

Acknowledgment

The World Bank Report on urban and local government strategy states that urbanization is a defining phenomenon of this century, and the developing world is the locus of this demographic transformation. It estimates that nearly two billion new urban residents are expected in the next 20 years, and the urban populations of South Asia and Africa are likely to double, with cities accounting for some 70 percent of global GDP.

A master plan for development of a city is a road map for the future, and also a tool to review what worked and what did not for the city. Surprisingly, there is not much material available on this aspect of Delhi. It is in this context that the study of the Master plan of Delhi got me interested.

My association with Delhi began long back when I was a schoolgirl, and it has continued ever since. This was further cemented due to the understanding and exposure I gathered while working as Director (Delhi Division) in the Ministry of Urban Development, GOI, between 2007-2010, where the city came alive in all its complexities. Delhi continues to exasperate its stake-holders, but then they would all agree that the city is unmatched in its fascinating history, as also in its promising future.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the help and guidance extended to me by Dr. K.K. Pandey, my supervisor, and Dr. Smt. Kusum Lata, both of IIPA. Thanks are also due to Prof. R.K. Barik and Prof. Sachin Chowdhary, our Course Director and co-Course Director respectively.

Special thanks are due to Dr. M.M.Kutty, IAS, Jt. Secretary (Delhi & Lands), M/o UD, GoI, for sharing with me his wonderful insights about Delhi and his deep knowledge of the subject. I also must thank my team members Ashwani Kumar Bhatta and Nirmala Gopalani for their constant support during this endeavour. Thanks are also due to the APPPA team of Manish Rawat, Balakrishna and others for putting up with us patiently.

Last but not in the least, my husband and children also deserve to be thanked for being there for me through all the highs and lows, and also for letting me use the computer endlessly!

February 22, 2011


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