



Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

**SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: WHO BENEFITS
AND WHO DOES NOT**

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SPATIAL PLANNING

The process of deciding how and where space should be allocated to various land uses: housing, industry and other occupations, roads, open spaces, public services, commercial services, infrastructure etc.

It expresses public policy directing the kinds of development or conservation in various areas of the country.

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability – The goal for development that recognizes the interwoven nature of economic, social and ecological-environmental factors, and strives for inter-group and intergenerational equity.

Social Sustainability is the core element of sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The process of bringing three development processes- economic, social/community and ecological - into balance.

Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Social Sustainability is about enabling and maintaining quality of life for people. Social sustainability involves protecting the mental and physical health of all stakeholders, encouraging community, treating all stakeholders fairly, and providing essential services. It is also critical that essential services are effectively delivered to everyone who needs them.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE – the equitable distribution of resources and nuisances between groups differentiated by factors such as power, social class, ethnicity etc.

PROCEDURAL JUSTICE – when decisions as to the distribution of resources and nuisances are taken in an equitable manner.

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
PEOPLE AND THE PHYSICAL
ENVIRONMENT**

NOT

DETERMINISM

BUT

**POSSIBILISM
PROBABILISM**

WOULD YOU USE THIS PUBLIC BATHROOM?





THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING IS

To provide the opportunity for each individual to achieve as high a level of quality of life as possible (according to his/her definition), given existing personal, social, economic, and/or environmental constraints, Without injury to others in this generation and in future generations

QUALITY OF LIFE

The subjective judgment by an individual, as to the degree to which her or his needs in the various domains of life are met.

QUALITY OF LIFE

These domains include self actualization, health, family life, social relations, dwelling place, basic infrastructures, work situation, social and civil services, income level, safety, environmental quality, social justice and equality, etc

COMPLICATIONS

- **Possible contradictions between the various definitions of quality of life**
- **How to find a balance between the goals of the different groups**
- **There may not be a simple solution**
- **But, there is always more than one solution**

ISSUES

- **The challenge is to find a fitting and fair balance between the different goals and needs**
- **How can we define what is appropriate and fair?**
- **Who will decide on that definition?**



**PLANNING must be contextual,
differentiated and specific**



**And one way of achieving this is by
peoples participation in the
planning process**



Ownership of durable goods in Israel 2007 (%)

2+ cars	1 private car	Internet	Personal computer	Decile
45.3	90.7	86.1	90.4	10
38.0	88.0	80.5	83.2	9
23.9	79.6	74.7	78.5	8
20.2	74.5	70.0	77.6	7
14.9	67.2	68.2	75.0	6
11.2	59.5	61.1	69.9	5
6.4	52.0	50.8	61.3	4
2.9	41.4	41.3	55.1	3
1.6	34.9	32.5	52.2	2
0.7	21.7	28.3	45.4	1
16.5	60.9	59.3	68.9	Total

FOUR KINDS OF ACCESSIBILITY

- **Access to information**
- **Access to resources**
- **Access to places**
- **Access to the decision making process**

RELEVANT STATISTICS ON ISRAEL

Size – 21,640 km. sq.

Population – about 7.5 million

**Density – 320 persons per sq. km. but
650 in the area north of Beersheba
and 45 in the south**

**Natural increase 1.5% per year. 1.1% in
the Jewish population and 3% in the
Arab**

**Yearly population increase is about
2%**

PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Compact cities and neighborhoods with relatively high densities**
- **Mixed zoning**
- **Public transportation**
- **Individual security**
- **Housing and employment opportunities**
- **Environmental quality**

COMPACT SETTLEMENTS

- **Preference for compact settlements and neighborhoods with relatively high densities.**
- **Ensure that they include infrastructure, facilities, services of all kinds such as education and health services, employment, recreation and culture, public transportation and public open space, at the quantitative and qualitative levels required by the particular population**
- **at distances that enable access by walking and bicycle riding.**

ZONING

Encourage mixed land use areas that carefully combine residences with environmentally appropriate opportunities for employment, and various and varied services for children and adults.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- **Give preference to streets that encourage and facilitate walking and bicycle riding, over those that are geared towards private cars.**
- **Give national and budgetary preference to public transportation. Invest resources sufficient to make a significant improvement in both inter-settlement and intra-settlement public transportation systems of all kinds**

INDIVIDUAL SECURITY

Include consideration of the safety concerns of individuals, but particularly women, elderly, children and people with handicaps, in the planning and design of the various public areas of the city or town, including streets, parks, plazas, and parking areas.

HOUSING

Ensure sufficient and appropriate housing facilities for poor people, women-headed single parent families, and young people who have difficulty finding housing in the private market and in small and rural communities.

EMPLOYMENT

Create appropriate employment opportunities for women in each region, including professional training courses and financial incentives for encouraging small scale businesses owned by women

REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local governments should set up advisory councils to advise the official elected committees on how policies - from urban planning, through financing, to social services - are likely to affect the lives of groups such as women, children, teens, elderly, people with handicaps, minorities, etc.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Situations where individuals (or groups), who are not elected or appointed government officials and who are not professionals working for such officials, voluntarily take part in decision-making processes in order to influence these processes, change them, or improve them.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- **An open and transparent decision-making process**
- **Information open and accessible to all**
- **A fair and equal possibility of taking part in the process**
- **The accountability of the authorities**

GENDER/ETHNIC/AGE/ETC. SENSITIVE DATA

A good information base is a necessary condition for decision making in all areas of public policy. The task of creating, for example, gender sensitive among decision makers would become much more feasible if there were better statistical information that shows when and how women consume resources and services differently from men or how they are differentially impacted by public policies.

SOCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Use the analogy of the environmental impact statement already instituted in many countries as a model for a new tool - the social impact statement.

This would include a set of indicators for the interrelationships between land use, transportation, housing, public service, access to amenities, and environmental quality, and their implications for the lives of various groups – women, children, poor people, etc.

OECD – Actions to be taken by Countries

With regard to information, participation, access to justice in environmental matters and environmental education:

- 1. Promote awareness and environmental education as preconditions for identifying, accepting and successfully implementing environmental policies.**
- 2. Take measures to ensure and facilitate access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, for citizens as well as for non-governmental organisations, following for example the approach taken in the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.**
- 3. Ensure that non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders have the opportunity to take a more active role in national and international environmental policy development (including relevant OECD bodies).**
- 4. Provide the conditions to facilitate an enhanced role and active participation of local communities and local governments in environmental policy making and implementation.**

From the 15 Principles for Sustainable Development in Israel

8. Accountability and Transparency: Establishing transparent assessment mechanisms or indicators to allow the public to monitor environmental, social and economic development trends in the medium and long range.

12. Public Participation (The Public as a Partner): Encouraging partnerships with local authorities, civil society and the private sector in actions and responsibility for their common future.

10 principles for a sustainable local authority

2. Public Participation in Decision Making and Municipal Action

Open communication with all residents to assure an ongoing dialogue

Joint city-resident working teams to plan and implement urban activity

Support of local non-profit organizations

Integrated activities among different sectors – business, social and environmental

Empowerment of a public representative as “observer for future generations”

Transparency of municipal activities and dissemination of information to the public

Opening of plenary meetings to residents

Presentation of the municipal budget for public opinion