# Sustainable Urban Design and People's Perceptions

Ashlesha Passi[†]

1 Department of Natural and Applied Sciences, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India

† Email: ashleshasphp@gmail.com

**Abstract**: The idea of 'Sustainable Urban Design' has become increasingly popular in recent years as urbanization quickens and technology transforms our communities. This concept explores how urban spaces can be planned, developed, and managed to enhance ecological resilience, improve quality of life, and promote social equity. People, being major components of these spaces, play a major role in shaping the nature of urban through their activities and behavioural approach towards it. Therefore, understanding people's perception towards the urban design around them is an effective method to comprehend their behavioural reception to the concept of sustainable urban design and its impact on their lifestyle. In this context, the study aims to: (1) conduct a comparative analysis of sustainable urban design practices—both traditional and modern—in three global urban centres; (2) assess the applicability and viability of these practices within the city of Delhi, India; and (3) explore residents' perceptions of the practicality and impact of these designs. Ultimately, the paper seeks to provide a comprehensive assessment of how smart urban designs and planning can be effectively utilised to foster sustainability.

**Keywords**: *sustainable urban design; urban planning; ecological resilience; comparative urban analysis; resident perception; sustainability practices*

**Main highlights**:

- The paper explores sustainable urban design through global examples of 3 different regions – Singapore, Masdar City (UAE) and Copenhagen (Denmark).
- Findings from these examples are taken and their practicality analysed in terms of case study of Delhi, India.
- Survey shows that Delhi residents are cautiously optimistic about the applicability of these practices.
- People identified clean air, green spaces, waste management, and heat-resilient infrastructure as top priorities.
- The study concludes that sustainable urban design must integrate citizen engagement with ecological and governance solutions to be effective.

# International Conference 2025:
# Towards Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Communities

Institute for Sustainable Futures, De Montfort University, Leicester LE1 9BH, UK