



Smart Cities Mission

Patna – The Distance between Dream and Reality

- Saumya Sumu • Anjali Kumari • Binni Kumari
- Tauseef Hassan

Received : November 2019

Accepted : March 2020

Corresponding Author : Tauseef Hassan

Abstract: *There is no universally accepted definition of a smart city. It means different things to different people. There is no one way of defining a smart city.*

The Government of India has started Smart Cities Mission, an urban renewal and retrofitting programme. The objective of this mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of smart solutions.

The study explains whether the Smart Cities Mission is anywhere near attaining its objectives in Patna or it is just on

papers. The research also gives insight into the works of the Patna Municipal Corporation, its efforts to achieve the Smart Cities Mission deadline by the year 2021, areas to be focused upon and deficiencies which have to be looked into.

Keywords: *Urban Renewal and Retrofitting, Smart cities.*

Introduction:

Cities accommodate nearly 31% of India's current population and contribute 63% of the GDP (Census 2011). Urban areas are expected to house 40% of India's population and contribute 75% of India's GDP by 2030. This requires comprehensive development of physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure. This is important for improving the quality of life and attracting people and investment, setting in motion a virtuous cycle of growth and development. Development of Smart Cities is a step in that direction.

The Smart Cities Mission is an innovative and new initiative by the Government of India to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to create smart outcomes for citizens.

Patna is nominated in the 3rd list of smart cities along with other capital cities of India. Besides Patna, Muzaffarpur, Bihar Sharif and Bhagalpur from Bihar are also nominated for the Smart City Mission.

Saumya Sumu

CEMS II year, Session: 2018-2021,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Anjali Kumari

CEMS II year, Session: 2018-2021,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Binni Kumari

CEMS II year, Session: 2018-2021,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Tauseef Hassan

Head, Department of CEMS,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna - 800001, Bihar, India
E mail - tauseef.hasan07@gmail.com

The estimated budget of the Patna Smart City Mission is Rs 930 crore in which the Government of India and the state government share the amount in the ratio of 50:50. The state government will have to bear the burden of Rs 2.50 crore for the additional Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) registration of its share amount of Rs 465 crore. From the convergence of ongoing Government of India schemes and Government of Bihar schemes and Urban Local Body (ULB) own sources, an estimated amount of Rs 962.31 crore and estimated amount of Rs 800.37 crore will be received from private partnership. The Smart City Mission will be run as centrally sponsored scheme and the Central government will provide an amount of Rs 100 crore per annum in the next five years. The same amount will be contributed by the state government on the same basis. In this way about Rs 1000 crore will be available to ULB for Smart City development. Funds of the Central government and contribution by the state government will be able to cover a portion of the project cost. Remaining funds are expected to be raised from:

- i. States/ULBs from their own sources such as collection of usage charges, beneficiary impact and impact fees, land issues, lending and loans, etc.
- ii. Additional resources transferred due to acceptance of recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
- iii. Corporate financing mechanisms such as Municipal Funds, Group Financing Mechanism, Tax Enhanced Financing (TEF) with a ULB's NIT rating.
- iv. Other Central government schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission, Amrit National Heritage City Development and promotion scheme.
- v. Increased leverage from financial institutions from both domestic and external sources, including bilateral and multilateral.
- vi. State, Union Territories can also take help from the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund which was announced by the then Finance Minister in his budget speech of 2015.
- vii. Private sector through the PPP route.

Objectives:

The research looks into the following aspects:

- To study the current status and progress of Smart Cities Mission in Patna.
- To check whether actual progress is being made or it is just on paper. In other words, does the target look realistic vis-a-vis the state of affairs currently.
- To understand what purpose it serves and what goals it will achieve.
- To see whether the residents of Patna are making efforts to make their city 'smart' or not.

Hypothesis:

- The speed with which the work of Smart City Project is being done, it appears that the objective will not be achieved by the deadline.
- The authorities have neither enough equipment nor enough manpower to carry out the work.
- The possibility of meeting the deadline of the project seems impossible also because the involvement of the city's residents is low.

Methodology:

Our entire research was based upon a two-tier methodology involving primary data analysis and secondary data analysis.

Primary Data: Primary data were collected from 200 respondents belonging to different walks of life using a structured schedule consisting of a variety of questions.

Secondary Data: Secondary data related to the research were gathered from the following agencies mainly involved in the mission.

