

Review Report ISVSej_12.02.07_Suroovi
Compiled from Reviews of Two Anonymous Reviewers

Please use this number to identify the revision.

Title of paper: A Study on Impact of Urban Growth on the Historic Character of Temple Towns: A Case of Ekamra Kshetra, Odisha, India

General

This paper examines an issue related to the character of traditional towns: a temple town. The paper is reasonably well written. However, it has some issues that need to be resolved.

Title: Title is not well composed. It has unnecessary phrases. Following title is suggested: **Impact of Urban Developments on the Historic Character of Temple Towns: Insights from Ekamra Kshetra, Odisha, India.**

Language: Language is reasonably good. However, there are some grammar errors in the statements. For example, it says 'Significant increases in population in cities and subsequently development'. Here it should be corrected as 'subsequent developments'. Again 'Such urbanization poses a threat to many heritage settlements which are known for their unique characteristics, building forms, architectural spaces, cultural and historical significance' does not have the word 'and' before the last. There are some statement like these. 'This rapid urbanization in the absence'; 'the' is missing. Statements such as 'though the older buildings are of smaller footprint, however the upcoming buildings' are wrong. Though and however cannot be used together.

Please pay attention to language: grammar, spelling and use of the appropriate words. Write short and meaningful sentences and make sure that a line of argument is constructed. Start a new paragraph when a new idea is talked about.

Formatting: This paper has some formatting issues too. The template used is the right one. Title of the Fig. 8 is in the next page; The title of the Fig. 9 is overlapping the legend. Some sub titles exist at the bottom of the page without text, which happened in the next page. Please use the ISVS e-journal template to the last dot.

Abstract

Abstract is reasonably well-written. Introduction to the issue is adequate. It rightly explains how urbanization is increasing in the world, and similarly in India and how that affects the traditional settlements. However, the abstract does not say what it investigates directly. Instead, it says that it 'attempts to study'. Be forthright. Say that it examines. 'considers the historic core' is also a poor way of saying what it investigates. Please separate the description about methods to another paragraph. Research methods are not explained well; 'certain parameters' is vague. This is only one line. Separate the statements about the findings and the conclusion. Conclusions are written poor: inadequate. Please produce specific conclusions arrived at, based on data, with regard to the case studies before making recommendations. Recommendation is not a conclusion and should be about the 'impact of urban developments on the historic character of temple towns'. That is what this paper said that it investigates.

Paper

- 1. The introduction:** Introduction is not written well. It begins to introduce the issue reasonably well and provides statistics and examples etc. However, it lacks acknowledgements of sources: for example, it refers to a study of Ekamra Kshetra, but there is no reference. Please cite the author. It should present the issue and say what this research investigates. Last paragraph breaks the line of argument by talking about the "significant increases in population in cities" and "building cities that work" etc. What is required is to take the argument to the temple towns and present the issue of the impact of urban development on these places. Then say what exactly this paper investigates followed by aims and objectives. There are no aims and objectives at all, but the introduction ends by pontificating about the historic sites by saying that they are not merely relics of the past. This is a poor end. Please end the introduction with the aims and objectives. Please note that aims are noble, unmeasurable, long term, almost-impossible-to-fully-achieve expectations while objectives are practical, measurable, short term, achievable intentions. Objectives must be always listed starting with 'To'.

The introduction must end with them. What is written as an appreciation and valuing of historic settings does not present the issue and does not say what this research examines and what its aims and objectives are.

2. **Theoretical Framework:** This paper has a long discussion under the sub title 'theoretical framework' but it is completely wrong. It presents the arguments of some of the outstanding theorists of cities and presents the aims and objectives as the theoretical framework. As indicated, the aims and objectives must be mentioned at the end of the introduction and not here. It must also not talk about this research and its methods. Move all of these materials to appropriate places except the Table 1, which is relevant to the theoretical framework. Current aims and objectives mentioned here are problematic. To 'Conduct' and To 'Analyze' cannot be objectives.

Instead, this section must present a theoretical discussion about 'urban developments and growth', 'historic character', 'traditions', 'temple towns', and other associated theoretical notions explored in this paper. It must define these terms as being employed in this research by referring to the most outstanding theoreticians who have articulated these ideas. A theoretical framework must be produced employing the voice of the authors with statements such as 'according to Godman (1999), or Lawrence (2000) argues, instead of the author making statements and putting references within brackets. The author of this paper cannot theorize because she/he is not a theoretician. Currently, there is nothing written, although the Table 1 offers a list of 'characteristics' derived from a 'review of theoretical literature'. This is good although they are wrongly called 'performance indicators'. They are meaningful because, this paper said that it examined the 'impact of urban growth on the historic **character** of temple towns'. Nevertheless, re-word them.

The theoretical meanings of the concepts are unknown to the readers in any research, even if they are ordinary, everyday words. Therefore, the key concepts must be defined and theoretical articulations must be offered related to the relationships that have been already established among these concepts, by citing outstanding theoreticians.

3. **Review of Literature:** Currently, there is no review of literature at all. This is not acceptable. A review of literature should discuss the major research that have examined this issue previously, to show the status of current knowledge and where the gaps of knowledge exists. The issue here is the 'impact of urban developments and growth on the historic character of traditional towns'. The review must deal with research in general on this issue first and then about the temple towns in India. The review should not be only about the research on temple towns but traditional towns, in general and then be specific about the temple towns at the end. Demonstrate the current knowledge on this issue and where the gaps of knowledge exist.

