# KNOWLEDGE NEEDS ASSESSMENT(KNA) REPORT

## INFANT, TODDLER, CAREGIVER - FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOODS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

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## Knowledge Needs Assessment Report and Capacity Gap Building Strategy

*National Institute of Urban Affairs partnered with Bernard van Leer Foundation to implement Infant, Toddler, Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhoods Capacity Building Programme. The Knowledge Needs Assessment study was conducted under the programme.*

*This publication intends to better understand Infant, Toddler and Caregiver needs of ULB officials at the neighbourhood level. The document is based on compiled inputs from ULB officials, sector experts and civil society members. Published in year 2022 by the ITCN Team, NIUA for enhanced understanding of the capacity of ULBs officials and to select apt candidates who would benefit from training on ITC lens for implementation and interventions on ground.*

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## ABSTRACT

Knowledge Needs Assessment Report analyses the existing capacities of city officials and identifies the forces driving change to ensure the effectiveness of capacity development efforts for promoting Infant, Toddler and Caregiver-friendly Neighbourhoods (ITCN). The Study provides the building elements for developing a demand-driven capacity-building strategy for ITCN. The KNA Study is based on assessments in the cities of Bhubaneshwar, Pune, Chennai, Indore, Gwalior, Chandigarh, Udaipur and Hyderabad, which have demonstrated a strong commitment and promise to develop inclusive, accessible, green, playful, safe and child-friendly neighbourhoods.

# Foreword

> 'Young Child and Family-Friendly City Neighbourhood' is an emerging planning concept in India and cities are just beginning to acknowledge their young citizens' needs. In India, according to Census 2011 data, there are 165 million infants, toddlers and young children in the age group 0-6 years (14% of the population), of whom more than one-fourth reside in urban areas. Cities are spaces for the overall development and well-being of their young ones. There is an impact of well-designed built spaces and, more specifically, sensitively designed neighbourhoods on the overall physical and social development of young child-friendly Smart City (CFSC) Programme, implemented by NIUA with the support of BvLF, sparked a demand for guidance and toolkits from cities and civil society organizations to help them create child-friendly cities and make city plans more child-centred. This laid the groundwork for the consolidation of knowledge and creation of new planning frameworks and tools for the capacity building of government especially Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) officials for the creation of young child and family-friendly cities.
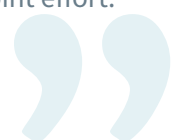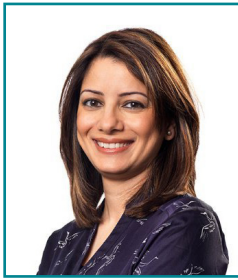
**Hitesh Vaidya**
Director
NIUA

The Infant, Toddler Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhood (ITCN) Capacity Building Programme, being implemented with BvLF support, aims to help the Indian cities to address critical aspects of ITCs' needs at the neighbourhood level. These are frequently overlooked in mainstream urban discussions and decision making. The aim of the Programme is to embed the young children-related considerations within the work realm of the ULBs through spatial mapping tools and service delivery mechanisms, by equipping them with appropriate planning and monitoring tools.

The Knowledge Needs Assessment (KNA) is the first step to understand current capacities and the additional support required by the ULBs to plan ITC friendly cities. The diagnostics presented in this Report is based on the inputs from select Indian cities and discussions with Civil Society Organizations. The KNA Report examines key parameters necessary to ensure the success of capacity-building and training of ULBs to promote Infant, Toddler, and Caregiver-friendly Neighbourhoods.

The contributions to the report made by city stakeholders to enable capacity building efforts motivated ULB officials to become aware of the ITCN parameters while planning and implementing projects in cities.

I am delighted to share the KNA Study which provides insights on the learnings from pilot cities Bhubaneswar, Pune, Hyderabad, Gwalior, Chennai, Indore, Chandigarh and Udaipur for developing Infant, Toddler and Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhoods. The Report is a collaborative effort of NIUA and BvLF, and I extend my appreciation for the support and contribution of BvLF to this joint effort.

**Rushda Majeed**
India Representative, Bernard van Leer Foundation

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It is good to see consistent, active efforts towards making cities in India infant, toddler, caregiver-friendly; and the Knowledge Needs Assessment Study, conducted as part of the Infant, Toddler, Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhoods Capacity Building Programme by our partner, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), is a perfect example. The entire team has been doing commendable work in the space. This report, which is based on assessments in various cities across the country, will further help in the training and knowledge strengthening of city officials – people who lead interventions on-the-ground aimed at making neighbourhood-level changes so that cities offer enhanced quality of life for young children and their families. The Bernard van Leer Foundation is happy to support NIUA and the study.

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# Abbreviations

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|---|---|
| **BvLF** | **Bernard van Leer Foundation** |
| **MOHUA** | **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** |
| **ITCN** | **Infant Toddler Caregiver Friendly Neighbourhood** |
| **CFSC** | **Child Friendly Smart Cities** |
| **ULB** | **Urban Local Bodies** |
| **KNA** | **Knowledge Needs Assessment** |
| **MoHUA** | **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** |
| **BMC** | **Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation** |
| **BSCL** | **Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited** |
| **HOD** | **Head of the Department** |
| **NIUA** | **National Institute of Urban Affairs** |
| **NULP** | **National Urban Learning Platform** |
| **DCPCR** | **Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights** |
| **ICDS** | **Integrated Child Development Services** |

# Definitions

**Anganwadis:** Anganwadis are established under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme of Government of India. The beneficiaries under the scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mother. Anganwadi centres provide packages for six services including supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition and health education, immunisation, health check-ups, and referral services.

**Balwadis:** Balwadi is an Indian pre-school run for economically weaker sections of the society, either by government or NGOs. The purpose of balwadis is to provide a child facility for physical and mental growth at schools and at home. Thousands of balwadis have been set up all over India by government and NGO.

**Built Environment:** In Urban planning, the term built environment refers to the human-made environment that provides the setting for human activity, including homes, buildings, zoning, streets, sidewalks, open spaces, transportation options, and more.

**Capacity Building:** Capacity building is a process that involves value added instruction, the training of trainers, activities with multiplier effects, and networking. It involves both institutional capacity-building, as well as human capacity-building.

**Early Childhood Development:** Early Childhood Development, 0-6 years is a unique window of opportunity to improve lives. Babies' and toddlers' brains develop rapidly, and small changes at this young age can have lifelong effects. Young children need plenty of love and attentive care from caregivers in healthy environments as well as opportunities for proper holistic development.

**Family – Friendly Neighbourhoods:** According to BvLF's Urban 95 initiative, the term means walkable neighbourhoods that cater for the basics a young family needs, public spaces close to home that attract all generations while allowing small children to explore safely and reliable transport that makes it easy, affordable and enjoyable for families with young children to travel where they need to go.

**Infant Toddler Caregiver Friendly Neighbourhood:** According to Infant Toddler Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhood Policy Framework of BvLF, 'ITCs' refers to a grouping of at least two people, the youngest of whom is under five years old. Caregivers may come from any background, any age group, and in any number. The neighbourhood is the smallest unit of a city, it is where individuals grow, nurture and thrive.

**Participatory Planning:** Participatory Planning emphasises on the involvement of community to reach a consciously defined set of socio-economic goals which is charted through a course of action to resolve the problems.

**Spatial Planning:** Spatial planning systems refer to the methods and approaches used by the public and private sector to influence the distribution of people and activities in spaces of various scales. Spatial planning can be defined as the coordination of practices and policies affecting spatial organization.

# BACKGROUND

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is a national think tank on urban planning and development. As a hub for generating and disseminating cutting-edge research in the urban sector, NIUA seeks to provide innovative solutions to address the challenges of a fast urbanising India and pave the way for more inclusive and sustainable cities of the future. In this endeavour, NIUA has partnered with Bernard Van Leer Foundation (BvLF) who have been working worldwide to ensure babies, toddlers and caregivers have access to nurturing spatial conditions with inclusive accessibility on social, economic and environmental aspects. Under BvLF's Child Friendly Smart Cities (CFSC) initiative, NIUA facilitated the development of CFSC in India[1]. The programme has complemented the endeavours under current national urban missions such as Smart Cities Mission and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) through knowledge distillation to cities in India and various civil society organisations.

As a follow-up to the efforts channelled through the CFSC programme, NIUA supported by BvLF under new Initiative-Urban 95, is implementing the Infant, Toddler and Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhoods (ITCN) capacity-building programme with specific capacity strengthening outcomes for city officials and young professionals. The Programme, with a term of two years starting January 2021, aims to use the inventory knowledge developed by BvLF partnership program and NIUA under the CFSC initiative to develop structured training modules covering new aspects of ITC, which are aligned to BvLF's specific focus areas of family-friendly urban planning design and healthy environments for children.

The Programme intends to support the formulation of city policies and aligned programmatic interventions, based on the Urban95 philosophy and various initiatives in India, especially on young children centric city planning. In this perspective, a Knowledge Needs Assessment study (KNA) has been undertaken to better analyse the present capacities of city officials, identify driving forces for change based on certain parameters elaborated in the subsequent sections. This is to ensure effective capacity development efforts in the future that can effectually motivate city officials to be aware of ITCN parameters while planning and implementing projects in cities. The ITCN Programme, based on the Urban95 classification, focuses on the development needs of young children in

the age group 0 – 5 years, which are distinct from those of the older children. The Census of India enumerates young children in the age group 0 – 6 years, which has been adopted by the Programme for secondary data analysis. The Capacity Building programme will be delivered online, through using well-structured training modules, on NIUA - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) National Urban Learning Platform (NULP). The Programme aims to bridge the gap in the skills, knowledge and practices of the city officials on young child and family friendly city planning and the emerging capacity building needs.

