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Community Based Information System for Infrastructure Improvement in Ludhiana, India

Track: State and Local Government

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Cities in developing countries are facing severe shortfalls in housing, water supply, sewerage disposal, waste management, and transportation facilities. Often growing population in the slums and squatter settlements are not accounted for, while planning infrastructure provisions for the cities, resulting in shortfalls. This is because of lack of data with respect to these settlements, no citizen participation (especially of the poor), and lack of inter agency coordination. The paper highlights an effort to create an information system to deal with the above problems. A community based information system was created using data (both spatial and non spatial) collected by residents of poor communities themselves using participatory methods, and has been instrumental in community empowerment and facilitating community-government partnerships. The paper first gives a brief background of the problem and then elaborates the use of GIS technology to solve infrastructural problems both for the poor communities and governments.

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