a Vision Community under Pune Smart City Citizen Engagement Campaign in one of the largest envisioning exercises ever conducted in Indian history. He has been closely involved with the Smart Cities Mission since the very beginning and believes that this is one of the most progressive missions for transformation of the urban landscape of the country. He firmly believes that cities need to be built around communities and that technology as a medium also has to be used in way that helps create bottom-up innovation.
In his role as the Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission, Government of India (from the 25th May,2018) he is responsible for the nationwide implementation of what can be termed as the largest and most complex organized urbanization effort in the whole world.

Simon Battistiti: Director, Qendra Marredhenie, Tirana, Albania
Simon Battistiti is an architect and teacher based in Tirana, Albania. His work focuses on alternative, critical approaches to development in spatial planning. Through teaching and independent research, he studies the nexus between tourism planning, migration, infrastructure, and self-management in coastal southern Albania.
In 2016, he was curator of “I Have Left You the Mountain,” the Albanian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, which used singing to articulate ways in which patterns of departure have affected Albanian cities and towns for the past five centuries.
He is the founding editor of Very Vary Veri, a journal about architecture and urbanism based at Harvard GSD. He is editor of Flexible Leviathan: Reconsidering Scale and Fixity in Iztapalapa, Mexico City (Harvard GSD, 2016), with Diane Davis and Jose Castillo. He writes regularly about architecture and urbanism, most recently in Log, Clog, and many others.
Recent projects have been supported by the Fulbright Foundation, the National Territorial Planning Agency of Albania (AKPT); the German Cooperation for Development (GIZ); the Institute for Democracy, Media, and Culture; and the Municipality of Tirana.
Abhimanyu Prakash: Programme manager, Global Designing Cities Initiative, NACTO, New York
Abhimanyu Prakash joined NACTO in early 2015 and is a Program Manager for the Global Designing Cities Initiative, a multi-year program that will develop a Global Street Design Guide and work with cities on street and public space design around the world through Bloomberg’s Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS). He leads the projects and activities in the African and Asian cities under the BIGRS program, primarily in the cities of Addis Ababa, Accra, and Mumbai.

As an urban designer and architect, Abhimanyu has gained global expertise in these fields through his past engagements in India, Germany and New York City. As an urban designer at Urban Matrix + MUD Workshop he has contributed to shape a finalist proposal for the federal Strong Cities Strong Communities Challenge for the City of Hartford and has also been involved in community engagement driven design work for the new Comprehensive Plan for the City of Easton. Various multi-scalar public and private projects across German and Indian contexts have helped him hone his skills across scales and gain a holistic approach to urban design.

In parallel, Abhimanyu is also involved at various non-profits such as Asia Initiatives and Dakshini Prayash as a junior board member at both organizations. He applies his design, planning, and management skills at various educational and social development projects as a part of these organizations. As a passionate photographer and traveler he also enjoys maintaining an urban photo-blog.

He graduated with the Lucille Smyser Prize from the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Sushant School of Art and Architecture, New Delhi where he was the recipient of various awards including the National Thesis Award awarded by the Indian Council for Architecture.

Kabir Vajpeyi: Principal Architect, Vinyas-centre for architectural research, design, capacity building, advocacy and policy, Delhi
Kabir Vajpeyi, an architect by qualification, has created a framework to creatively use space and its built elements to make school architecture more conducive to child development. By convincing state governments in India to invest in his idea, he has established an effective delivery mechanism that brings engineers, teachers, and architects together to implement and spread his idea in government schools in rural settings.

Aadish Nargunde: Child friendly smart city centre, BUKC, Bhubaneswar Development authority
Aadish Nargunde works as a Programme Manager for Bhubaneswar Urban Knowledge Centre (BUKC) in Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA). He is heading various projects categorized into broader domains as, 1. Child Friendly Smart Cities (CFSC), 2. Urban Transport & Complete Streets Cell, 3. Smart Growth Programme, 4. Placemaking, Open space & Heritage Preservation Programme and 5. Communication, Outreach & Knowledge management cell.

His core expertise is in design and implementation of public spaces such as parks, streetscape and plazas, etc. Since establishment of BUKC, Aadish has been specifically involved in design and implementation of child friendly parks, streetscape, placemaking project for around 30+ sites, child friendly neighbourhood planning, child friendly Multi-purpose amenities centre designed specifically for affordable housing schemes and Heritage area urban design plan. He has been actively assisting the communication and branding team of BUKC for designing outreach campaigns, conducting capacity building workshops with citizens & Govt, officials, stakeholders, professionals, artists, etc. Currently he is engaged into various initiatives taken by the city in the field of placemaking, public art, parks development, streetscape, heritage signage & heritage core area improvements, etc.

