

URBAN RENEWAL AND SOCIAL AMENITIES

9.1 Social Amenities

9.1.1 Education:

Kochi city is well developed in terms of education facilities with a range of pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher secondary schools, technical education institutions and professional colleges run by Govt., private and semi-Govt. agencies. The number of schools and colleges in the area are sufficient as per UDPFI guidelines. However certain institutions lack facilities such as playgrounds as per standards due to the limitation in land availability.

9.1.2. Health:

The medical facilities include hospitals, dispensaries, P.H Centers, specialist hospitals, referral hospitals etc.... Kochi has Ayurvedic, allopathic and Homeopathic hospitals spread over different parts.

The availability of medical facilities in the City & suburbs is found to be sufficient. More specialty hospitals are coming up in different parts outside the city under private sector. Health centers, Primary health centers and Maternal and child health centers are also available in panchayat areas. However there is need to augment the facilities available in the Govt. run hospitals. Cost component for this is included in Urban Poverty Alleviation.

9.1.3. Open Space and Recreational Facilities:

This includes parks, open spaces, play grounds, stadia and maidans. The extent of open space with in the city is extremely low compared to any other urban area. But this deficiency is not directly felt because of the water bodies available in the area. Residential level parks and tot lots are available only in planned residential areas. There is need to develop such facility in different residential settlements. There is an international stadium and four other stadia in Cochin. There is need to provide proper roofing for the international stadium and to improve the amenities in the other stadia. Development of play fields with proper gallery is also necessary in Govt. high schools. A district level Stadium and Sports Hostel is required to be developed in the District Headquarters.

9.1.4 Community Halls

Large scale convention centers and halls are being developed in the private sector. But for the urban poor there is need to have public or local body owned community halls scattered in different parts of the CDP area.

9.1.5. Old Age Home

Old age homes, destitute homes and orphanages have to be developed as part of the local body service facility. Amenities like Bio-gas plant have to be set up in such establishments to reduce the recurring expenditure on the part of the local body/Govt. A separate fund has to be set up as part of local body for provision of medical facilities and specialized needs of such institutions. Special provision for giving vocational training to the orphans and regular counselling facility should be imparted cost component is included.

9.2 Urban Core Area Renewal

The urban core areas in the CBD are characterized by narrow roads with commercial buildings on either side almost abutting the road in Cochin city. There are two CBD's, one in Ernakulam and the other in Mattancherry. Mattancherry is a specialized urban core with heritage value which needs to be preserved. In Ernakulam the market area is situated in the heart of the city and the roads leading to the market are flanked by commercial buildings dealing with wholesale trade. Recently the agricultural component of the whole sale market has been shifted to an outer area at Maradu with the assistance of EEC. The whole sale

building material market is still functioning with in the core area which causes traffic bottlenecks all over the city. There is need to shift the whole sale building material market away from the city center so that the existing market area can be renovated to function efficiently as a central retail market. Special area development schemes have to be notified to take up this work with beneficiary participation.

In the surrounding Panchayats and Municipalities also the markets situated in the core area need to be renovated. They need to be improved and the quality of the environment can be improved by taking up area development schemes. The cost for this is tentatively worked out and indicated. In the Cochin City centre the old CBD are is characterized by buildings, which are dilapidated. The land values are prohibitive and it will be economically beneficial if the whole area comprising of such old structures is reorganized .It is proposed to construct multi-storey buildings relocating the existing activities, which are location specific. This will render large open spaces around such buildings and improve the environmental quality. Ernakulam North Town area is considered for such development.

Conclusion:

The core areas of the city and the old parts of the suburbs are characterized by narrow roads flanked by old and dilapidated buildings. Location of certain activities like wholesale trading in the heart of the city attracts trucks and other goods vehicles to these narrow roads resulting in congestion. Decentralization of such activities to the peripheral areas and renewal of the urban core areas by reconstitution of plots is proposed.

There are deficiencies in the delivery of services by the public sector as a consequence of lack of facilities in the Govt. Hospitals, Govt. Schools and public recreational areas. The urban poor are the most affected as they rely fully on these services. The project proposes to augment the facilities in these institutions and create infrastructure wherever necessary.

Total estimated cost comes to Rs.259.5crore