

# **Urban Issues Pose Challenge for Urban Planners - A paradigm shift for responsive urban planning offering solutions for today and future**

**Shahid Saleem\***

## **Absract**

Urban centers in developing countries in general and Pakistan in particular continue to feel the impact of urbanization. People suffer from numerous problems from poverty to backlog in infrastructure. The institutions responsible to provide essential services lack resources and capacity to deliver. Role of NGOs, CBOs, civil society and community is still termed as counterproductive. Some past efforts by individuals or organizations are worth considering. Academic institutions have made some efforts recommending on how some of the problems can be addressed. Sir Syed University has established the Institute of Human Settlements and Environment, in Civil Engineering Department where research-based studies have been conducted on public service. The studies on disaster management include natural disasters like earthquake, tsunami using 100 years real time data. Study on manmade disasters, water contamination is also part of the output. Another study in pipeline is regarding energy crisis and the future course. Out reach of work done is limited while problems multiply. The overall scenario is rather grim. Without being pessimistic urban areas are on the track leading to saturation point. It is necessary for urban planners to take stock of hard ground realities, the lessons learnt and equip themselves with scientific and research based knowledge. They have to proceed from that point onwards incorporating in the urban plan all good work done or innovative approaches adopted. Notwithstanding globalization trend, urban planning has to be tailored to local requirements, availability of resources and participation of stakeholders. This appears to be one of the routes to be adopted in urban planning offering solutions for today and the future.