Smart for Whom? Smart about What? Post Covid Opportunities and Challenges for Smart Cities

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The Good City
The Allegory of Good Government
Smart Cities and Resilience

• Many “smart” initiatives in cities, where technology is helping improve a particular service, or create new information.

• Do they address or alter the fundamentals, updated somewhat from the Sienese frescoes painted in 1338:
  • Discretion
  • Resources
  • Accountability
Dynamic Cities?

The Role of Urban Local Governments in Improving Urban Service Delivery Performance in Africa and Asia

Boex, Malik, Brookins and Edwards (2016)

**FIGURE 1**

Institutional Dimensions of Urban Service Delivery Performance, Average Scores by Country

Source: Scores assigned by local experts based on the assessment framework.
Smart City Mission India

• National Infrastructure program
• Indore, Madhya Pradesh, one of 100
  • (and cleanest city in India)
• Innovation:
  • Special Purpose Vehicle to include private sector and
  • To combine fragmented government entities
  • Data Center
  • Launch several cross-sector coordination efforts.

• Limitations
  • Many investments do not have a lot of smart associated with them
  • Fragmented governance continues
  • Opaque operations
  • Limited private sector engagement, limited citizen engagement
  • Unclear path to sustainability of the SPV vis-à-vis elected urban government

India’s Infrastructure Gap continues to loom large and probably larger
Indonesia – local initiative, but more local discretion

- No national program, city-by-city ad hoc efforts
- Makassar Mayor’s initiative
  - Based in ICT office in Mayors office
  - Slow progress integrating other departments – but successes in areas of health and traffic, project has aligned with the local planning and budget office - BAPPEDA
- Still issues
  - Indonesian context for local government – the incomplete decentralization agenda reaching back to 1998
  - Emphasis on spending more than performance
  - Uneven oversight/interference from the center
- But examples of success exist across Indonesia, and Makassar project has about 15 smart initiative going on around the city
Questions for Smart City Efforts – Next Steps

- Who gets to us the data or technology?
  - City managers?
  - Citizens?
- Does it generate new information that bears on key functionality of the city?
- Does it change how people communicate, share information, compete, or collaborate?
  - Increase voice or agency of the poor?
  - Force attention to ignored or buried issues?
- How does it affect the flow of resources?
Thank you for your attention.

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