Akshay Kaul
Akshay Kaul specializes in the field of ecological planning, landscape and sustainable architecture and possesses more than 25 years of experience in India and USA. His is one of the only landscape architecture firms in India that has been doing sustainable landscape for more than 20 years in India.

Mr. Kaul is experienced in work on Ecological Planning and landscape design. He has provided specialized consultancy services in these areas for city planning and advising government, township master plan and design, campus design for institutions, schools and colleges, corporate headquarters, water front parks, resorts, hotels, parks, plazas and many other projects. He has been an advisor to State Urban Agenda for Rajasthan for Master Planning for City of Jaipur and urban environmental development issues. He is on the expert committee UITIPEC (DDA) on ecological corridors in Delhi. He was also advisor to Janagraha – on Urban Planning and Urban Ecology for Administrative Reforms Commission for Government of India. He has been a resource person for rainwater harvesting for Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. He has been a visiting faculty at the Department of Landscape, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, TVB School of Habitat Studies (TVB SCH), New Delhi, Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Gurgoan and Jamia Milia University, New Delhi. He has also delivered lectures and conducted workshops in India for students from Yale University, Ecole Nationale Superlure du paysage de Versailles, France, Universidad Politécnica Madrid, Spain.

Urvi Desai, Assistant Professor at Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology and principal architect at IORA Architects
Ms. Desai is an architect, urban planner, teaching at school of architecture, CEPT since a decade. Her teaching and research interests are broadly environment and sustainability. Her focus is on communities, resource use, public space and community action around urban commons. She has also built knowledge on participatory design and production of
spaces. She has also been associated with NIUA and BvLF since 2015 and her research project on ‘design for child friendly housing’ has been motivated by such deliberations.

**Sukanya Krishnamurthy:**
Ms. Krishnamurthy is an Assistant Professor of Urbanism and Urban Architecture at the Faculty of the Built Environment at Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands). Her main focus lies at the interface of urban, social and cultural geography, where her scholarship analyses how cities can use their resources and values for better sustainable development. Within these fields, she had published on aggregated and individual socio-spatial practices; participatory practices and place-making; and cultural heritage and place identity. She had been a PI and team member on research projects in the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, and India.

**Sachin Bhoite: Associate Urbanist, ARUP International Development, London**
Sachin Bhoite, from Arup, is a designer with experience working on complex urban projects in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Australia. He brings experience in promoting inclusion, integration and resilience, in order to improve children’s well-being in cities. He has led Arup’s work on City Resilience Index which has influenced over 140 cities globally and also led to the development of the Child-centred Urban Resilience Framework, used by child rights organisations to design urban programming from a system’s perspective. He thrives on integrating with specialisms like health, human rights, infrastructure, transport, policy and landscape.

**Sarabjit Singh Sahota: Disaster risk reduction specialist, UNICEF, India**
Sarabjit is an Architect and Urban Planner with over 25 years of professional experience in steering development, humanitarian and ‘disaster risk reduction’ strategies and programmes within UNICEF and other frontline agencies working in the domain of child centred disaster risk reduction, risk informed development planning, humanitarian response, capacity development, Conservation of historic urban precincts, Urban planning and design. In recognition his contribution to policy planning and implementation of DRR and humanitarian programming, in 2005 he was included in the ‘International Visitor Leadership Programme’ by Department of State, Government of USA.

**Sarika Panda, Manager-cities and transport, WRI**
Sarika Panda Bhatt is Head - Integrated Transport and Road Safety with WRI India. Sarika has about 12 years of experience in the field of urban development, transport and architecture. She is based in Delhi and coordinates various project and activities in the region. Sarika is the co-founder of the Raahgiri Day campaign, which is India’s first sustained initiative towards the use of alternative modes of transport. She is also helping about 30 other cities, including Gurgaon, Karnal, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, Cochi and Chandigarh, replicate this hugely successful concept.

In addition, Sarika leads the non-motorised transport work in the Delhi region and heads the ‘Streets for All’ program of WRI India. In close coordination with the governments of Delhi, Gurgaon and Karnal, Sarika is working to propose, facilitate and provide expertise on urban mobility plans. She is also helping to set up Public Bicycle Sharing (PBS) systems in Karnal, Bhopal, Gurgaon and Amritsar.

Sarika works extensively in the field of women’s safety, with a focus on daily commute and travel in public transportation. She has spearheaded women’s safety campaigns, in collaboration with city administration authorities in Karnal, Gurgaon, Bhopal and Indore.