

# The balance among economic developments, environment protections, and equal access to resources during urban development

Zhenlin Shou \*

Guangdong Experimental Highschool, Guangzhou, Guangdong, 510000, China

\* Corresponding author: shouzhenlin226@163.com

**Abstract.** The speed of urban development is constantly increasing, and urban development will become an inevitable topic for a long time. In the process of urban development, this paper mainly discusses how people can protect the environment and ensure the equal access of urban residents to resources while ensuring urban economic development, including government intervention and citizens' awareness. To further clarify, economy is the fundamentals for many other developments like technology improvements. Thus, people have to ensure continuous and significant economic development while doing urban planning. However, on the other hand, environment is a key factor of the sustainability for economic development. Thus, during urban planning, it is necessary to have the combination of economic and environments, which leads to a sustainable development. Besides, city residences satisfaction is a key factor pushing the productivity which will affect the economics of a city, so people must ensure urban equality. Therefore, this article revolves around three key measurements economic, sustainability, and equality. The purpose of this paper is to explore and put forward suggestions on how to master the balance in the process of urban development, which is an unavoidable challenge urban planning must face in long term.

**Keywords:** Economic, Environments, Balance, Sustainability, Equality.

## 1. Introduction

At present, the population is growing rapidly and the number of people is large. This leads to a lack of living space and human activities that produce more carbon dioxide pollution. Cities emerged to solve both problems. With China and Singapore as the leading examples, advanced cities have begun to allow more people to live in smaller areas, which not only reduces the space occupied by the population, but also leaves more space to protect natural resources as the fundamental driving force for sustainable development, and also solves the problem of carbon emissions by allowing people to reduce traffic activities because they live close to resources. However, these are only the first features of advanced urban development. In order to resolve the conflict between economic development and urban development and implement the corresponding changes, humans have a long time and many steps to go through, which will be the theme of this paper. Under the current situation of rapid economic development, the influx of population into cities is inevitable. Cities gather a large number of talents. In the past time, the emergence of cities has used talents to develop a prosperous economy, and its economic benefits have been growing continuously in the past. But today, when everyone is moving to the cities and the population is unbalanced, blindly building cities will not sustain this economic benefit. Environmental protection has been opposed by real estate developers in the past, resulting in environmental protection and entrepreneurs not go together. But over time, past corporate development has had a negative impact on the environment and natural resources. It can also be said that in the short term, environmental protection only brings obstacles to entrepreneurs, but now it is obvious that in the long term, environmental protection is not contrary to economic development. It is beneficial. So, the first question to ask is how do economic development and environmental protections both are taken care of during urban planning?

The topic of this paper is to explore the challenges and potential solutions in urban planning and development. This paper focuses on the necessity of balancing economic development and

environmental protection in urban planning, ensuring equal access to resources for urban residents and making better use of rural areas to support urban development without damaging the environment.

## **2. Challenges during urban planning and development**

In today's urban layout, social equity may be challenged. If everyone uses a car and owns a house, as in America, a country with a smaller population and a larger area, this would not be a problem because everyone travels the same distance to get to infrastructure by driving on adequate road area. But in cities, especially in the direction of 15 - or 20-minute cities, problems arise. The current problem in the city is the unequal support of infrastructure. Some really large areas only have one to two hospitals while some very small elite areas can have two or three high-standard hospitals at the same time. At this time, people's access to resources is unequal, especially with the city reducing the traffic rate. This means that some people can get to the hospital within walking distance, while others have to drive across congested city roads to get there. Other than that, a very typical example is the housing around the school area, if the number of good and bad schools in each area is equal, then no one has to move or cross the area to attend school, and everyone who live in their own place can get a good education. However, top-ranked schools are now concentrated in a few specific areas in many cities, leading many people to move to send their children to top schools, at expense of paying high prices for housing near schools. So the second question about urban planning which is going to be discussed, is how to ensure that people have equal access to resources in the context of further urbanization while developing urban in an environmental friendly way.

In the case of rapid urban development and expansion, the main component of the city's fringe - the rural - has also become a focus. For a long time in the past, the suburbs were used as industrial areas to save space for the city and ensure that the city residents would not be affected by the pollution of the factories, which is unfair to those in rural and not practical in the long term. 'Rural environmental injustice can be characterized as a parasitic relationship between urban and rural communities because urban populations obtain most of their food and energy from rural areas and return their wastes to rural areas [1]. The problem is that these factories, which serve the companies in the city, can indeed promote the economic development of the city, but they also bring irreversible harm to the environment of rural, which unfairly hurts populations there. Moreover, cities are constantly expanding, and the rules are shrinking, so eventually the accumulation of these factories in the suburbs will affect city residences. In other words, this kind of development of cities at the expense of the environment should not be continued, and the situation of industrializing rural areas is not sustainable. The author thinks that rural areas should be used in other aspects to better help urban development, such as help solving urban housing problems. At this point, the third question raised by the author is how to better utilize rural to help urban development without harming the environment.