In today's world, young children are one of the key stakeholders in City Planning. The need is to innovate and create a thriving environment for infants, toddlers and their caregivers (parents, elderly etc.) which makes cities better designed for young children to grow. This aspiration can be achieved through a convergence of efforts of various stakeholders including government officials, city planners, architects, engineers, early childhood experts and behavioural scientists.

The study is presented in the following 5 sections:

1. **Section 1:** Setting context to the purpose, outcomes and methodology for the knowledge needs assessment.

2. **Section 2:** presents the KNA planning and management and provides details on stakeholder's engagement, areas of enquiry and the limitations of the Study.

3. **Section 3:** presents the City Profile and provides the baseline information on the cities to better understand the present capacities specifically from the ITCN lens.

4. **Section 4:** on Key Findings, based on the inputs during the deliberations with city stakeholders, on the existing capacity gaps to promote ITCN planning and investments.

5. **Section 5:** on the Way Forward presents recommendations to fill the assessed capacity gaps relating to ITCN.

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[1] *https://www.niua.org/cfsc/publications*

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1  Purpose

The purpose of the KNA is as follows:

1.  To assess the understanding of the ULB officials on spatial planning parameters and existing urban environment needs of young children and their caregivers at the city and, more importantly, at neighbourhood level and how it is currently being implemented.

2.  To assess the understanding of the ULB officials on data, tools and technology needed to plan neighbourhoods and cities for young children and their caregivers.

3.  To assess priorities of select cities relating to early childhood care and development in the perspective of their involvement with the Child-Friendly Smart Cities initiative, Urban 95 programme interventions and their overall mandate to create inclusive cities.

4.  To assess the cities' awareness of the initiatives in the sphere of the urban environment which comprehensively address young children's needs through the lens of urban planning and design focusing on governance aspects, developmental needs of a child and their convergence. In addition, disseminate knowledge to various city stakeholders to push the envelope on innovation and forge partnerships that prioritize the needs of children.

5.  To assess how informed, equipped and ready are cities to take up courses through an online portal like NULP[1].

## 1.2  About the Programme

According to the United Nations (UN), World Urbanisation Prospects report[2],  4.2 billion people (55 percent of the world population) inhabit urban areas. By 2050, 68 percent of the world's population will be urban. Globally, of the entire urban population, one billion are children (under the age of 10 years) (23.7 percent). By 2050, 70 percent of all the world's children will live in urban areas. According to a report from the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA),

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[1]*The purpose of leveraging such platforms is to develop a constructive platform for the multi-level infrastructural urban governance/service provider. The main objective is to achieve horizontal learning and knowledge-sharing platform for exchange between cities, practitioners, academia, researchers, and technologists.*

[2]*https://population.un.org/wup/publications/files/wup2014-report.pdf*

'Status of Children in Urban India Baseline Study 2018', India is home to 472 million children, comprising 39 percent of its population. Every fourth child in India (27.45 percent) lives in urban areas. In 2018, estimates put India's population at 18% of the world total. Besides, India is one of the youngest countries in the world. Children between the ages 0-4 make up 9.7% of the population of India (2011 census). Much of this population is or will be living in cities over the next decade.

Investing in this population and helping them build the capacities to participate in future economic growth and the cultural life of India will undoubtedly be the best investment for a sustainable future. This is the narrative around 'growth' that should become part of the national conversation. It is not enough to reduce the infant mortality rate in a country. For a state to have a promising future, it is also essential that we recognize that children need to thrive.

Children under the age of five access their physical surroundings through and in interaction with their caregivers, who in the Indian context are usually female (including older siblings, grandmothers, and hired help as well as mothers). Infants, toddlers, and their mainly female caregivers make for one of the most powerless groups in Indian society. One whose daily mobility needs concerning safety, pace and radius of movement is vastly different from that of workers (usually overwhelmingly male) in a city in India. Infants, toddlers, and caregivers use the public realm of a city every day — its streets and open spaces — more than any other group.

The health and well-being of young children reflect the well-being and health of society. A young child and family friendly city ensures an enabling urban environment that is healthy and safe for young children, develops their faculties, and fosters their love for community and nature. The Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have a long-standing partnership for sharpening the city development focus on 'infants, toddlers and caregivers' (0-6 years) in India. From the height of an average three-year-old at 95cm, the view of a city street mostly consists of vehicle tyres and exhaust. The world is experienced in fundamentally different ways for small children, which seems obvious when pointed out, but is not factored in any of the standards, tools, or effective common knowledge of city planners and engineers.

The urban environment bears a direct impact on the physical and mental well-being of young children and their caregivers. A neighborhood can often facilitate a rich world of imagination and adventure for young children that nurtures a vibrant creative life for them and their caregivers. The concept of building a young child and family-friendly neighbourhood is new in India and cities have just begun to acknowledge their young citizens' needs. Child inclusive planning and city and neighbourhood-level investments are sought to be promoted through knowledge support on policy framework, design guidelines and metrics for evaluation for designing Infants, Toddlers and Caregivers-friendly Neighborhoods (ITCN) in Indian context [3]. The neighbourhood is where generations of children thrive and grow[4]. However, there is a huge gap in the trickle-down of the flow of knowledge, thus establishing the need for the capacity building of Urban Local Bodies to realign their vision towards young child and family-friendly cities.

NIUA's long-term engagement and extensive work with cities has established the need for capacity building of city officials, at various levels, as the next step for creating young child and family-friendly cities, and the related need for the capacity gap assessment. The pre-requisite for an ITC friendly neighbourhood also necessitates inclusivity as the lens with a special focus on the most vulnerable groups amongst children, i.e., infants and toddlers as well as their caregivers (ITCs), to formulate relevant local and city-level policies and interventions to further the Urban95 philosophy and initiative in Indian cities. In this perspective, Infant Toddler and Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhoods (ITCN) Capacity Building Programme for city officials and young professionals have been co-designed by NIUA with the need based support from BvLF to achieve specific skill-development outcomes for city officials and young professionals.

As part of the Programme, up to 200 urban City officials and 250+ young professionals will be trained through certified capacity building modules. In addition, a toolkit for creating data baseline for young children in cities and another toolkit for developing a city-level data dashboard to embed the ITCN framework within the city development plans will be developed, and professionals will be equipped to utilize these resources with requisite knowledge and skills. This will provide an opportunity for continued and wider knowledge dissemination on the subject. The Programme aims to facilitate cities to be more equitable, inclusive and young children friendly. The learnings will lead to innovative community-driven programmes and practices undertaken at a neighbourhood scale that successfully engage young children and families in the decision-making process.

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[3]*https://bernardvanleer.org/publications-reports/infant-toddler-caregiver-friendly-neighbourhood-itcn-framework-and-guidelines/*

[4]*The Neighbourhood Planning concept was developed by Clarence Perry (1872-1944). Perry believed that cities should be built (or rebuilt) to consist of self-contained residential areas bounded by major roads with shops at the intersections and schools in the middle. Children would be able to walk to school without having to cross major roads, and the limited size of the units (typically 6,000-10,000 inhabitants) would, he believed, encourage community spirit. The theory was first publicized in 1939 in Housing for the Mechanic Age and gained rapid acceptance, serving as a template for post-war suburban development.*

## 1.3 Need for Knowledge Needs Assessment

There is a strong need to better understand the present skills and practice of ULB officials. The KNA study is a critical step to gauge the gaps in knowledge on the ITCN aspects in cities, which may be addressed through capacity building under the ITCN programme to facilitate cities to achieve the young child-friendly urban environment and planning goals. The desired outcomes and envisioned results in skilling the city officials can only be achieved if the programme design is based on the analysis of information received from the target group (i.e. government officials and city stakeholders) on the local governance structure and capacities.

The CFSC initiative looked at India's urban policy, follow-up strategies for the development of the programme and investment aspects from the lens of child development in the realm of urban planning and local development. The knowledge needs assessment, under the ITCN programme, is a step to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice through structured training to city officials. The primary purpose of needs assessment would be to identify the target cities, their present capacities, emerging technical needs, pinpointing the areas of priority and devising the way forward for an ITCN friendly city

## 1.4 Objective of the study

The objectives and the scope of the assessment are:

- Understanding the knowledge and skills gap and the related demands by city officials to design and create ITC-friendly built environments in neighbourhoods and cities.
- Define broadly the contours of the ITCN Capacity Building Programme to facilitate the implementation of ITCN interventions on the ground.
- Guide the selection of participants in the ITCN Capacity Building programme..

## 1.5 Expected Outcomes from the Study

- Understanding and analysing the dynamics of the present capacity by identifying the driving forces for change to ensure the effectiveness of future capacity development efforts and providing the building elements for developing demand-driven capacity building and proposing a strategy for ITC friendly city planning.
- Outline a long-term and sustainable capacity development strategy for the programme timeline, identifying major aspects in capacity building as well as opportunities that will enhance the ability of cities to meet their commitments under the ongoing urban missions and programmes.

## 1.6 Methodology

The methodology for the study is outlined below:

- The Knowledge Needs Assessment of ULB officials adopted a participatory and consultative process.
- A structured questionnaire has been used for the assessment, which was developed in consultation with the urban sector, child development and urban governance experts.
- The questionnaire used for the assessment has been footnoted and the responses are presented in the annexure as well as section 4[5] .
- The assessment was conducted mainly through an online survey and focus group discussions with sector experts, civil society organisations through participatory mapping exercises (one round) and city officials (two rounds – Pune, Gwalior and Udaipur).
- The knowledge assessment framework in section 4 recognizes the multi-dimensional skills needed to effectively implement ITCN programmes in cities.
- The knowledge needs assessment has been framed in the perspective of individual capacity (relevant skills and abilities), organizational capacity (governance, structures, processes, etc.) and broader context and environment within which the organization functions (societal capacity).

