

Tactical Urbanism as A Way Towards the Right to The City: A Critical Examination of The Right of The City Framework in The Context of Urban Villages of Delhi

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Abstract

Right to the city has developed as a response to neoliberal urbanism to empower urban dwellers better. In particular, the current scholarship highlights the concerns of economic and political restructuring and its role in the disenfranchisement of urban residents. However, there is much ambiguity regarding what the right to the city entails and how it can be implemented. Following Mark Purcell's work, my work critically examines the right to the city framework by invoking the notion of informality and its promises. As a part of an ethnographic study of Krishangarh village in 2022, I dwell on the case of the urban villages of Delhi, India, as they are unique and considered out of the city administration's direct control of planning and administrative scrutiny according to the masterplan of the union territory of Delhi, India. I dwell on Lefebvre's framework that sees the creation of cities as an interaction between formal representations and representational (imagined) spaces and explores how it provides opportunities for diverse groups of people to tactically develop the means to survive and adapt to the onslaught of neoliberal urban development.

Keywords: Delhi, Lefebvre, Masterplan, Neoliberal Urban Development, Urban Dwellers