

---

# **ROLE OF SOCIAL ART IN URBAN REFORM DUE TO SMART CITIES**

**Ar. Rashmi Tijare**

*Assistant Professor, Priyadarshini Institute of Architecture and Design Studies, Nagpur, Maharashtra*

---

**Abstract:** A civilization is known for its ART. Such a stupendous role arts plays in our life. It has power to shape civilizations. Likewise Architecture have power to shape our Society.

This paper will further discuss Smart cities and issues related to it, like impact of smart cities on social Architecture. Also this paper will talk about walls of a city and how they can be used to spread awareness among confused urban population. The example of, Nagpur is studied. A city to be developed as Smart city could identify lot of avenues which could be beneficial in the process of urban reformation of the city. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation has organized a competition on wall painting. Details of this competition, how it was held and its impact on citizens of city and cityscape is studied.

And the platform such competitions, provide to display citizens concerns and improve citizen partnership in the process of digitizing and networking

**Keywords:** Art, Social Art & Architecture, Smart Cities.

---

## **Introduction:**

**The Art:** The Arts refers to the theory and physical expression of creativity founding human societies and Cultures. Major constituents of the arts include Literature, Performing arts, Visual arts and Architecture the art of designing and constructing buildings.

From prehistoric cave paintings to modern day films, art are used for storytelling and conveying relationship between human and its environment.

**Social Art:** Social Art address or recognize a particular social issue using art and creativity. Social artists are people who use creative skills to work with people or organizations in their community to affect change. While a traditional artist uses their creative skills to express their take on the world, a social artist puts their skills to use to help promote and improve communities. Thus, the main aim of a social artist is to improve society as a whole and to help other people find their own means of creative expression. Most commonly, the social artist will address the problems by helping people to express themselves and find their voice or by bringing people together and using art to help them to foster an understanding of each other. Social artistry can incorporate several different art forms including theatre, poetry, music and visual arts.

**Smart City:** The concept of the smart city is multi disciplinary. Besides its expanding influence there is no specific meaning of a smart city. One reason for the ambiguity is that the concept of the smart city means different things to different disciplines. While for some, the smart city refers to advances in sustainability and green technologies, for others, it denotes the deployment of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as next-generation infrastructure. India is undergoing a transformation in terms of cities getting smart. There are 98 shortlisted cities, of the 98 cities and towns that five years down will graduate into smart cities, 24 are capital cities, another 24 are business and industrial centers, 18 are culture and tourism influenced areas, five are port cities and three are education and health care hubs.

It means all major urban areas and agglomerations will undergo a tremendous transformation.

According to document released on smart cities website, the core infrastructure elements in a smart city would include:

1. Adequate water supply,
2. Assured electricity supply,
3. Sanitation, including solid waste management,
4. Efficient urban mobility and public transport,
5. Affordable housing, especially for the poor,
6. Robust IT connectivity and digitalization,
7. Good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation,
8. Sustainable environment,
9. Safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly, and
10. Health and education.

The Wikipedia definition of smart cities is, 'A smart city is an urban development vision to integrate multiple information and communication technology (ICT) and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions in a secure fashion to manage a city's assets – the city's assets include, but are not limited to, local departments' information systems, schools, libraries, transportation systems, hospitals, power plants, water supply networks, waste management, law enforcement, and other community services.

The goal of building a smart city is to improve quality of life by using urban informatics and technology to improve the efficiency of services and meet residents' needs. ICT allows city officials to interact directly with the community and the city infrastructure and to monitor what is happening in the city, how the city is evolving, and how to enable a better quality of life. Through the use of sensors integrated with real-time monitoring systems, data are collected from citizens and devices, then processed and analyzed. The information and knowledge gathered are keys to tackling inefficiency.

Information and communication technology is used to enhance quality, performance and interactivity of urban services, to reduce costs and resource consumption and to improve contact between citizens and government. Smart city applications are developed with the goal of improving the management of urban flows and allowing for real time responses to challenges.

The concept of Smart City varies from city to city and country to country, depending on the level of development, willingness to change and reform, resources and aspirations of the city residents also participation of citizen in process. With 98 smart cities planned the challenges India is going to face are tremendous, as all the proposed smart cities are different socially, culturally and economically.

