

# **Child-Friendly Cities - Potential of Urban Observatories**

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**National Institute of Urban Affairs**

# Planned Urbanisation

- Cities moving from '**data scarcity**' to '**data deluge**'.
- Arrival of **big data** - deployment of large number of smart sensors in urban environments by individuals as well as institutions contributes to generation of **real-time, spatial data** that can be used for planning.
- **Smart City Mission** of Government of India encourages establishment of **data repositories**. The **open data policy** provides the right policy environment for this.

# Children's Role in Shaping Urban Futures

“The need to empower children to shape their urban communities has become particularly relevant in a context where young people are viewed as increasingly disconnected from nature and each other, with seemingly alarming consequences for their physical health and mental well-being”(Louv, 2005, 2011).

# Children's Infrastructure in Cities

## Children in our towns and cities are being robbed of safe spaces to play

We're plagued by joyless developments that destroy the essence of community: chances for young people to gather and play



**George Monbiot**

The Guardian, Tuesday 6 January 2015 18.58 GMT

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Source: The Guardian

# Children in Urban Environments - Some Policies/Initiatives



## Child-friendly Local Governance in Kerala

A Case Study of Two Panchayats

Celia Ortiz  
Chrissy Bishai  
Juwaria Rashid  
Zoya Khan

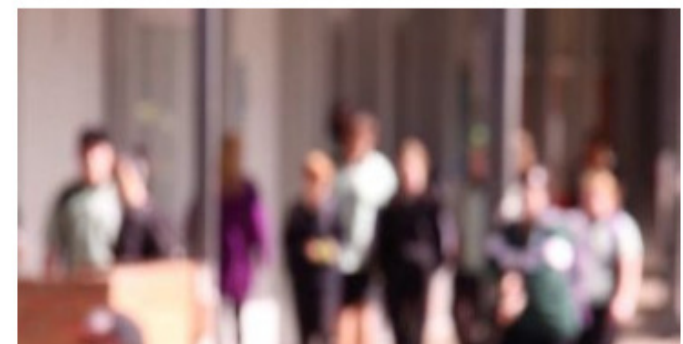
In collaboration with  
Kerala Institute of Local Administration Thrissur

## Database to record state of Tasmanian children's wellbeing

Posted Mon 29 Jun 2015, 3:45am

**An advocacy group in Tasmania has welcomed moves to set up a database within the office of the Children's Commissioner to record and report on children's health and wellbeing.**

Minister for Children Jacqui Petrusma has confirmed discussions are underway with the Children's Commissioner to set up a database collating key child welfare statistics called Kids Come First.





# Emerging Research Dimensions

theguardian

## Cities and their psychology: how neuroscience affects urban planning

The study of metropolitan areas and how their inhabitants interact with them is key to planning our future as a species

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Colin Ellard

Tuesday 4 February 2014 08.00 GMT

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## Connected or informed?: Local Twitter networking in a London neighbourhood

John Bingham-Hall and Stephen Law

Emotion, Space and Society

Volume 16, August 2015, Pages 30–40



Participatory planning and children's emotional labor in the production of urban nature

Fernando Javier Bosco · Pascale Joassart-Marcelli

Department of Geography, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA, 92182-4493,

## Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability

Volume 9, 2016 - Issue 4

## Digital neighborhoods

[Luc Anselin](#) & [Sarah Williams](#)

Big Data & Society

July–December 2015: 1–17

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# Data - The Building Block

- The High Level Panel on 2030 Agenda had called for a **‘data revolution’** for addressing the complex challenges experienced by the human society and enabling citizens participation.
- The ‘New Urban Agenda’ states “good governance is **evidence-based** and builds on a shared knowledge base using both **globally comparable** as well as **disaggregated** and **locally-generated data**”.

# Impact of Data

- “Think of all the major problems that currently face society. They range from obesity and health via national security and law enforcement to policy and commerce. They have one factor in common: **human behaviour** underlies them all”. (Keller, Koonin & Shipp, 2012).
- We need systems that can assist in visualising the **complexities of every day interplay** between natural and human factors and the **behavioural responses** constantly reconfiguring our urban spaces.



# Understanding Social Physics

- This is propounded by **Prof. Alex Sandy Pentland** from MIT.
- Social physics is about **‘idea flow’**, the way human social networks spread ideas and transform those ideas into behaviors.

## **Some of his observations are:**

- The **millions of digital bread crumbs people leave behind** via smartphones, GPS devices, and the Internet, the amount of new information we have about human activity is truly profound.
- Until now, sociologists have depended on limited data sets and surveys that tell us **how people say they think and behave, rather than what they actually do**. As a result, we’ve been stuck with the same stale social structure..... and steady states.
- **Humans respond much more powerfully to social incentives** that involve rewarding others and **strengthening the ties that bind** than incentives that involve only their own economic self-interest”.

# Monitoring Urban Communities

## National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP), USA

- **NNIP's vision is Better Data. Better Decisions. Better Communities.**
- NNIP is a collaboration between “The Urban Institute” and local organizations that connect people with neighborhood data. They tackle challenges in education, health, housing, economic opportunity, and public safety.
- Begun in 1996 as a peer network of local data intermediaries, NNIP was formed by six local organizations that saw a need for neighborhood-level data to inform local decision making. These founding organizations believed that by **democratizing information**, they could give residents and community organizations a stronger voice in improving their neighborhoods.

