

Policy Implication for Green Infrastructure Development in urban Areas of Nepal

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ABSTRACT

The improvements in communication, transportation, health, education and job opportunity has resulted high rate of urbanization in Nepal. The urban population has increased from 14.2% in 2001 to 17.07% in 2011. The urbanization in terms of increasing population and physical infrastructure is creating ever-increasing problems like climate change, waste generation, forest degradation, land use change, pressure on public utilities and social problems. The major social problems in city include urban poverty and increase in slums population. Nepal is the party to the various international treaties and convention but it fails to draft its own policies regarding those problems. The urban infrastructures are haphazardly built except few cities, which have taken their own initiative to control it. The government's most important five-year plan has never taken serious attempt to address the issues of urban areas except controlling the air, water and noise pollution. There are 58 existing municipalities and 41 are under declaration as new municipality in Nepal. The lack of proper policy has provided sufficient ground for unplanned urban infrastructure development in the country. The green city concept is dream for Nepal. However, Ilam Municipality in eastern development region of Nepal has taken this concept and has initiated the green infrastructure development in the Municipality. The municipality has been declared as the first plastic free and second cleanest city of Nepal. The local support has encouraged gaining the objectives green infrastructure development in Ilam municipality. The present paper used field visit, literature review, expert consultation, focal group discussion and interviews with locals and municipal officials as the study methodology. The field visit was carried out in July 2013. The paper aims to provide the knowledge on existing policies on urban development and initiatives of Ilam municipality together with suggested recommendation for

sustainable city development. The outcomes of the paper provide reference for planners, researchers and academicians in the field of eco-friendly and sustainable city development.

Key Words: Green City, Infrastructure, Municipality, Policy, Urbanization,