So the solutions for each required to be unique, and relevant to the peculiarities of the city. Digitization of services and infrastructures, use of sensors is something physical inputs which can be done with. The major issue lies with the user groups or the citizen, who have to accept the changes being implemented. To change basic mentality and generate acceptance towards technology and at the same time solving some social issues which are region specific, at this step, ART can be of great help.

There would be hardly any individual who will not appreciate any art form. So Art is a tool which can educate people and create awareness among them. It can help in achieving the goal of making cities and citizens smart.

Nagpur: Being from Heart of India, Nagpur, a city to be developed as Smart city, there are lot of avenues which could be beneficial in the process of urban reformation of the city

The Nagpur Municipal Corporation has organized a competition on wall painting. It was held on 18 December, 2016. The Length of City wall painted stretched over 40km across the city on 17 streets in all four zones of Nagpur. This competition was in two categories , 1. college students and 2. open for all citizens of the city

Topics for the wall graffiti were

1. Swachh Bharat,
2. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,
3. Digital Nagpur,

4. Smart City Nagpur,
5. Happy Nagpur,
6. Clean and Green Nagpur,
7. Save Water and
8. Sustainable Nagpur.

So in this completion a participant was a group of 4, as the size of the each graffiti wall was 2 meters height and 5 meters wide. And painting was a 6 hour task for all the shortlisted entries.

Analyzing this data, the nature of Completion was all inclusive people from any strata can participate. The first category was college students who are future generation. This competition allowed the end user of society of any age, religion, background to participate.

Such nature of competition gave rise to sense of belonging to city, by contributing something to city which will last for some time. (3-5 years)

The topic given were some of the current issues related to city. The issues could be social problems or the topics on which citizens need some information and/or awareness, eventually gain insight on it.

Making such completion a group activity induces a sense of belonging in citizens. It increases social interactions in society and positive give and take of thoughts. It helps in Formation of opinion by citizens about a new thought, technology or methodology. All entries were first taken on paper and only short listed entries were allotted walls, this helps in controlling any antisocial graffiti coming on cityscape. So if we want to make people centric smart cities such Social Art can become a good tool in shaping our future cities. Some of the glimpses of the wall painting competition are as follows More such art forms can be utilized to create awareness in society, as it is the connecting factor.



**Figure 8:** Wall Painting Competition On Walls of Roads of City



**Figure 9:** Students Participation in Same Competition



**Figure 10:** All Age Groups and All Type of Peoples



**Figure 11:** Its Was A Day Long Activity

Were Involved in Activity



Figure 12: Painters Idea of Sustainability Through Saving Water



Figure 6: Digitization and Bar-Coding, Probable Monotony Caused by it



Figure 13: Save Girl Child as Came From Painters Brush



Figure 14: Addition of MetroRail and Highrise towers in Smart city Nagpur



Figure 15: Idea of Sustainability and factors affecting it.

Smart city as defined by .Nagpur: As our country becomes more urban, our cities need to get smarter. To handle this large-scale urbanization, we'll need to find new ways to manage complexity, increase efficiency, reduce expenses, and most importantly to improve quality of life. Smart City is a city which is committed to use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), and a model of higher quality infrastructures that improve the quality of life of Citizens, while reducing public expenditure.

**References:**

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_arts)
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art>
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_artistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_artistry)
4. (The Hindu, smart cities: what are they, JAN 28, 2016 13:33 IST)
5. (<http://smartcities.gov.in/writereaddata/What%20is%20Smart%20City.pdf>)
6. (<http://smartcities.gov.in/writereaddata/What%20is%20Smart%20City.pdf>) .
7. Barkha Mathur. ( 2016, Dec 20). NMC looks forward to put scrap art to use. Times of India , p. News » City News » Nagpur News » NMC looks forward to put scrap art to use.
8. lecture on Transforming Nagpur into a Smart City. (dec2016). Transforming Nagpur into a Smart City. Nagpur: Mr. Antoni Vives, Ex Mayor, Barcelona.
9. wikipedia/ smart cities. (2016, dec). nagpur.
10. [www.smartcitynagpur.com](http://www.smartcitynagpur.com)

\*\*\*