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[5]*https://docs.google.com/forms/d/153i_7Qc6gkHEBQVPjATgeoWsLBjxYZ36Hzg_pu6I0fg/edit*
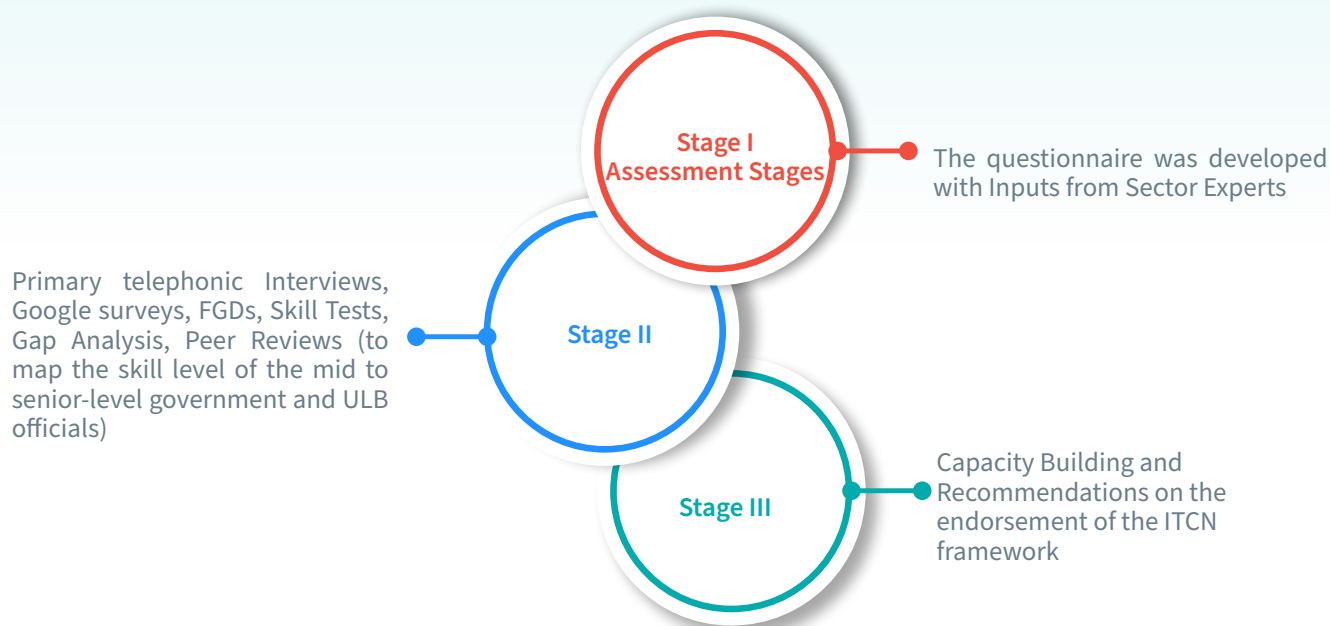
# 2. KNA Planning and Management

## 2.1 KNA Respondents

The targeted respondents for the KNA were government officials ranging from department heads, mid-level officials to junior officials, for detailed responses to the structured questionnaire. The ULB officials targeted for inputs on the questionnaire include Engineers, Data Officer, Inclusive Development Officer, Social Sector Expert, Concerned Department Officials, State Department Officials, Women & Child Department, Health Department, Urban Development Department and other concerned/related departments.

## 2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

The KNA Study adopted a systematic approach for stakeholder engagement. The assessment is based on a structured questionnaire covering key areas of enquiry, and has been designed based on inputs from domain experts in young children related aspects (spatial planning for ITCs, governance systems and socio-economic issues) and BvLF team members. The ITCN team organized interactive online sessions with officials from selected cities and civil society organizations to assess their approach to city planning and experiential learning on young children specific components on 18th May 2021 (Annexure 2). The questionnaire was shared with ULB officials through an online survey to get specific inputs on the areas of inquiry. In addition to online surveys, digital meetings were organized with the city officials. These sessions were organized to share information about the objectives of the programme and to draw inputs to meet the assessment objectives (including information on on-going programmes, knowledge and implementation mechanism on ITCN). As a follow-up, one-to-one discussions with Pune city officials on 16th July 2021, Gwalior and Udaipur city officials on 20th July 2021 were organized to assess the knowledge base of the officials, working areas and current capacities on ITCN. The deliberations and survey also captured the current practices in the selected cities to make them more inclusive for young children and their caregivers (including an increase in the green footprint, resilient spatial areas, mobility and design features). Lastly, the assessment also helped to gather views on ITCN related planning lacunas in cities and the possible strategies to overcome the planning and capacity barriers to promote ITCN (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Stages of KNA exercise**



Stage I
Assessment Stages

The questionnaire was developed with Inputs from Sector Experts

Stage II

Primary telephonic Interviews, Google surveys, FGDs, Skill Tests, Gap Analysis, Peer Reviews (to map the skill level of the mid to senior-level government and ULB officials)

Stage III

Capacity Building and Recommendations on the endorsement of the ITCN framework

## 2.3  Framework for KNA

The framework for KNA has been designed to assess the present skills of city officials, their various links to information related to young children, and flow of information and its integration in planning within cities. The five key areas of enquiry to understand the city officials' existing capacities include: awareness, approach, data, implementation and statutory integration from a young child and caregiver perspective (Figure 2).  These areas of enquiry are explained in Section 4 which presents the key findings on the knowledge gaps, skills and the current programmes in cities from the perspective of young children and their caregivers.

### I.   Awareness about ITCN Framework

Cities need to create neighbourhoods where the ITCs feel safe to explore, play and engage with their built and natural environment. The first area of enquiry assessed cities' awareness of factors that contribute to developing neighbourhoods which are safe for ITC. The concerns and needs of young children (0-6 years) and their caregivers (parents, grandparents, older siblings etc.) should be amongst the key markers for planning neighbourhoods. The KNA assessed how the selected cities planned the access of young children and their caregivers to urban services and built form at the neighbourhood level. During the deliberations, the ITCN team assessed the cities' interest to upgrade its capacity on issues relating to inclusion, accessibility, green areas, playgrounds and safety from the perspective of young children (0-6 years) and their caregivers. The cities' interest was gauged in acquiring technical skill related to early childhood development[1]  to plan and implement projects for their young population.

### II.  Approach to the planning of Infant-Toddler-Caregiver Friendly Neighborhoods (ITCN)

The programmes and projects in cities need to factor for special population segments such as young children (0-6 years) and their caregivers. This area of enquiry focuses on the utilization of CFSC knowledge products and toolkits by the city stakeholder to plan child-centric built environment and provision of caregiver-friendly amenities. Cross-sectoral approach across city departments for synergies on urban development issues relating to ITCs is critical for a holistic approach to planning. The willingness of the cities has been assessed to adopt measures to cater to the specific needs of young children and their caregivers. An additional focus of the assessment was on the achievement

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[1]*Early Childhood Development, 0-5 years is a unique window of opportunity to improve lives. Babies' and toddlers' brains develop rapidly, and small changes at this young age can have lifelong effects. Young children need plenty of love and attentive care from caregivers in healthy environments as well as opportunities for proper holistic development.*

of the ITCN goals[2] across cities. Neighbourhood planning is vital, since most of the young children spend their time in public areas. Being the most vulnerable group, young children requires fostering healthfulness and equity into their cities specially to address limitations in mobility that ITCs have. The ITCN framework specifically highlights the kind of approach to planning and designing streets, public transport, e-mobility, water and waste water, city health planning, energy and environment, data-driven transportation systems, urban freight, and form-based codes. All these have a direct impact on the overall development and well-being for young children and their families. Often, development practices within cities are exclusionary[3] with children being one of the most ignored population segments while designing and planning city programmes. Gwalior, Chandigarh and Chennai are amongst the cities which shared information on children who are often ignored while preparing master plan and constituting expert committees. Approach to city planning for ITCs must also happen from a human-centred approach, where young children and their caregiver's experiences. Infant, Toddlers and their caregivers experience to the built environment is often less accessible especially due to increasing vehicles on roads, less number of walkable pavements which can cause anxiety to the caregiver moving with a young child. The lack of physical safety in public areas is a cause of concern and have detrimental impact on the overall accessibility for young children and their caregivers within spatial planning. The absence of family friendly planning especially in the walkability of young children whether independently or with caregivers is limited in Indian cities.

## III. Datasets

The importance of ITC-focused data-driven, evidence-based planning and management practices cannot be overstated for achieving outcomes which are effective in building age-inclusive public spaces and identifying problems that require attention from the ITC perspective. Data is the entry point to anchor thinking and adopting an ITCN approach - from collection to its utilisation. Understanding from cities, whether data on ITCs is collected, the various sources, methods, frequency, challenges, utilisation, departments involved at various stages, activities that depend upon data sampling in cities etc. are among the issues which have been assessed. The why of effective data management is embedded in achieving ITC objectives, with emerging solutions that would make a difference. In addition, data is important to plan new interventions and for dissecting the complexities faced by young children and their caregivers. Observation tool is a useful tool in data collection. It primarily plays a role in terms of providing descriptions of the settings such as comfort, privacy, facilities etc. The method helps to determine the city stakeholders to better understand how young children and their caregivers are accessing built environments within cities. For instance, whether a waiting room or lobby has a furnished room for young children and toddlers which has toys etc. These observation practices and the interaction of ITCs and spatial environments would also contribute effectively to ITC inclusive planning and design practices.