- Patna Municipal Corporation
- Urban Development Housing Department

Data Analysis:

The questionnaire comprised 10 questions. The respondents just have to mark the option which they found to be correct as it was a closed questionnaire. The data analysis was done on the basis of the responses provided by the respondents.

1. Are you aware of Smart Cities Mission?
a. yes b. no

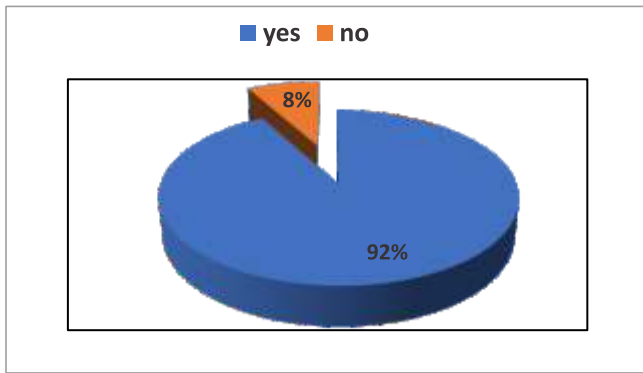


Fig. 1

92% of the people are aware of Smart Cities Mission.

2. Has there been any noticeable development in the past two years?

- a. yes b. no

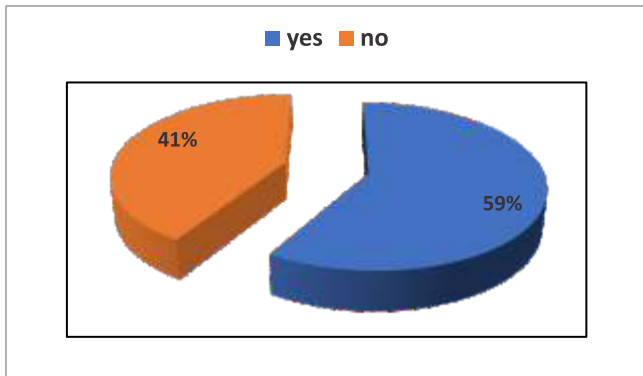


Fig. 2

59% of the people think that there has been noticeable development in the past two years.

3. According to you what is the major flaw that needs to be fixed first?

- a. drains b. roads c. sanitation

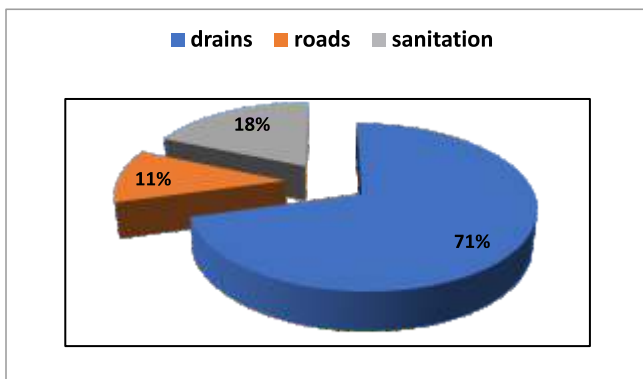


Fig. 3

71% of people think that sanitation is the major flaw which needs to be fixed first.

4. Did you face waterlogging in your area?

- a. yes b. no

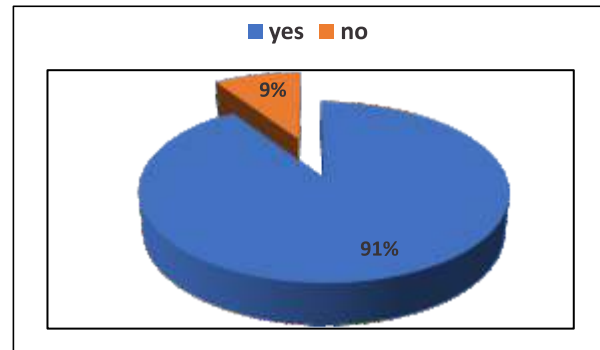


Fig.4

91% of people faced waterlogging in their area.

