

# Planning Sensibilities: Old and New

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# What is Sensibility?

- It is a mindset, a framework about what it means to intervene (why/how/by whom)
- Structure of the presentation: 12 Examples/Debates

# Old Sensibility | New Sensibility

One Modernity

Multiple Modernities

One approach to  
industrialization, urbanization  
and development

Multiple approaches to  
industrialization, urbanization  
and development

Anti-urban bias, particularly against big cities, rural-urban migration, unauthorized and un-orderly urban growth

Appreciative of the benefits of urbanism, urbanization, rural-urban migration, and the messy processes of social and spatial changes

Modernization fosters new values and social practices.

Large transformations disrupt meaning and require its reconstruction.

A comprehensive and integrated approach is necessary for planned growth.

An incremental and strategic approach is more pragmatic for growth.

## Dichotomous Thinking

Top down or bottom up development  
Efficiency or equity  
Formal or informal sector  
Technocratic rationality or political  
meddling

## Understanding linkages

Top down and bottom up development  
Efficiency and equity  
Formal and informal sector  
Technocratic rationality and political  
astuteness



Past planning efforts have been generally ineffective in achieving their objectives.

Some planned efforts have worked better than others, and new efforts must build upon “relative success”.

Public sector institutions are bureaucratic, rent-seeking, and have failed in facilitating change.

Public sector institutions can play a pivotal role by setting the strategic visions, creating the right climate for investment, and learning from the past.

Politicians are short-sighted  
and distort planning priorities.  
Politics is part of the problem.  
Procedural democracy does not  
ensure accountability.

Planners have to learn to  
translate political aspirations  
into pragmatic programs. Both  
substantive and procedural  
democracies are necessary for  
good outcomes.

Social conflicts hurt  
development.

Social change is bound to create  
social conflicts. Some conflicts  
may facilitate development.

Planning and Implementation  
are separate domains.

Implementation as part of  
planning process

Surety of purpose and process  
of planning

Humility of not knowing  
everything; learning from  
mistakes; and reflection in  
action