## IV. Planning and implementation

Current statutory planning process in India has ignored ITCN centric spatial planning. This area of enquiry attempts to understand whether public spaces and amenities are accessible for young children to achieve a thriving environment. The participatory processes which recognize the voices of young children and caregivers are also important but there is a need to assess if such practices have been adopted for city development. Adequate and all-encompassing stakeholder's engagement is critical in the planning process. The Study captures city stakeholders' responses on the hindrances faced in accomplishing ITCN centric cities. These include lack of budgetary allocations, data management inadequacies, and lack of recognition of early childhood needs and other technical knowledge necessary for implementation. The necessity to focus on an ITCN planning approach for cities is well established to meet the goals of the Smart Cities Mission to achieve healthy, safe, sustainable and inclusive outcomes.
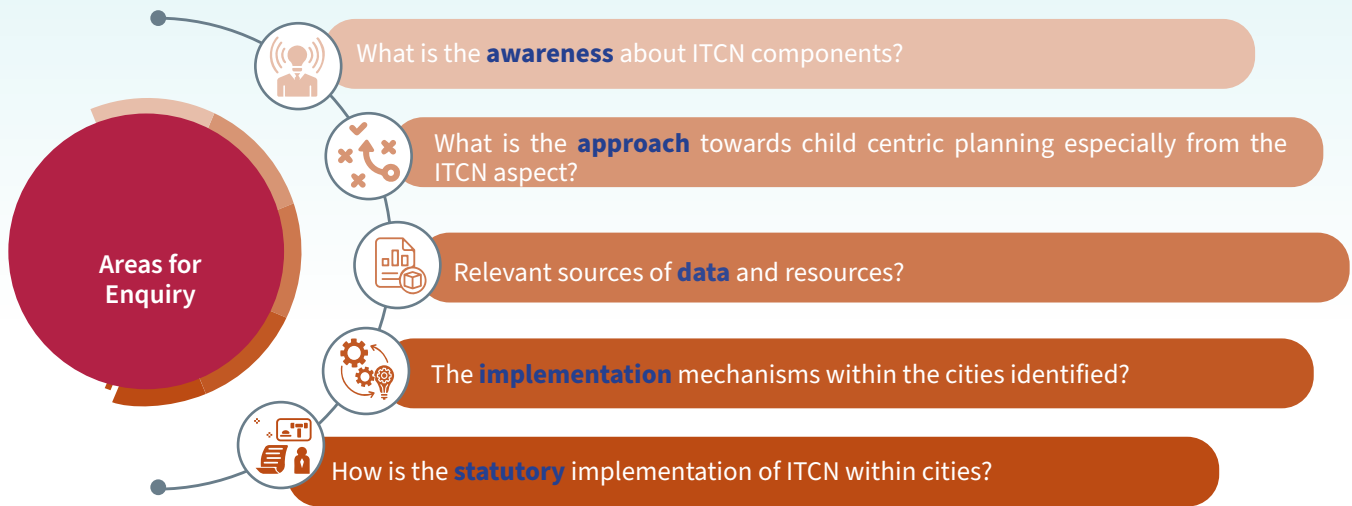
## V. Statutory integration of the ITCN component

Spatial policies need to identify opportunities for change wherein the needs of young children and their caregivers are met is the first step towards developing ITC friendly neighbourhood. Planning guidelines need to consider young children as stakeholders despite their inability to express their needs and desires in cities. The ITCN focus in planning guidelines would foster inclusive and accessible cities since these are the benchmark and guiding principle in city planning. The Study assessed the pressing concerns/challenges faced by city officials in the integration of ITC parameters in the city planning framework.

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[2]*The goal of ITCN is to enable the utilization of tools and knowledge products to city planners/engineers etc. in creating a nurturing early experience that minimizes the negative impacts of neighbourhoods and cities on the overall development of Infants, Toddlers and their Caregivers. Also, the objectives of ITCN is safe, green, accessible, playful and inclusive cities for children*

[3]*Development regulations result in the exclusion of various groups of people, such as low- and moderate-income individuals, families with children, particular racial or ethnic groups, or residents of a certain age from a community.*

**Figure 2: Areas of Inquiry from the Cities**

Areas for Enquiry

- What is the **awareness** about ITCN components?
- What is the **approach** towards child centric planning especially from the ITCN aspect?
- Relevant sources of **data** and resources?
- The **implementation** mechanisms within the cities identified?
- How is the **statutory** implementation of ITCN within cities?

## 2.4 Risk and Limitations of KNA

The 3 major limitations of the Study

1. Some of the respondents did not have adequate information on child-friendly initiatives in their cities and the requisite details had to be gathered from secondary sources to complete the required analysis for KNA.

2. Some of the respondents from the selected ULBs did not have adequate understanding and readily available information on city planning practices due to the existing institutional structure of the municipal corporations, causing delays in receiving responses to the structured questionnaire.

3. Engagement of municipal officials in the COVID related work hampered coordination with city officials causing delays in soliciting responses to the structured questionnaire.

## 2.5  Stakeholder mapping

The cities selected for the KNA assessment include Bhubaneshwar, Pune, Chennai, Chandigarh, Indore, Hyderabad and Udaipur. These cities have demonstrated commitment to developing inclusive, safe and child-friendly communities.

**Figure 3: Stakeholder Mapping in the Process**



COMMISSIONERS / CEOs

DATA OFFICERS

WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPENT EXPERTS

URBAN PLANNERS & DESIGNERS

ENGINEERS

As highlighted in section one, the parameters for understanding city needs require information from primary and secondary sources, which have been collated through city knowledge repositories and stakeholders (Figure 3).

**Note: These are the primarily stakeholders approached for the study of knowledge needs in the four pilot cities**

# 3. Study Findings

## 3.1  City Profiles

The Section presents baseline data for the selected seven ULBs for their overview and profiling. The selected cities include Bhubaneshwar, Pune and Udaipur which have taken initiatives to build inclusive and child-friendly cities. The initiatives in these cities under the Urban 95[1] initiatives and CFSC programmes include  spatial planning of some of the key areas and retrofitting of city parks to promote child-friendly neighbourhoods, mapping families with young children at the ward level, and traffic management measures and redesigning of streets to make them child friendly. Bhubaneswar is one of the first smart cities to adopt ITC parameters in its planning and implementation processes. The city of Bhubaneswar has taken initiatives to address the challenges of poor neighbourhood planning and lack of basic services such as water, sanitation, housing, public spaces (parks) and electricity, road and transport services.

Among the selected cities, Indore, Gwalior, Chandigarh and Hyderabad have expressed their willingness to participate in the ITCN capacity building programme and their appropriate service–scale and demographic size provide the right fit for capacity building efforts. The cities for the assessment were selected on the basis of their location, size and their initiatives under the smart cities mission. The additional consideration was the city's exposure to the CFSC and Urban 95 initiatives.  The distinct nature of each ULB in terms of their area, young children population, child sex ratio, land allocation for public parks and availability of functional Anganwadi centres have been collated in Table 1.

As per smart city report published by the European Standardization Expert in India[2] , Pune, a non-capital city, has shown exponential growth economically and demographically due to its growing pull factor with abundant economic opportunities. Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Chennai, the state capitals, have experienced over 50% increase in population for the past decade. However, access to socio-economic services is still low with most cities struggling with essentials such as poor nutritional level in young population and other vulnerable groups, and, healthcare and housing

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[1] https://bernardvanleer.org/cases/indias-first-smart-and-child-friendly-city/

[2] http://www.sesei.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Report-on-Smart-Cities-Mission-in-India_July_2018_Final.pdf

eco-system provisions below par especially for the age group of 0-5 years[3]

Table 1: City Detail and Profile

| Name | Area (sq.km) | Population[4] (0-6 years) | Child Sex Ratio[5] | No. of Public Parks | No. of Anganwadi Centers[6] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bhubaneswar | 186 Sq. km | 81,847 | 904 | 148[7] | 120 |
| Chennai | 426 sq. km | 4,59,324 | 950 | 643[8] | 1441 |
| Pune | 331.3 sq. km | 3,37,062 | 908 | 216 (as on 2019 Dec)[9] | 749 |
| Chandigarh | 109.53 Sq Km | 1,13,698 | 875 | 1807[10] | 161 |
| Indore | 530 Sq.Km | 2,54,108 | 887 | NA | 700 |
| Hyderabad | 650 Sq. Km | 8,31,435 | 943 | 1017[11] | 932 |
| Udaipur | 200 Sq.Km | 47,932 | 866 | NA | 150 |

## 3.2 Governance Structures and Staffing Pattern

The ULBs of Pune, Udaipur, Gwalior, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Indore, Chennai and Bhubaneswar are municipal corporations, and governance and administrative functions are headed by the Commissioners with an appointed head for each municipal department. Besides the regular municipal staff, the corporations hire sector experts as consultants. (Annexure 1). The consultants support various technical, implementation, planning and evaluation functions of various programmes of the municipal corporation. The project officers are recruited at various ranks and grades and are responsible for the end-to-end management of the programmes in their relevant fields (health department, sanitation, public parks, planning and social department etc.). Sub-committees are appointed for audit, nomination, remuneration and executive committee are as per the municipal by-laws in the state. Further, there are city advisory forums to facilitate collaborations within programmes and to support inter-departmental coordination for formation of committees for evaluation and/or consultations.

[3]https://www.niua.org/cfsc/sites/default/files/Indicators_for_CHIld_friendly_Local_Development-I_CHILD.pdf

[4]https://www.census2011.co.in/census/city/270

[5]https://www.census2011.co.in/census/city/270

[6]https://icds-wcd.nic.in/icdsawc.aspx

[7] https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/odisha-tops-in-implementation-of-amrut-scheme-minister/1913046

[8]https://chennaicorporation.gov.in/gcc/department/park/

[9]https://www.hindustantimes.com/pune-news/pune-to-get-greener-with-216-public-gardens-by-december/story-eXCQBcdoXLPkz1KkasSBDN. html#:~:text=The%20gardens%20and%20parks%20will,by%20the%20state%20forest%20department.