5. Where do you dump your household waste?

- a. on the road
b. abandoned land
c. collection by municipal staff

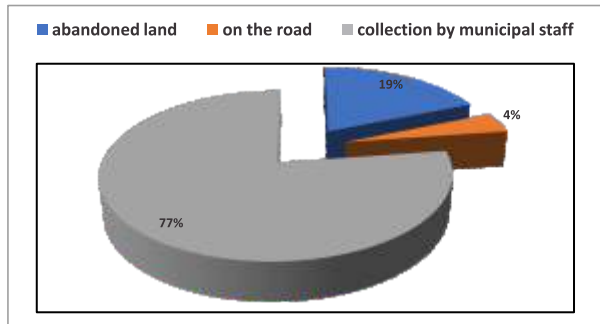


Fig. 5

77% of people said their household waste was collected by the municipal staff.

6. Do you consider your area to be one of the developed areas of Patna?

- a. yes b. no

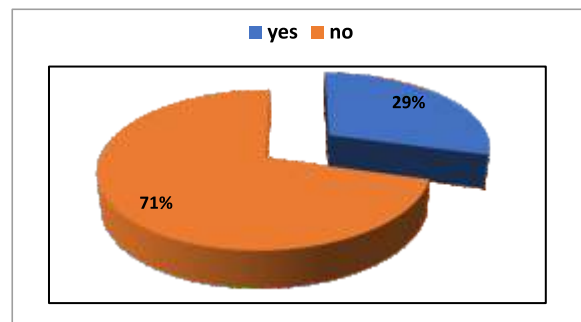


Fig. 6

71% of people do not consider their area to be one of the developed areas of Patna.

7. Do you think the government is solely responsible for making this mission successful?

a. yes b. no

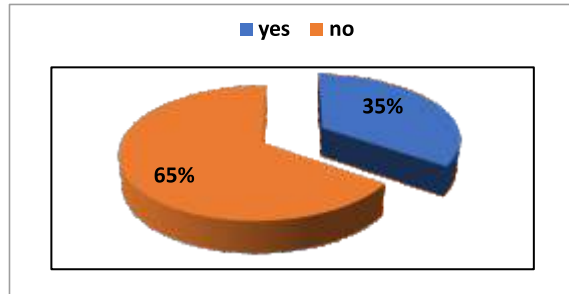


Fig. 7

65% of the people think that the government is not solely responsible to make this mission successful.

8. Have you ever made any efforts at your level to contribute to this mission?

a. yes b. no

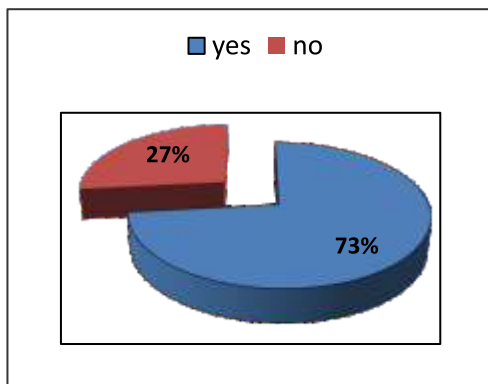


Fig. 8

73% of the people have admitted that they have made some efforts to make this mission successful.

9. Do you think the deadline can be met?

a. yes b. no

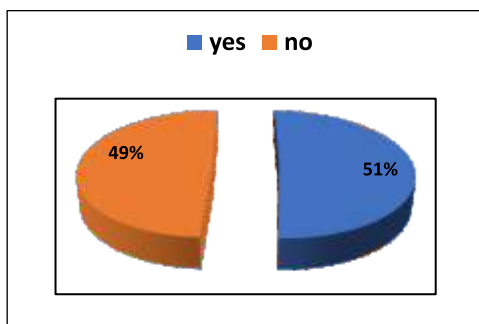


Fig. 9

51% of people think that Patna can meet the deadline.

10. Do you think Patna is capable of becoming a Smart City?

a. yes b. no

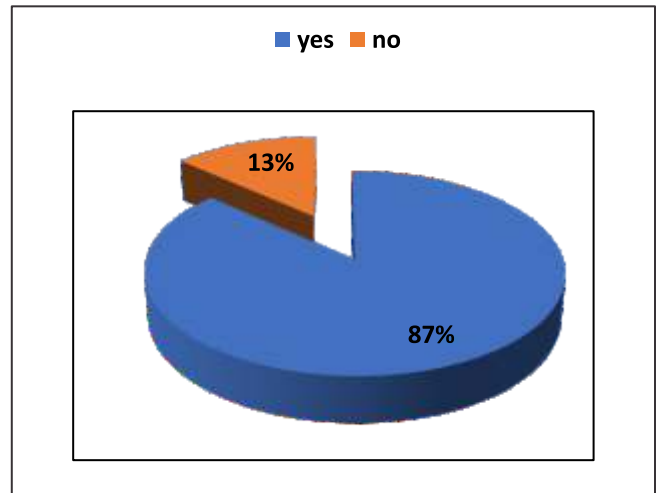


Fig. 10

87% of people think that Patna is capable of becoming a smart city.

