

ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR SMART CITIES

'Smart Cities,' based on visions of ICT-based urban development, have been becoming very popular in South and Central Asia, particularly, in India and Kyrgyzstan. The Indian government has committed itself to developing 100 smart cities by 2050 to address the rise in urban population by 8%. Similarly, in Kyrgyzstan smart city initiatives have been recently implemented with UNDP to ensure sustainability, efficiency, and livability of its growing urban population. In the above context, universities as centres of learning and social responsibility, are expected to contribute an equitable learning ecosystem for the sustainable development and productive assimilation of marginalised youth populations living and working in these smart cities. Universities should ideally provide the crucial institutional space to realize the concept of the 'learning city' which is being promoted globally by UNESCO in emerging economies. However, as in other jurisdictions, the link between 'smart' and 'learning/skills development' is absent as is the link with the international focus of UNESCO on learning cities (Borkowska & Osborne, 2018).

In association with CR&DALL, a roundtable will be held in New Delhi, India to discuss and promote the above idea, as part of the "Role of universities in developing skills for Smart Cities" project, a multi-partnership research collaboration supported by the Scottish Funding Council-Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), UK. The roundtable will be led by Dr Srabani Maitra, Professor Michael Osborne, and Dr Seth Agbo from the University of Glasgow. In India, the roundtable will be co-organised and hosted by PRIA and Dr Rajesh Tandon (Founder-President, PRIA and UNESCO Co-Chair in Community Based Research).

Location

6th December, 2018, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi, India