[10]http://mcchandigarh.gov.in/sites/default/files/Neighbourhood_Parks_List1-ilovepdf-compressed.pdf

[11]https://ghmc1.ghmc.gov.in/Parks/parks.asp

## 3.3  City Vision and Language Proficiency

**Figure 4: Vision Areas for each city**

**Bhubaneshwar**

Bhubaneshwar aims to build a transit-oriented city that is a liveable, child-friendly, environment-friendly regional economic centre. The approach undertaken is through participatory and responsible governance systems.

Languages – Odia, English, Hindi (https://www.bmc.gov.in/)

**Pune**

Pune envisions itself for being true to the needs and views of its citizens, especially with a focus on the quality of services and infrastructure. Solving cities challenges through sustainable solutions that benefit all residents.

Languages –Marathi, Hindi, English (https://www.pmc.gov.in/en/about-us)

**Chennai**

Chennai aims to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of the city dwellers by enabling local area development and harnessing technology to provide smart outcomes which improve the overall city landscape and infrastructure.

Languages –Marathi, Hindi, English (https://chennaicorporation.gov.in/gcc/about-GCC/greater-chennai-corporation/brief-note-about-GCC/)

**Chandigarh**

Chandigarh being a union territory envisions to provide livability, sustainability, equality and innovation. The aspiration and needs of the citizens, developing the entire urban ecosystem, which represents by the four pillars of comprehensive development-institutional, physical, social and economic infrastructure.

Languages – Tamil and English (http://mcchandigarh.gov.in/)

**Indore**

Indore city looks at synthesizing the residents to the city's heritage with modernity a core component of its aspirations. The rejuvenation and innovation in spatial re-structuring with building sustainable infrastructure and environment, inclusive governance practices.

Languages –Hindi, Marathi and English (http://imcindore.mp.gov.in/)

**Hyderabad**

Hyderabad city also called the pearl capital of India looks at driving data-backed and driven governance practices with sustainable solutions for its city dwellers

Languages –Telegu, Hindi, Urdu and English (https://www.ghmc.gov.in/)

**Udaipur**

Udaipur city promotes core infrastructure development with its rich heritage, the corporation aims to ensure a decent quality of life for its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment with solutions that intrinsically look at inclusive development.

Languages – Hindi and English
(http://udaipurmc.org/Presentation/TopMenu/Udaipur_City.aspx)

## 3.3.1 Learnings and Perspectives from Cities for the Capacity Building Programme

The concept of planning and investment in physical and social infrastructure for young children and their caregivers is still new to the Indian cities. Generally, cities take a narrow view of learning, and physical and mental development

of children from the perspective of health and education infrastructure. However, a nurturing built environment in neighbourhoods and accessible public spaces are necessary for early childhood development in cities. Presently, an inclusive urban planning approach focused on improving structures and facilities which enable holistic and integrated development of young children and their interaction with the environment is missing in the Indian cities.

There is a strong need to support municipalities and help them increase creches/ day-care services, construct playgrounds for young children and manage transportation networks which would essentially nurture healthy development of young children and support their caregivers. In most municipal corporations, as was revealed during the discussions with the selected cities, the focus is on developing only green spaces while other key spatial planning components are neglected. As evidence shows, the built environment has a direct impact on a young child's safety and resilient structures have long term implications on the overall well-being and life of a child. An unsafe environment in and around public structures bears an increased likelihood of accidents, injury and health impairments which could have physical as well psychological implications for the child. Such a perspective needs to be brought forward during the capacity building sessions, as recommended.

The discussions with cities also highlighted the neglect of families with young children in city stakeholders' consultations and, consequently, the city decision making lacks sensitivity to the needs of this demographic group. Meaningful participatory approach and community engagement practices, which would ensure the voices of vulnerable populations, are needed to be considered in the city building process. Since young children do not fall in the legal voting age and cannot express their expectations, lack of sensitivity would mean shaping a city around them which does not include their aspirations and needs. City stakeholders also opined that infrastructure design ignore components such as sidewalks, streets and sitting areas and inappropriate designs which infringe on the rights of children and their caregivers in cities. Pune and Udaipur have taken the initiative to prepare streets and mobility plans which incorporate the specific requirements of young children and caregivers within the built environments.

The inputs and interactions from 16+ city officials during the Study have revealed the need for effective methods to adopt measures suited to young children and their caregivers from both spatial and socio-economic perspective. Even though a few of the selected cities are promoting inclusion and have set up various committees to achieve this goal, still inclusion needs to be the underlying approach for all programmes implemented by various departments of the municipal corporations.

Young children are highly dependent on their caregivers (parents, nannies, grandparents, elderly etc.) and the caregivers need to pay close attention to the various daily and development needs of a child. However, the needs of caregivers especially in the urban context in India are often ignored while planning the outside environment despite having the National ECCE policy[12] which highlighted the need for facilitating an enabling environment through appropriate systems, processes and provisions across the country and an urban strategy to address the specific unmet needs of children in urban areas. Care homes, benches and accessible and functional public utilities are lacking in city and neighbourhood plans and infrastructure design. City planners and designers need to incorporate specific caregiver friendly components in plans and development projects

## 3.4  Awareness on ITCN related aspects

The long term vision of the cities is provided in Figure 4 and it guides the development plans and programmes of municipal corporations. Inclusive urban infrastructure development is needed to ensure sustainable, resilient, accessible, and affordable solutions to the challenges faced by the vulnerable groups by enhancing accessibility to urban services and infrastructure through targeted investments. This integrated approach would also push for improved service delivery within cities for young children and caregivers ensuring equitable, safe and liveable cities for all.

Bhubaneshwar[13], Udaipur and Pune[14] have fostered young child and family friendly city planning and development. In addition, cities are focusing on sensory and perceptual development and tactical elements of cities through retrofitting of city layouts. For Instance, Bhubaneswar is promoting universal coverage of water supply, construction of sewage treatment plants and improving green spaces under the AMRUT cities.

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[12]https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/National%20Early%20Childhood%20Care%20and%20Education-Resolution.pdf

[13]Bhubaneshwar Development Authority gathered data to map the number of children in each ward and the services available, and initiated projects such as constructing six new parks, redesigning four informal settlements and improving safety on the eight-lane thoroughfare Janpath Road

[14]Pune has worked towards building ITC friendly garden corners, road crossings and playful areas. To better address the needs of caregivers and young children it has also set up waiting areas and sensory elements in the Pune city at various locations.

On the other hand, Pune has been closely working with the Urban 95 initiative to incorporate young child and family friendly components in city development with active support of Bernard Van Leer Foundation (BvLF). Child-friendly initiatives include mobility and footpath re-design and place making, and increase in open spaces from 4% to 10% of the total area through 13 parks and a 3.4 km world-class riverfront.

As per the findings of the City Liveability Index[15],  an increase in open spaces from 4% to 10% of the total area for city dwellers would mean revitalised public amenities for spaces ignored most often. These spaces exist in every city which can be easily converted into multi-use open spaces for recreational purposes especially to promote a better planned urban environment[16].  Such spaces, as pointed out by city stakeholders during discussions, can be utilised as the starting point for improving spatial planning practices.

In addition to above, Udaipur has implemented ITCN specific components through tactical interventions in utilising open spaces for the recreational purposes of young children, and re-designing streets and parks to improve planned structures for meeting the needs of young children. In addition, the city has increased the number of anganwadis, balwadis and primary health centres for children. The city undertook pilot projects such as re-designing the Town Hall Park to suit the sensory, perceptual and cognitive development needs of children and revitalised the Meera Bagh Park by upgrading the overall layout of the park.

However, as revealed during the discussions, the  overarching focus on the specific needs of young children in the overall development and spatial plans is still missing in most cities. In Chennai, for example, the mobility and transportation projects are not inclusive and do not cater to the specific needs of young children, women and other vulnerable groups. The Comprehensive Mobility Plan 2048 of the city does not cater to the needs of young children and their caregivers.

Cities such as Hyderabad, Pune and Udaipur have increasingly started thinking about safety needs in public spaces and streets, especially by pushing for the provision of pedestrian walkways. During the discussions, the city officials also highlighted the need to improve special provisions for young children with different abilities, by building tangible structures and improving their visibility in streets - such as road dividers, proper signage and decorative traffic islands.

# 3.5  NULP or Other Online Learning Platforms

The ITCN capacity building programme will develop training modules based on the knowledge products created under the CFSC and Urban 95 initiatives, and the training will be made available on the National Urban Learning Platform (NULP) set up by NIUA and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

**Capacity Building Frameworks on the National Urban Learning Platform (NULP)**: The National Urban Learning Platform is a content-neutral, scalable and multi-channel platform that can be used for producing and delivering capacity through a 360-degree approach. The NULP is envisioned as a means of digitally consolidating key skills and knowledge required by urban stakeholders and making these available to all actors on the channel of their choice. The NULP includes tools to enable and streamline content creation, content organization and management, course building, course management, assessment and certification. These tools enable the ecosystem of training institutions, urban experts and academia to rapidly digitize their existing course material while creating new interactive content. It induces information exchange and collaboration between the city administration, professionals, industry, academia, researchers, and start-ups who strive to solve data challenges with state-of-the-art technologies. This learning platform enables the creation of multilingual content to ensure that language does not form a barrier to learning.  The platform enables co-creation and innovation and empowering city governance bodies to meaningfully and instantly interact with each other to catalyse urban development for the greater good.