## **3. Suggestions to cooperation between economic development and environment protections for urban**

### **3.1. Government policies**

The construction of houses is inevitable, accompanied by the growth of the urban population and the rise of housing demand, but it is also very important to protect the environment at the same time. Therefore, the use of environmentally friendly building materials can ensure that housing needs are met while protecting the environment, and therefore ensure that entrepreneurs and environmentalists come together.

Many entrepreneurs choose the most commonly used materials on the market for construction, but these materials usually have serious irreversible harm to the environment. The use of these materials goes against the protection of the environment. For example, reinforced concrete is widely used by

real estate developers due to its fire resistance, robustness, and low cost. However, reinforced concrete has been proven to bring irreversible damage to the environment

These harms include, first, the overuse of natural resource: 'In total, the concrete industry, which uses 12.6 billion tons (11.4 billion tonnes) of raw materials each year, is the largest user of natural resources in the world[2]. Secondly, the harms include the greenhouse gases produced by these materials 'According to scientists, the greatest environmental challenge today is that of man-made climate change due to global warming, which is caused by the steadily rising concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere during the past 100 years [3].

In this case, in order to protect the environment, property developers must significantly reduce or the use of cement, but the increasing cost that comes with the replacement of the material makes entrepreneur lack the motivation to do so. To make the replacement more favorable, government should stand out by giving subsidies. 'Many experts (Atsusaka, 2003; Samari, 2012) believe that the role of governments in promoting green building is undeniable and effective. Rules and regulations should be replaced with enforcing new ones to support green building development [4]. Developers who are willing to replace green rent-reducing materials to help reduce the use of building materials such as steel concrete and cement that produce excessive greenhouse gases can overcome the economic headwinds, with strong government subsidies. Therefore, the government's subsidy policy for the replacement of green building materials in urban real estate construction can encourage real estate developers to better align with the bottom line of environmental protection in urban construction, to achieve the result of protecting the environment while developing the city.

### **3.2. Raising city residents 'awareness of the environment**

As the main body of urban residents and the main consumers of urban housing, the public has an absolute right to speak on the supply and construction of real estate. In this case, residents with a high awareness of environmental protection put forward environmental requirements for real estate developers, urging them not to over-build houses and not to apply environmentally unfriendly building materials. After the significant improvement of environmental protection awareness, the people with absolute voice independently put forward the requirements for environmental protection, to better position the urban construction planning from the perspective of consumers for both economic development and environmental protection.

In addition, the environmental pollution generated by urban residents in their daily lives also needs to be solved by strengthening residents' environmental awareness. With the rapid development of cities, the population explosion is inevitable, and the amount of pollution brought by these citizens in their lives is extremely high. This pollution, however, is hard to track because of the large number of citizens who create it, which increases the cost of hiring extra workers to deal with the pollution later. Therefore, the lowest cost and most effective solution is that after urban residents have a higher awareness of environmental protection, they can make contributions to urban environmental protection in many aspects of their daily lives. For example, city residences always produce a lot of garbage, which will deteriorate the environment if it is not properly disposed of and sorted. 'Urbanization, overpopulation, and industrial revolution have become a major cause of waste generation and inappropriate disposal methods especially in urban areas of Nigeria. Human exposure to this unlawful act has triggered more health risks to the populace which affects the entire livelihood and their major landscape [5].

The pollution caused by this garbage is irreversible, and the government needs much labor and machine equipment to try to deal with the huge amount of garbage that has not been sorted. In other words, if urban residents do not independently sort their garbage, it will bring irreversible harm to the environment after being piled up. In general, when people are aware of their harm to the environment and begin to change their daily lifestyle to achieve the purpose of protecting the environment, the harm of the urban population to the environment will be effectively reduced. As for how to improve urban residents' attention and awareness of environmental protection, the author suggests that the government should add more content about environmental protection to the education system. For

example, students should learn articles about environmental protection and complete a presentation about environmental protections in class or even in school to achieve the purpose of strengthening their understanding of environmental protection and calling on others to protect the environment. In addition, in daily social media, the government should post about environmental protection on mainstream social platforms and publish interesting advertisements about environmental protection.