Analysis :

Patna looks not so 'smart' and very filthy due to the strewn rottenness, a pitiable waste framework, poor trash gathering exercise, an indolent Municipal Corporation and uncooperative residents. A tour through the city with cameras brought us face-to-face with the stark reality vis-à-vis the 'smartness' of our city.

The foundation for the development of any city is in its infrastructure. In the present scenario, Patna is considered to be an unplanned city. According to experts, an inclusive approach to 'Smart City Patna' will minimize the challenges for the dream to be realised.

Even moderate rainfall of a few days recently led to pitiable condition in Patna and majority of the population had to face a lot of problems. During our survey many of the respondents confessed that they still dump garbage on the road and dispose it in the drains. According to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Patna Smart City, Devendra Prasad Tiwary, the main cause of waterlogging was clogged drains. Currently, the Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (BUIDCO) and the Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC) are working collectively on the drainage problems and

sewerage treatment. The budget of Smart City Mission Patna is Rs 930 crore but till now only 5% of it is spent (according to a report by *The Indian Express*).

In his interview, Secretariat Officer Yaduvansh Kumar said, "Hoardings have been installed in the Smart City area. Work has to be done under this scheme. There is no need for excessive advertising". But when we travelled to the populous areas of Patna, like Rajendra Nagar, Kankarbagh and Patna City, there was not a single hoarding of Smart City Mission in sight. While government officials have said that Patna is all set to become a Smart City in just a couple of years and the development is for the benefit of the people, the most densely populated areas which need to be developed first are being sidetracked, even the people residing in these areas have said so.

The Patna Municipal Corporation, in its affidavit to the High Court, has admitted that the corporation has failed and described Patna as a 'problematic city' that is suffering from 'false urban memory syndrome'.

For a mission of this kind to be successful, the government has to work on a war footing and there has to be people's participation as well. There is a mixed response on whether the deadline can be met or not or whether Patna is capable of becoming a smart city or not. It seems like in the name of Smart Cities Mission, the city is trying to fill the basic infrastructure backlog.

Conclusion:

The research, primarily based on surveys, interviews, and site visits, does reveal that Patna's progress of smart city mission is in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. The progress of the mission has not been satisfactory yet.

Introducing the concept of smart city is a great idea but due to lack of infrastructure and basic amenities, the citizens and the government have to face a lot of challenges. As a part of the smart city mission, the government should try to attend the basic issues such as implementing a proper drainage system. But it seems the officials are not in the mood to take responsibility, so they are retracting.

Each hypothesis has been tested and proven true. The pace at which the work is done does not seem to meet the deadline. The authorities are indolent and lack

both will and manpower. Cooperation by the residents is also low.

As there is a mixed response on whether the deadline can be met or not or whether Patna is capable of becoming a smart city or not, we hope for positive development in the city and look forward to witnessing the change through new projects.

Limitations and Suggestions:

Due to constraints, the analysis relied on a restricted range of on-the-scene visits. The survey samples were rather small in size and could not have captured the gravity of the matter or might not have brought some bright sides of the story. Each of these aspects ideally should be expanded for any analysis on the topic in the future.

This analysis lacks a comparative study of other cities which have done well on the Smartness indices. Such a study would have given a comprehensive perspective of where the capital of the state stands in terms of becoming a smart city and what must be done to realize the target.

There is additionally a need to interact with civil society initiatives in terms of opinion and action. This research failed to explore that angle.

A well defined depiction of the 'unfinished tasks' has also not been done as the deadline of the mission is just a couple of years away.

References :

Websites:

- http://smartcitypatna.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/To-Upload_9March2017.pdfweb (20/10/19)
- <http://urban.bih.nic.in/Letters/LC-01-05-10-2017.pdfweb> (20/10/19)
- <https://www.mygov.in/group-issue/patna-smart-city-mission/web> (18/10/19)
- <https://smartnet.niua.org/content/ec7967d5-67e5-42a1-b0cf-44c8d8fa9d7cweb> (18/10/19)
- <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/patna-floods-municipal-corporation-high-court-bihar-floods-6067803/web>