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[15]*https://smartnet.niua.org/sites/default/files/resources/Liveability%20Standards.pdf*

[16]*The Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) guidelines, 2014 prescribe benchmarks for open spaces in cities*

# 4. Key Findings

This section highlights current knowledge and challenges faced by selected cities. The findings have been elucidated under the key areas of inquiries mentioned in the earlier sections of the study (Section 2.3.) The capacity building needs, supporting information and technical skills (Table 3) would help advance interventions at the city level for a robust design and delivery of ITCN capacity- building . The section also identifies various departments involved in programme implementation and data collection practices (challenges faced in data collection due to COVID-19 pandemic) at the city level which are important for the integration of ITC components in planning and decision-making processes. Case stories from Pune and Gwalior have been mentioned to demonstrate best practices adopted by these cities under various city development programmes to create young children and caregiver friendly city spaces. The sample size for the questionnaire is based on 16 responses in total. All findings have been based on the mentioned sample size.

**Datasets**

The cities collect data specific to ITCs on aspects that include general demographics, birth and death rates, education and participation in vaccination programmes. Census of India publication is one of the most important secondary data source and 78.6% (12 out of 16) of the respondents use the source for ITC relevant data. Cities also use published and unpublished secondary data for the purpose, and also undertake primary surveys for data variables in zero data zone. Surveys are the predominant instrument used to develop primary databases - sample household survey at the ward level, complemented by focus group discussion and key informant interviews. The main challenges faced in ITCN specific data collection are availability, accountability and measurability. In Indian cities, data cycles can stretch for a period of 5-10 years which raises concerns on the accuracy and reliability of sample data collected for 0-5, 6 years' age-group. 64.7% (11 out of 16) of the respondents mentioned that data related to ITCN is generally not in the public domain and remains inaccessible to the general public, private and public entities. In addition, it was suggested, increasing the frequency of data collection cycles would ensure a reliable database to effectively address ITCN needs. The disparity in data collection and absence of data backed decision making leads to non-availability of inclusive spaces and evidence based planning practices. Cities faced difficulties in data collection activities during the COVID-19 specially since cities have been hotspots of the COVID health crisis. Also with the spread of the pandemic, several vaccination activities for young children had to be stalled

**Awareness about the ITCN framework**

The on-line survey and focus group discussions with city stakeholders revealed that nearly two-third of the officials in select cities are aware of the ITCN framework developed through the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Bernard Van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). However, little more than one-third of the respondents informed that city-wide projects or interventions which focus on young child and caregiver centric development projects were not being planned primarily due to its reduced prioritisation in city planning and administrative systems. Some 70.6% (12 out of 16) respondents have suggested that planning for young children has been centred primarily around creating public spaces such as parks and fixing equipment in parks while spatial city planning elements (traffic streets, day care centre, accessible health centres) are still lacking in city plans and programmes. During discussions with the city officials, the expressed view was that there is a lack of adequate budgetary allocation for catering to the needs of young children and their caregivers. Some 70.6% (12 out of 16) of the city officials mentioned that there are no budgetary allocations in municipalities for ITCN projects and interventions. In addition, many city officials also indicated the need for national-level advocacy for mainstreaming child-friendly components in city plans and investments. According to a high proportion of the respondents (94.1%, 15 out of 16) access to safe streets and neighbourhood planning for open areas are essential components for the development of young children. 92.9% (15 out of 16) are interested in taking a capacity-building course to further strengthen their knowledge and technical expertise in the domain (additionally, some respondents mentioning that certain factors would need to be featured in the capacity building of city officials – mentioned in Table 3).

**Planning and implementation approach for the ITCN**

88.7% (14 out of 16) of the respondents are not using the ITCN[1] framework for their current or earlier city development plans. The major challenges enumerated by the respondents inhibiting their ability to develop or execute ITCN centric cities include lack of streamlined policy, statutory systems, lack of awareness, lack of data collection practices, political unwillingness and economic prioritisation by the decision-making agencies. A strong need was expressed for adopting participatory methods during the planning processes through workshops and focus group discussions with planning agencies and engaging various stakeholders including CSOs so as to foster a child-centric approach. Participatory processes remain one of the most robust methods to improve development projects, by ensuring the engagement of the community and addressing the major challenges in a democratic manner. This approach needs to be strengthened in order to involve young children, care-givers and civil society organisations and initiating a bottom-up approach for an ITC friendly city planning. Out of 7 cities contacted, only Pune has formed committees to address the ITC needs (Refer to Annexure 1.)

**Approach to planning of ITC Neighbourhoods**

52.9% (9 out of 16) of the city stakeholders responded that the ITCN framework has been evaluated and incorporated in planning the built environment in their cities. They were of the opinion that child-centric planning for play, safe spaces and caregiver friendly amenities is lacking in city development programmes and master plans. 64.7% (11 out of 16) of the respondents agreed to undertake a rapid assessment of their current programmes for a better understanding of the gaps and opportunities for incorporating the ITCN framework. 58.8 % (10 out of 16) of the respondents are aware of the CFSC initiative and knowledge products created under the Programme. The capacity building programme will help cities to adopt an inclusive approach (including sharing planning and approach methods mentioned in CFSC publications) at all levels of decision making

**Statutory integration of the ITCN component**

The majority of the respondents mentioned having planning guidelines that serve as policy and statutory documents. Some of the pressing concerns and challenges faced by city officials include the absence of nationwide guideline that can be used for advocacy for ITCN. Also, cities recommended amendments in existing rules/acts/statutory guidelines to incorporate the ITCN centric perspective

# 4.1  Case Stories from Cities

**Case stories from the selected cities are discussed here to highlight some of the good practices in the cities. The information was captured during focus group discussion with city officials as a part of KNA study.**

### Pune City:

Pune City has successfully implemented the first phase of the city's young children focused programmes with focus on developing gardens, balwadis, maternity hospital and children traffic park, incorporating the Urban 95 elements. The scaling up and replication across the city are the next steps in achieving an ITC-friendly city. The next phase shall focus on creating open spaces, primary education centres, day-care centres, young children-friendly streets and health units across the city.

City officials faced challenges in prioritizing young children and care giver needs due to the demands to focus on other needs such as public health infrastructure and road development. Often, city authorities change programmes and target groups to suit various political motivations, goals and agendas. Therefore, advocacy by city stakeholders is required to push for inclusive planning approaches that target vulnerable groups.

### Gwalior City:

Gwalior City Corporation is working on child-friendly development from a health and nutrition perspective and has taken the initiative to operationalize 1,500 Anganwadis under the ICDS scheme. In Gwalior, under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Urban), fully equipped tot-lots are being planned at strategic locations for children. All residential layouts focus on the green environment provisions and facilities such as primary health centres for mothers and children.

# 4.2  Emerging Capacity Building Needs

**(The capacity building features have been incorporated based on the inputs received from city officials)**

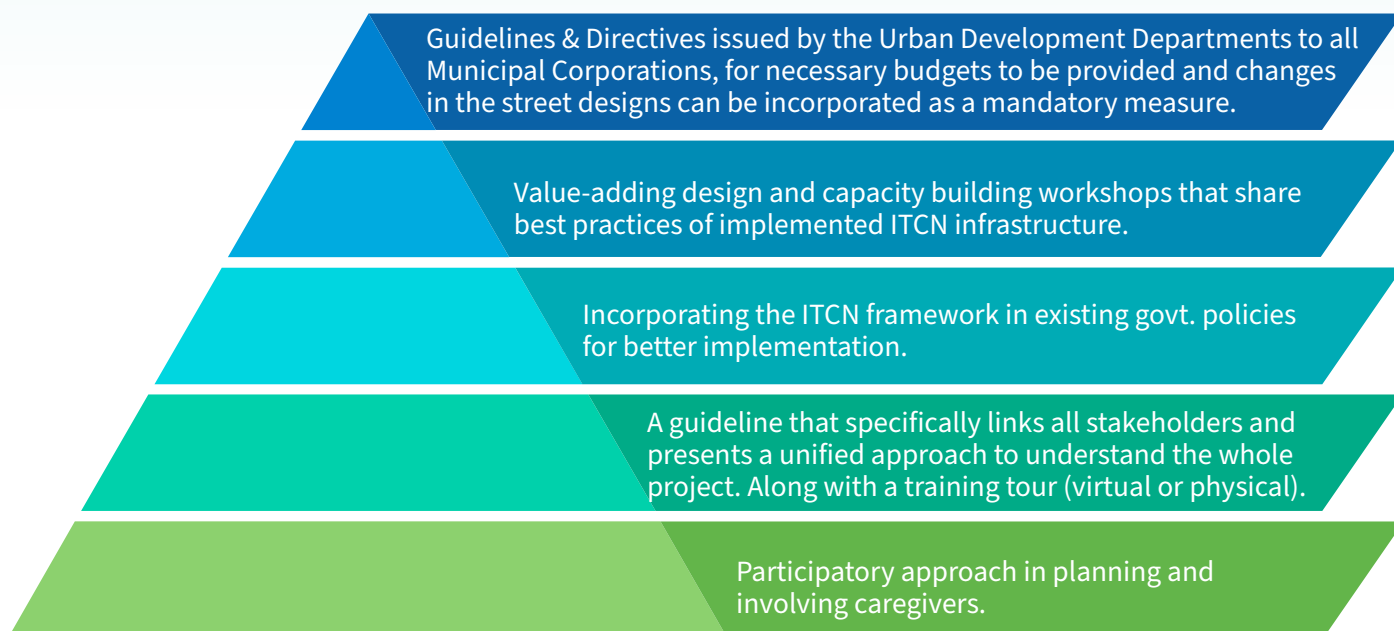**Box 1: Capacity Building Parameters and Technical Skills**

- Capacity building on Early Childhood Development
- Urban design and engineering components specific to ITCN needs
- ITCN centred planning of education and health facilities
- Manual/toolkit/lectures on engagement techniques for young children and other stakeholders (engineers, citizens, caregivers) in the planning process
- Basic learning on safety protocols and disaster management
- Basic understanding of data and its use - developing city dash boards
- ITC specific basic infrastructural and design features (ITC guidelines and toolkit)
- On site visits along with a demonstration of best practices

[1]*In India, the 73rd and the 74th constitutional amendments (CAA) enacted on 1st June 1993 extends constitutional status to municipalities, empowering people and locally elected representatives the power to act in common interest and have a say in how their communities should develop.*

**Support and information for cities to meet ITCN goals:**
City officials requested support and information to meet the ITCN goals. The same has been described in the figure presented below:

**Figure 5: Information requested by cities to achieve ITCN goals**



Guidelines & Directives issued by the Urban Development Departments to all Municipal Corporations, for necessary budgets to be provided and changes in the street designs can be incorporated as a mandatory measure.

