

Towards Sustainable Cities: Urban Community and Environment in the Third World

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ABSTRACT The role of the city in environmental change and deterioration seems to be ambivalent and in order to explore this ambivalence we have to pose several questions. What is the essence of the city in generating development on the one hand and of environmental problems, on the other hand? How have the relations between town and countryside been shaped and how are these relationships connected to sustainability of town and countryside? What exactly do we mean by sustainability? What are the factual environmental problems of Third World urban and metropolitan areas, and what are the practical solutions implemented in these areas? The researchers do not pretend to be able to solve the pressing social issues implied in these questions, but merely hope to supply some thoughts to give food for further reflection.