

# URBAN PLANNING FOR KARACHI DURING THE POST INDEPENDENCE PERIOD: Review, Analysis And Lessons Learnt

*Editorial Board NED-JRAP*

*Assisted by*

*Masooma Mohib*

## ABSTRACT

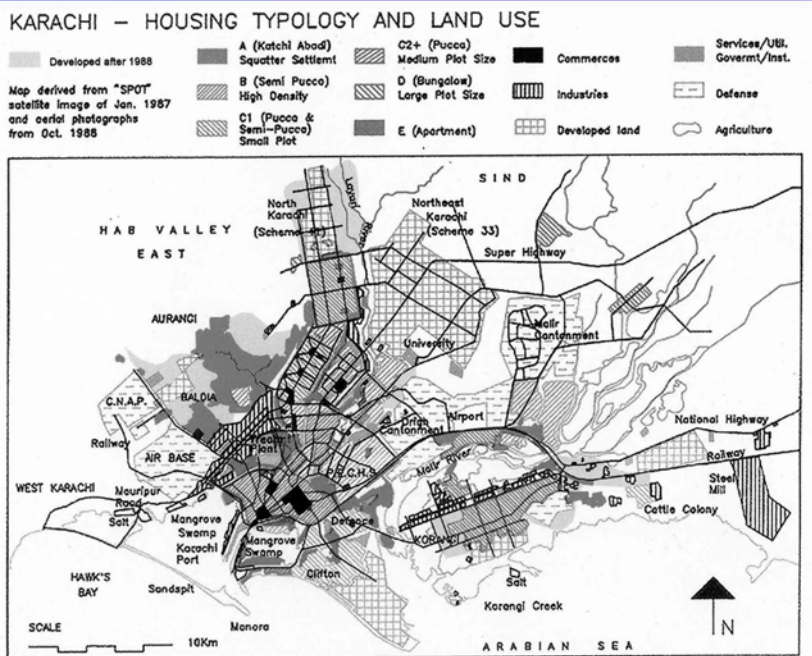
Karachi, which is the largest urban center of Pakistan, has experienced a fast tracked physical and socio-economic development during her post independence history. To rationalize this growth and development process, several urban planning exercises were launched under the aegis of concerned civic agencies. Some of these attempts were rather elaborate exercises with a sizable capital overlay and institutional inputs. However, despite such measures, the city continues to develop and function without any reference to a proper urban plan.

This paper reviews the urban planning for Karachi that was undertaken during the Post-Independence Period (1947 to date). It analyses the various issues related to the planning process and concerns raised by the professionals and administrators associated to it. The paper concludes offering some recommendations.

## EXCERPT FROM THE TEXT

- The first issue of “Karachi Development Plan” includes a set of maps illustrating the spatial implications of the development scenario showing the projected geographical distribution of the population by socio-economic group, the projected land use, the projected utilities, and community services and transportation networks.
- A series of selected sub-sector studies in areas where the database is weak.
- An operational digital based mapping system within the KDA to replace the current analog mapping system.
- Trained professionals in up-to-date approach to urban planning based on computer technology.

The plan could not become a legal entity. It remained an academic exercise. According to an evaluation mission, there were several shortcomings inbuilt in this planning process. One, its technical framework could not be fed with appropriate and reliable database. Two, it did not account for the socio-political realities. Three, the Master Plan and Environmental Control Department (MPECD) of KDA was not strengthened to undertake the emerging responsibilities. And four, no political support existed for the plan. One may conclude that the process of planning continued without learning from the past experiences.



Source: 1. Bertaud, Marie-Agnes (1989) *The Use of Satellite Images for Urban Planning – Casestudy: Karachi, PAKISTAN* 2. Hasan, Arif

Year	Population	Increase/ Decrease since last Census / Survey	No. of years in between	Percent Increase/ Decrease	Per annum increase
1941	435,887	135,088	10	44.91	3.78
1951	1,068,459	632,572	10	145.12	9.38
1961	1,912,598	844,139	10	79.01	6.00
1972	3,426,310	1,513,172	11	44.16	5.15
1981	5,208,132	1,781,822	09	52.00	5.07
1998	9,269,265	4,061,133	17	77.98	3.33

**Table - 1:** Karachi Population Growth 1941 to-date.