Value-adding design and capacity building workshops that share best practices of implemented ITCN infrastructure.

Incorporating the ITCN framework in existing govt. policies for better implementation.

A guideline that specifically links all stakeholders and presents a unified approach to understand the whole project. Along with a training tour (virtual or physical).

Participatory approach in planning and involving caregivers.

## 4.3  Departments Responsible for Data Collection in Cities

This section lists the departments/personnel responsible for data collection. Additionally, data collection on ITC variables needs to be incorporated in the departments highlighted in the right column of the table.

**Table 2: Departments/ Personnel responsible for Data Collection**

| Departments/Personnel Responsible for Data Collection | Departments Responsible for Incorporating the ITCN framework in the City Master Planning |
|---|---|
| Census Department Officials<br><br>ICDS, Health Workers, Social Development Officers<br><br>District Statistical Officers/Research Officers | • Health Department<br>• Education Department<br>• Town and Urban Planning Department<br>• Architecture Department<br>• Garden Department<br>• Women and Child Welfare Committee<br>• Engineering Department<br>• Slum Rehabilitation<br>• Ward Offices<br>• Social Development Department<br>• Road and Traffic Department |

# 5. Way Forward, Recommendations and Capacity Building Course Outline

In the past few years, India has seen a paradigm shift from an infrastructure-led response to urbanization to now developing smart and liveable cities. The urban development discourse has changed from isolated project-based interventions to a city level integrated development model where various processes including planning, design, management and governance as well as different projects are collectively striving towards building a city for all. This evolving paradigm offers an opportunity to regard "young children" as one of the primary users of the spaces, facilities and opportunities offered by cities. This can be facilitated by urban missions and programmes defining the course of urbanization in India.

The on-going urban missions cover various facets of city development and collectively offer the prospects of achieving inclusive cities. Keeping children at the centre of the city development agenda would ensure that cities respond to the needs of all urban residents including the most vulnerable population segments. Some cities, supported by the urban missions, have already embarked on the path of inclusive development as is seen from several examples presented in this report.

The capacity building to cities would also require an inclusive approach to urban design and built environment planning. For instance, how are the needs of young children living in slums and streets being addressed. Gender sensitive and inclusive lens within city development must integrate provisions of feeding rooms for lactating mothers. In addition, increase the number of crèches for their young children[1].

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[1]https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/public-places-and-women-urban-planning-for-women-friendly-spaces/articleshow/81412122.cms

# 5.1  Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the suggestions and inputs from city stakeholders (ULB officials and civil society organisation representatives)

**Table 3: Recommendations for the Capacity Building Programme**

| Recommendations |
|---|
| • Encourage ULB officials to access knowledge, form opinions & develop expertise on ITCN aspects |
| • Create inter-departmental communication platforms such as committees/council for enhanced learning on ITC specific areas, especially when implementing any city wide master plans or development programmes. |
| • ULB officials auditing the existing city-development programmes on a regular basis to align closely with the ITC planning perspective.  This, in turn would enable city officials to assess current gaps in addressing young children and caregiver needs. |
| • Cities must develop a dashboard that is accessible to the public (which can be utilised by various public/private entities.) A dashboard with specific indicators on ITC aspects would provide effective decision making and planning inclusive cities especially for young children. |
| • Prepare a manual/framework for a unified departmental approach to ITCN at the urban level. |
| • Prepare Policy Advisory on young child centric planning and guidelines. The existing ITCN framework developed by the MOHUA, NIUA and BvLF must be advocated at the national level. |
| • There is a need to improve participatory approach in planning, with stakeholder engagement and identification methods garnered at the city level. |
| • Conducting training impact evaluation at regular intervals would help in assessing gaps and challenges faced by cities in adopting ITC centric approach. |
| • Cities requested interactive sessions for a shared understanding on urban design practices. In addition, planning facilities and services from an ITC perspective across cities especially for healthcare, education and nutritional requirements. |
| • Develop city-level ITC data dashboard for decision making and tracking achievements against the set development goals. |
| • Some of the topics recommended for capacity building include safety of children in mobility and spatial plans, caregiver essentials for city development, architectural designs on ITCs and front line worker's skill building especially during health emergencies. These topics should be incorporated in the course. |
| • Onsite interactions and online virtual knowledge-sharing platforms such as NULP for city officials to learn about best practices, approach and effective methods in order to adopt a child-centric approach in planning and implementation of programmes. |

## 5.2  Way Forward

**Building awareness on ITCN**
- The findings of the study indicate that there is a strong need for knowledge dissemination on ITCN framework within ULBs across the hierarchy. This will help to improve the technical skills (Refer to Table 3) on ITC friendly framework for built environment developed under various programmes.

- Inter-departmental coordination is critical for a horizontal alignment as well as vertical across programmes for a unified ITC approach. This can be achieved by adopting unified, cross – sectoral and inter-departmentally linked ITC guideline by various city stakeholders.

- Traditionally, the primary means of acquiring new knowledge for ULB officials has been through face-to-face trainings. NIUA in turn, has focused on using platforms such a NULP to enhance knowledge and understanding of city stakeholders on critical city planning, management and governance issues. The aim through such platforms has been to scale up delivery of training to city officials and strengthen their capacity to plan for the expected rapid growth in urban population. Enhanced institutional capacity of city agencies is required to manage large infrastructure projects, implement urban reforms, adopt planning measures to enhance urban mobility and redesigning of cities specially to provide a decent quality of life for all citizens. Achieving sustainable environment is a work in progress and the application of Smart Solutions (through exchange workshops/discussions) will enable navigating cities to reach their goals. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas and create a replicable model adaptable to other aspiring cities.

**Approach Undertaken by Cities for ITC friendly Neighbourhood**
- Inclusive cities with a built environment for young children that promotes holistic and integrated development is vital. One of the emerging concerns from cities, is the need to integrate nurturing facilities in urban design. This, not only promotes cognitive and motor skills but also enables a young child's overall development, through enabling infrastructure and child friendly spaces.

- Besides ULB officials, capacity building programmes on ITCN need to be rolled out for officials of bodies such as, Juvenile Justice Court, Child Welfare Committees, ICDS, RWA groups, Parents Associations, Medical Associations and also the health workers among others to strengthen understanding and approach to an ITC friendly city in an integrated and multisectoral way.

- Inclusive cities with a built environment for young children that promotes holistic and integrated development is vital. One of the emerging concerns from cities, is the need to integrate nurturing facilities in urban design. This, not only promotes cognitive and motor skills but also enables a young child's overall development, through enabling infrastructure and child friendly spaces.

- In the perspective of the scale and complexity of urbanization in India and the enhanced focus on inclusive development to address ITC related needs, there is the need to build capacity of architect, urban planners, designers and engineers on issues related to early childhood development - especially on how to adopt a coherent and systematic approach to planning and designing cities that improves children's development. In addition, there is the related need to review existing urban planning practices in cities to make the city plans more inclusive.

- City development plans and programmes often do not capture the specific needs of young children and their caregivers needs, particularly the assessment of independent and dependent needs of young children in the age group of 0-6 years. There is the need for adopting appropriate spatial plans and designs at neighbourhood level to promote overall development and increasing independent mobility in toddlers.

- Inequitable access to infrastructure facilities for various city population segments has been highlighted during the spread of the on-going pandemic. The impact of COVID-induced lockdowns and restrictions is immense on young children and other vulnerable groups due to limited access to public spaces and amenities.

**Implementation and Data Management on ITCN specific components**

- Planning and service delivery agencies, across the urban hierarchy and national and sub-national governments, need to setup benchmarks and have periodic and milestones-related efficacy checks to map the progress on key ITC parameters for urban spaces.

- City plans use, provide and visualise a wide spectrum of data at neighbourhood, settlement and city level on spatial aspects, socio-economic variables, urban services level and availability of social facilities, mostly GIS-based. The city and sub-city database need to be strengthened to facilitate profiling of neighbourhoods to determine the areas with high concentration of the most disadvantaged children. Additionally, there is the need to incorporate early childhood development indicators for ITCN area-based interventions.

- Data collection templates at city and sub-city level must include variables to capture the impact of the built environment, land use and spatial planning on children's well-being and life-long development.  City officials, especially the data officers, should also align the data framework to the urban policies and programmes to facilitate inclusive planning, in general, and child-responsive planning, in particular. A strong city database will support ULBs in developing area-based plans and addressing the spatial inequity facing disadvantaged children.

- Capacity building for city officials must be viewed from a different perspective under the ITCN CB programme for their effective sensitization on neighbourhood level planning.

### Statutory Integration of ITCN
- Attempting a ward level ITC-sensitive planning in a city on a pilot basis and the learnings could be recommended for statutory provisions in master plans to make cities ITC-friendly.

- CSOs, NGOs and other stakeholders working on challenges and issues related to ITCs should be involved in processes of city planning

## 5.3  Capacity Building Course Outline

In addition, to the concerns raised in the previous section, the broader outline of the capacity building course has been highlighted below.