# Potential of Urban Observatories

- According to UN-HABITAT, an urban observatory facilitates monitoring urban dynamics at the local level. It is typically a network of local stakeholders responsible for producing, analysing and disseminating data on a meaningful set of indicators.
- Data and information resources produced by the local network are used to support decision-making and formulation of evidence based policies.

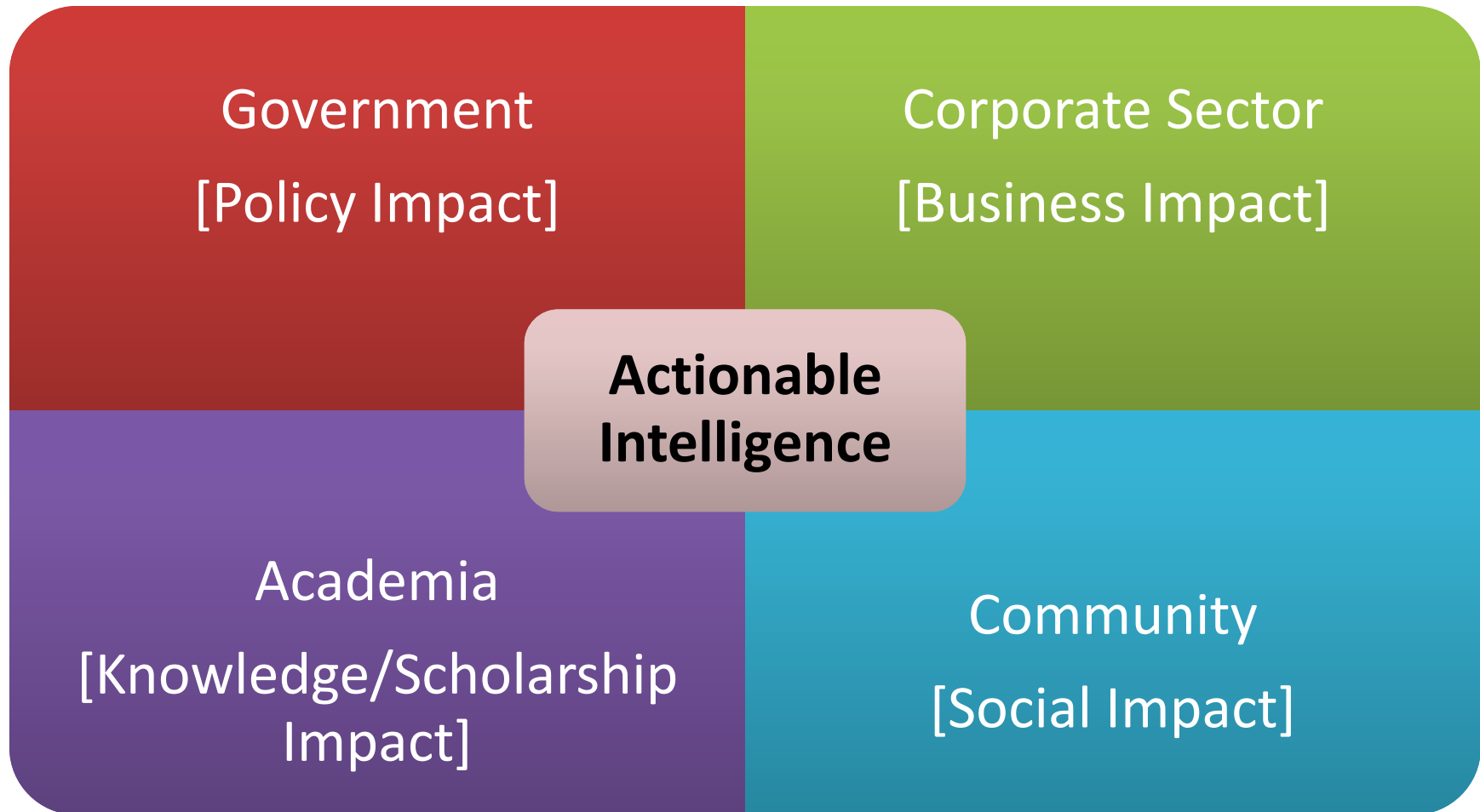
# Potential Activities of Urban Observatories

- Collect, collate and analyse data related to various aspects of urban dynamics in the city region.
- Prepare annual 'State of the City' Reports.
- Set up and manage 'City Dash Boards' and Website for the Urban Observatory.
- Provide specific skill development and capacity building services for key stakeholders and their target groups.
- Promote evidence based planning and policies in the cities.
- Enable effective participation of citizens in shaping the urban future.

# **NIUA Initiative on Urban Observatories**

- Launched under the UK-India Joint Network on Sustainable Cities (September 2016)
- Organised city level workshops in Chennai, Mumbai and Chandigarh.
- City level workshops in Kolkata (March 7-8) and Kochi (25-26 April) and a National Consultation will be held in Delhi (29-30 April 2017).

# City Level Workshops- Impacts/Learning



Source: UK-India Joint Network on Sustainable Cities



**THANK  
YOU**