

URBAN AMENITIES

A case study of Sitamarhi town

Dr. Kuntal Kishor



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Preface

Urban amenities are site specific goods, services and infrastructures that people appreciate in any urban settlement. Urban amenities provide luxury to the urban dwellers and leads to high quality of life in the town. Urban amenities in any town changes over space and time. Welfare governments keep their agencies (Urban Local Bodies) busy in service of the urban society through regular and timely provision of community services and infrastructure updation. Spatio-temporal study of urban amenities in cities of the world clearly indicates that better facilities and services in any town draws more investments and human resource. The post-modern cities of world, also called smart cities, provide all the basic services and infrastructure needed through ICT equipped real time service provision system. As the towns of developing countries like India are under huge population pressure mainly from immigration of rural and small-town dwellers, there is an urgent need of large investment in urban infrastructure development and public utility services provision. Investment of fund for development of urban amenities in towns requires town specific knowledge of available facilities and requirements.

This book provides an insight into the concept of urban amenities. The book also incorporates various aspects of urban amenities and spatial distribution of public utility services in Sitamarhi town. The author has used both etic and emic approaches in study of urban amenities in Sitamarhi town. The first chapter of the book deals with the concept of urban amenities and related theories, types of urban amenities and significance of urban amenities. The second chapter provides geographical account of Sitamarhi town and surrounding area. Third chapter of this book is brief account of demographic profile of Sitamarhi town. The fourth chapter of this book provides details of physical and social infrastructure and facilities as well as financial facilities in the study area. Fifth chapter of this book describes administrative agencies engaged in provision of public utility services and their hierarchy, policies and programmes for provision

of services and infrastructure updation in the town. Institutional and structural problems associated with urban amenities in the study area have been discussed in sixth chapter of this book. Seventh chapter of this book provides description of spatial differences in provision of urban amenities in Sitamarhi town through composite score of satisfaction of town dwellers. The last chapter of this book is brief conclusive notes on urban amenities in Sitamarhi town. It also incorporates suggestion for improvement of urban amenities in the town.

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