### Built Infrastructure
The country is witnessing growing densification of cities whereby high rise buildings are being constructed and there is less focus on preserving public spaces for community interactions in residential condominiums. In this scenario, interaction spaces for children with sensory infrastructure are being compromised. Often the physical designs of these complexes lack visual cues for children to have access to nurturing conditions that are clean, safe and conducive to their overall welfare. Neighbourhood planning and street designs must aim to be inclusive and cater to the development needs of young children[23].

### Data Collection
National and sub-national governments need to design an integrated mechanism for periodic data collection to facilitate and monitor city initiatives to achieve ITC-friendly neighbourhoods. The inter-temporal database is a prerequisite for inclusive planning and investments. It facilitates informed decision-making on city priorities and promotes stakeholder consultations for inclusive city development, including young children and their families, to address the ITC challenges through community engagement processes.

### Capacity Building Exercise
Under the ITCN capacity building programme, NIUA will design multi-level capacity-building programme to achieve specific outcomes. It is proposed to utilise the vast body of knowledge developed under the NIUA-BvLF CFSC initiative and BvLF partnerships and develop knowledge products and training modules covering new aspects of ITC. The capacity building plan must also look at behavioural lens while designing the ITCN friendly neighbourhoods which should be incorporated and addressed as part of upskilling ULB officials. Based on the assessment of emerging capacity building needs of ULB officials, the training modules will be developed at the three levels, as described below:

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[3]https://www.orfonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ORF_IssueBrief_415_ChildFriendlyCities_FinalForUpload.pdf

[3]https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1541558

**Orientation Course (Basic Level Course)**

- Establish the need for a better understanding of ITC needs and ECD by city officials at the neighbourhood level, through a comprehensive and structured module.

- Provide adequate tools and knowledge to city officials for the robust design and delivery of ITCN indicators.

**Operational Course (Intermediate Level Course)**

- Strengthen skills of ULB officials in data mapping and analysis to better comprehend and correlate impacts of the urban environment on the overall development of ITC.

- Empower cities to use the data for informed decisions in prioritizing investments for inclusive development of cities.

- Strengthen skills of city officials in spatial mapping of ITC needs at the city and sub-city level for informed and fast track decision making.

- Enable visualisation and mapping of critical ITC focused areas in cities and formulate quantitative and qualitative criteria for decision-making to implement ITC related activities through real-time ITC data monitoring.
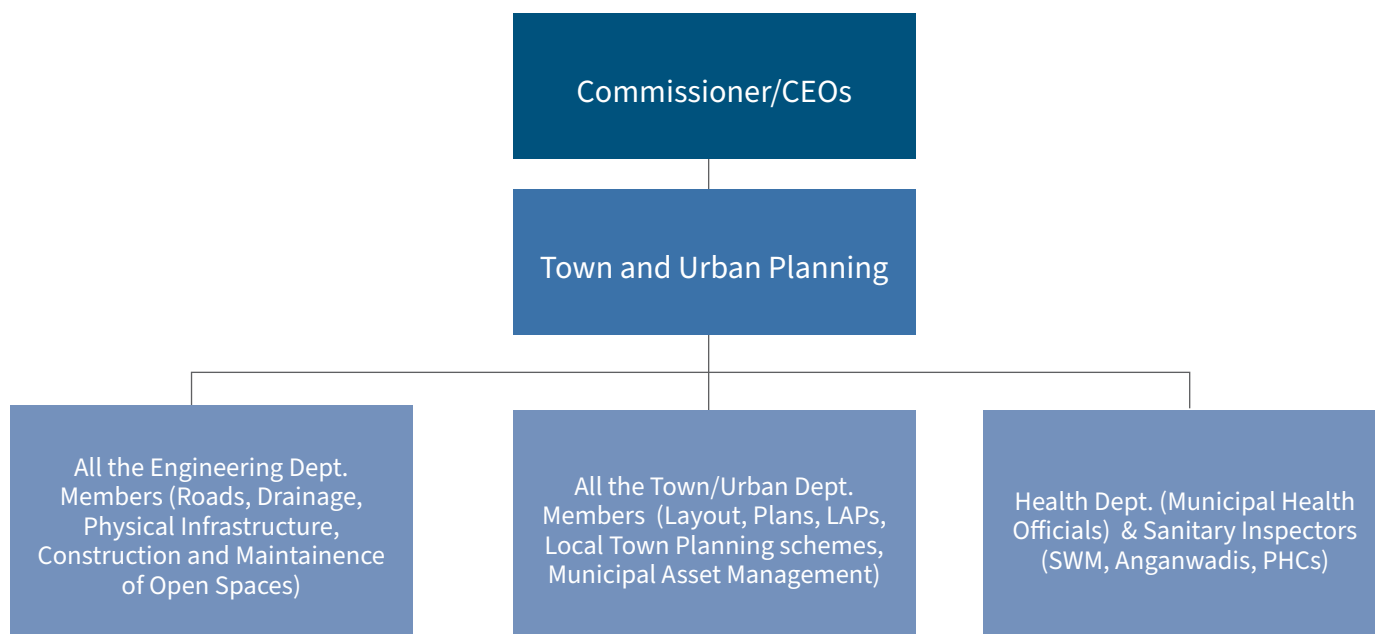
**Implementation Course (Advanced Level Course)**

- Establish the need to include ITC aspects in the design of play areas and open spaces in Indian cities.

- Promote a shared understanding among the government officials on the need to incorporate ITC parameters in the design of play spaces, mobility plans, informal settlements upgrading plans and urban resilience plans.

- Develop skills to embed the Play and parks guidelines within the city development documents and programmes.

# Annexure I

The Annexure covers broad structures of governance system across the selected pilot cities for the KNA study

**Figure 6: City Organogram**

**Standing Committees of Pune City:**

- City Development Committee: City Engineers Department and questions especially on roads, buildings, water supply, waterworks, parks and gardens, fire brigade, workshop mechanical branch and other works of the engineering department issues of public safety and convenience, land estates, city and master plan, TP schemes, industrial estate, housing scheme, slum improvement, slum clearance, housing and social welfare issues, municipal commissioner reports and work accomplished

- Women and Child Welfare Committee: Municipal Dispensaries, Hospitals, maternity homes, medical and nursing assistance, health dept. questions such as street cleaning, conservancy, public works department, secondary, pre-primary and technical schools

- Non-Motorised Transport Committee: City Street Designs, ITCN framework, footpath and pedestrian aspects

# Annexure II

Peer – Review Experts on the Questionnaire and Part of Focus Group Discussion Consultations

**Mr. Ramesh Negi**

Ex IAS Officer, Batch of 1984, (Agmut Cadre Officer) Chief of Delhi Commission for Child Rights (DCPCR) has held key portfolios in Delhi Government under the Urban Development in Delhi Jal Board and Principal Secretary Urban Development. He was also the Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh

**Mr. Siddharth Benninger**

Economist and Planner Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and Assistant Professor, School of Development Planning, CDSA

**Dr. Sudeshna Chatterjee**

PhD, CEO, Action for Children's Environments (ACE) Development Officer, Executive Board, International Play Association (IPA) Member, Doctoral Review Committee SPA, Bhopal India Member, Editorial Advisory Board Children, Youth and Environments (CYE) International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEP)

**Dr. Sruthi Amtakur Javdekar**

Founder-Director, GRIT studio: environmental design, researchArchitecture and environment psychology. Doctorate of Environmental Psychology Program,The Graduate Center, City University of New York, Research Associate at CERG India and Country Representative to International Play Association - World South-Asia representative to Child-Friendly Places

## City Official Contributors

City Officials Who Provided their Inputs on the Questionnaire Survey

| Name | Organization | Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Ms. Priya | Greater Chennai Corporation | Assistant Executive Engineer |
| Ms. Kamaljit Das | Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited | General Manager, Admin |
| Mr. Ashish Agarwal | PIU cell, Pune Municipal Corporation, Pune | Unit coordinator for Project Management Unit |
| Ms. Neelam Verma | Udaipur Municipal Corporation | Deputy Town Planner |
| Mr. Vishnu Khare | Indore Municipal Corporation | Chief City Planner |
| Mr. Shailendra Singh | Chandigarh Municipal Corporation | Chief Engineer |
| Mr. M. Devanand | Hyderabad Municipal Corporation | Unit Coordinator |
| Mr. Anurag Bishnoi | Chandigarh Municipal Corporation | Sub-Divisional Engineer |
| Mr. Vikrant Kapse | Pune Municipal Corporation | Sectional Engineer-Civil |
| Mr. Dinkar Gojare | Pune Municipal Corporation | Executive Engineer - Road Department |
| Mr. Mangesh Dighe | Pune Municipal Corporation | Environment Officer |
| Mr. Sunil Kumar Gupta | Indore Municipal Corporation | Executive Engineer |
| Mr. Pawan Singhal | Gwalior Municipal Corporation | Executive Engineer and Nodal Officer |
| Mr. Mahendra Samdani | Udaipur Muncipal Corporation | Executive Engineer (UMC) and SCL |
| Mr. RLS Maurya | Gwalior Municipal Corporation | Public Health Engineer (Superintendent Engineer) |
| Ms. Megha Sharma | Pune Municipal Corporation | Urban Designer |

# Annexure III

Survey Questionnaire for City Officials, Brief Report on the FGD with Sector Experts, City Officials and Compiled Inputs from City Officials

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|---|---|
| Questionnaire Format | https://tinyurl.com/rzzc8twk |
| Focus Group Discussion with City Officials  (Gwalior, Pune and Udaipur) | https://tinyurl.com/2tpzwm95 |
| Focus Group Discussion with CSOs and Sector Experts | https://tinyurl.com/knxjnyh2 |
| Compiled Response Sheet from Cities | https://tinyurl.com/cbjx76br |

**Notes:**