

# Review of: "Young Builders vs. University of Delhi: A case of maintenance of balance between environment and development in housing development for the megacity of Delhi"

Debadutta Parida<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Alberta

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Very interesting article and the case studied provides a good summary of the case law and its potential effects on balancing environmental issues and development objectives of actors in large cities in India.

There are however several areas where the article can benefit if the authors want to take this forward to publish in a scientific journal/book:

1. The introduction section lacks a context. For the general reader, it is difficult to follow the case directly without understanding why this particular case was chosen, what are the authors trying to understand through the case. This has direct implications on the discussion and conclusion sections - since there is no clear question in mind, the discussion doesn't try to answer it.
2. I found the following quote interesting and with potential for future inquiry - "Matters reaching the court should not become a common occurrence, and the executive shall create accountable structures in the governance so that the builders build responsibly with full regard for the environment." The authors can take up and justify their explicit position on the complex entanglements between the legal and planning/governance system in Delhi. What are the implications of more planning matters being decided by the legal system? will it undermine or strengthen the masterplan/planners/planning in Delhi? Literature on Niklas Luhmann can help here - especially his ideas of functional differentiation (in this case it is clear that the legal system undermined planning system, too much of it, and the planning system will be just useful to maintain rules/regulations as opposed to providing long term visions for the city); and sustainability-complexity trade-off to understand how more interference of legal systems may increase complexity, and thus reduce possibilities of sustained governance (including environmental governance); also the authors can look up on the book - Law as a social system by Luhmann.

Best wishes to the authors.