## **4. Urban housing should provide equal access to resources**

### **4.1. Government should supervise and interfere with the demolition in city**

At present, with the rapid development of cities, the number of residents is increasing, and the demand for resources in cities is also rising. In this case, cities need to provide adequate infrastructure and living facilities in different areas. In this process, old residential buildings and nail houses have become one of the challenges. ‘The comment at the start of this report was made during an interview with them two years after their first eviction in September 2010. At that time, the demolition team had knocked a few big holes into their apartment's living room and bedroom floor, and disconnected the water and electricity lines [6].

For resources to be evenly distributed, parks and hospitals should be located in areas where residents within radiation range can reach them within a short period. However, many of these areas or locations have been occupied by residential buildings built in earlier years when the city's demand for resources was lower. For the further development of the new city, new infrastructure must be placed in these reasonable locations, so the old residential buildings must be demolished. However, many residents are strongly opposed to the relocation, which makes it impossible for supporting facilities to be placed in reasonable areas. Therefore, it is very important to ensure that old residential buildings can be relocated. Most of the residents who resist demolition are mainly entangled in asset problems. There is a large discrepancy between the price demanded by the old residents and the price provided by the real estate companies, resulting in the demolition cooperation not being carried out. In this case, the government needs to intervene. If the price offered by the real estate developer is lower than the market price, the government should supervise and urge the real estate developer to provide a reasonable purchase price. In addition, the government can actively intervene and provide subsidies to help old residents and new property developers reach a cooperation agreement on demolition.

### **4.2. The government should optimize the city's public transportation systems**

In today's cities, it is very necessary to reduce the use of cars, which is not only environmentally friendly but also reduces the need for road area, thereby saving the area that would have been used for road construction and saving the cost of road construction. Moreover, in high-concentration cities with only narrow roads, private cars are becoming less necessary. However, with the trend of reducing private cars, public transportation, which is mainly used by urban residents, must be optimized. Good public transport ensures that city dwellers, without owning a private car, can easily reach their main destinations, such as companies, schools, parks, etc., in a relatively short time. In this way, urban residents can equally enjoy the infrastructure and resources in the city. A poor public transport system can make it difficult for city dwellers to get around, resulting in some citizens spending more time shopping for daily necessities than others who live in different areas. That is a kind of unequal access to resources. The author believes that the city government must ensure that its residents spend the same amount of time on transportation because time is a very important capital of a person. Not wasting more time guarantees the equal rights of urban residents, and it will also better strengthen the productivity of urban residents, because they can save more time to spend on work, so as to make better use of urban talents, further promote the development of the city, and protect the environment through the public transportation system. ‘The dynamic growth and changes in cities and metropolitan areas require that their transportation system be further developed and modified. The types of

transportation systems, in turn, influence the growth, characteristics, and environment of cities and metropolitan areas [7].

## 5. Suggestions

It is necessary to change the use of the rural. The economic cost of environmental degradation to China was estimated to range from eight to 12% of its GDP between 2000 and 2006. The author believes that an important change is to treat the rural areas to meet the needs of urban housing rather than industrial areas, in conjunction with the further improvement of the public transport system mentioned above. The urban population density is extremely high and the housing price has accelerated, which leads to the huge economic pressure for urban residents to buy houses in the city, and even if they buy houses, it is difficult for urban residents to obtain enough living space. In this case, the rural as housing areas to relieve the housing pressure in the city. What's more, the pollution level of the housing area is much lower than that of the industrial area, which ensures the equality of environmental quality. On the other hand, after a country developed its economic at expense of environments, the country should economically able to afford more environmentally friendly industries. That said, accompanying by the rapid development of economic, heavy industries or large-scale factories would be less needed. Therefore, it is reasonable to use the rural space for housing instead of industries.

## 6. Conclusion

This article is mainly exploring the balance among economic development, environment protections, and equal access to resource during urban planning. In the rapid development of the city, the protection of the environment and the equal allocation of urban resources should be paid attention to. All three can be balanced, but this requires the active support of government policies and the higher environmental awareness of urban residents. In addition, the government should adapt to the more environmentally friendly development trend in the new developed environment when making urban planning, so as to make better use of resources. The suggestions and views put forward in this paper are only parts of the real problems. In reality, people still have a long way to go to achieve the balance between economy and environment in urban development. However, the author hopes that the current dilemma of urban development can be better solved with the help of more advanced technology in the future, and also hopes that with the passage of time, Environmental protection has become the consensus of everyone, so people can truly autonomously use all feasible ways to protect our environment from the root.

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