A review of literature must be written employing the voice of the authors with statements such as 'according to Oliver (1999), or Rapoport (1969) points out, instead of the authors making statements and putting references within brackets. It should be a 'critical review'. Please see 'how to write a review of literature' in the ISVS e-journal web site and follow suit. Write in the present tense because it discusses current knowledge. Sum up at the end and show what the status of current knowledge is and where the gaps of that knowledge exist. 12-15 references are needed.

4. **Research Methodology:** This is not done well. The research employs case study as a method and visual survey as a technique of gathering data and all what has been written is theory quoting Watson (2003) and Liliانا (2012). These are not needed. Please explain how data was collected in this research, step by step. Explain that it employs case study as a method and provide the basis for the selection of the case study. Explain who did what when where and how. Explain what was observed and how the data was recorded. Research methods and data gathering techniques must be explained in such a way that another person can carry out the same tasks and see if they will get the same results. That is the test of science. This paper does not provide adequate information. The present discussion lacks some details as to when this research was done, and how the 450 structures were observed.
5. After the methodology, the case study must be introduced. This is presently done under the sub title 'study area'. However, it need more details. Please present a location plan with details of the specific site and the area around. Indicate the locations of the temples and the residences. First three paragraphs should remain here. The fourth paragraph belongs to the research methods sub title. Mention the case study and add these details of how the data was collected there. Fig. 1 can stay under the 'introduction to case study' sub title together with the location plan. However, temples, other significant buildings and residences must be clearly presented.

6. **Analysis and Findings:** Currently, findings are reasonably well presented. However, remove the word 'pictures' from the table 3; call them 'images'. Table 2 should be produced vertically: place the parameters on the top row and the buildings listed in the columns on the left and then the details to be entered. Do not call these 'performance indicators'. Suggested to call them 'Indicators of character'. This paper is titled 'Impact of Urban Developments on the Historic Character'. The findings must relate to the changing character of the temple town and nothing else.

Under the sub title '**Nature of Houses**' it refers to '**traditional character**'. Please explain what this character is.

It keeps on referring to 'The traditional **façade character**' and 'a **modern look**'. Please explain these characteristics.

It says "As found from the survey analysis (Fig. 11), the modern materials used for the façade treatment for the newly constructed buildings has a direct impact over the old, heritage character of the place". Explain what this impact is.

In a nutshell, there are many statements that do not articulate the character although that is what this paper said that it will reveal.

7. **Discussion:** This should discuss the findings of this research with other research that have examined similar issues and show that the findings in this paper are similar or different from them. If different, explain why. There is no such discussion in this paper.

8. **Conclusions:** Inadequate. The writing mostly summarize what this research did. It says that the main aim was to assess the impact of urbanization. It has conducted a visual survey of over 450 structures. However, there are no conclusions about the impact of urbanization on these structures. Please list the impact: changes as revealed in the research. Moreover, statements such as 'old houses are few in numbers' and 'majority of the houses' do not make sense. What is few? 1 or 2 or 10 and 15. What is majority 300 out 450 or 250 out of 450? These are unclear. Findings must have had these statistics demonstrating the 'impact' and the 'transformations' and they must be summarized here.

Hence, what is written is not a proper conclusion. The intention of the research was to study the impact of urban growth on the historic character of the temple towns. Conclusions must relate to this issue of the impact of urban growth on the historic character of temple towns. Be specific. Making general statements is not acceptable as conclusions. Specific conclusions related to this case study are needed, which cannot be generalized.

Recommendations may be made afterwards.

Please also discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this research after the conclusions separately.

9. **References:** References are reasonably well done. However, there are incomplete references and also inconsistencies. For some journals, page numbers are missing. Some have pp and some have p. Please remove the words Vol. and PP. altogether and indicate them in this way: 12(3), 23-45. Make sure that they are complete and listed according to the alphabetical order.

Follow the template to the last dot.

Final Decision: Major Revisions

Summary of the overall observations of the paper:

This is a very valuable paper that could potentially make a significant contribution to knowledge about the impact of urban growth and developments on the historic character of temple towns in India. The paper presents the case of Ekamra Kshetra, Odisha, India. The research employs good research methods to ascertain these and reveal the transformations of the character of the town and its buildings #. However, it needs major revisions to bring this knowledge to be meaningful supported by clear findings.

Abstract is not written well; the research methods need to be articulated with some detail; conclusions are inadequate. Introduction needs to end with proper aims and objectives. Theoretical Framework needs to be re-done to present the theoretical meanings of urbanization, tradition, character etc. What is written at present is wrong. It also needs a good critical review of literature. Research methodology needs to be re-written removing theory and bringing in more actual details of how they were implemented.

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Findings need to focus on the 'impact of urbanization on the character of the town. Describe the earlier character before showing how the 'indicators' show the changes in character. Conclusions are inadequate. Write the conclusion with only the specific conclusions arising from the findings related to the impact and transformations. Do not make general statements about what the paper did. This should not be 'concluding remarks' but 'conclusions derived and substantiated by data'.

At the end, discuss the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of this research. Re-examine and reproduce the references to be compatible with the ISVS e-journal template/standards.

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