

Execution of Conservation Policy for Historical Buildings & Monuments in Changing Scenario: An Evaluation

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Abstract:

Ancient buildings and monuments are true reflector to reveal a true images of glorious past of art architecture and cultural heritage of a country. These historical buildings and monuments have been a historical evidences of cultural identity and pedigree of country. The paper examines the significance, characteristics and problematic areas of decay of these buildings and monuments during different successive periods. In order to increase the life of these ancient buildings. And monuments, it become imperative to formulate a concrete conservation policy with people- participation', so that the policy may be formulated in view of 'long term and short term' planning for conserve the historical buildings in accordance with changing scenario.

Keywords: Historical Buildings, Cultural Heritage, Conservation Policy, Long& Short Term Policy, Changing Scenario.

Introduction :

The ancient monuments act as a true reflector of glorious past of identity, culture and pedigree of country. India – A land of a glorious historical past embodied by a rich repertoire of abundant magnificent monuments, located in different parts of India. The rich heritage of the country has been reflected by The Historical buildings and monuments such as LalQilla and Kutubminar of Delhi, TajMahal of Agra, PanehMahak & BulandDarwaja of FatehpurSikri, Elephanta Caves of Mumbai,

Ajanta Alora Caves of Maharashtra, HawaMahal and JantarMantar of Jaipur and other numerous of buildings and temples of South India. The temples such as Dilwara Jain Temples, Somnath Temple of Gujaratt, Konark temple of Odisha and Shiva temple of Maha balipuram of Tamilnadu have a glorious historic past. This glorious past will be continue provided these buildings and monuments are conserved in a systematic way.

Though the conditions of all above mentioned temples and monuments are

satisfactory, but the monuments which are having less importance, deserve more conservation. It is because of their existing conditions are far from satisfactory. Apart from various pit falls which have given rise to draw the attention of lovers of ancient history of India. In this connection, various studies indicate that the comprehensive account also discovered a pathetic situation of heritage sites, and encroached monuments and protected sites are being used as cremation ground, even public toilets. (Batra, N.L,1996)

The national auditor found that the 92 monument missing from 1655 monuments was surveyed, by ASI. The auditor's comments on the functioning of ASI are not in accordance with the requisite standards. It has been observed that the right(i) information is often prevented when a protected monument fell prey to the greed of builders of local people and keep on missing(ii) (Survey ASI, 2013)

In order to highlight the functioning(iii) of Archeological Survey of India, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has been playing a significant role for evaluating the 'conservation policy of ASI and other related organizations. In this context, Divya Gupta, associated with this organization has tried to establish a

'Cause-Effect Relationship' of various factors which affect directly or indirectly on the

Functioning of these independent bodies. At a global level, the efforts of United Nations are appreciated. In India, various monuments and the buildings constructed during 'British Raj' have been The Statues of 'UN World Heritage Site' As 'Romila Thaper', a noted historian has been commenting on the conservation policy of the government. "Act now, otherwise the heritage will be history". This statement act as a true reflector to describe the 'grim-situation' off the prevailing conditions of the ancient monuments and the buildings (Vibha Sharma, Tribune 2013).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study is aimed at reviewing the present situation of the noted and less important monuments;

To review the violation of rules, by the people belong to different strata of society;

To suggest some of positive suggestions for improving the conservations policy for historical buildings and monuments.

Keeping in view the multiple-objectives of the study, it become imperative to review the 'conversation policy' of the government and non-government organizations, which

are engaged in ‘conversation works’ for the monuments and the ancient buildings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Keeping in view that various pressing problems of conservation policy of the department, the crux of the problem is that in Indian culture has not been integrated within the overall development framework, it is because of which it is perceived more like a luxury than a ‘driver’ for socio-economic development. It has been observed that we have very rarely used that opportunity of looking at culture in its wider context and tend to view at selected monuments. We are largely still following the British approach towards executing the conservation policy. It is a short sighted approach, which leaves a limited scope for further improvement of our all heritage sites in India.

In case of Haryana, where the buildings of ancient and medieval periods, display a pathetic picture of these heritage sites. Kos Minar 24 at Banchari village

situated at Palwal district of Haryana, has been encroached upon by the farmers. In another case, the ASI was informed by the district authorities, that the land of Kos Minar 13 has been allotted to private company and subsequently the Minar has

been demolished. No legal action was taken against the company. In 2004-2005, the land of Kos Minar at Shahbad was acquired by HUDA (Haryana Urban Development Authority) and plots were sold to private builders and buildings have been built in the premises of the Minar. The ASI has no information on when or how the monument disappeared (INTACH Report 2013).

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Another issue is the rules and regulations and the associated expertise for undertaking the projects on conservation. As the ASI has pointed out that the rules and regulations have become absolute. Most of the guidelines and even the level of expertise are now outdated. They are not sync with systems being followed across the world.

Secondly, the ASI is not working with its full capacity.

Thirdly, there are no comprehensive plans neither at long term nor at short term level in accordance with the financial availability for undertaking the conservation projects (ASI Report 2013).

Fourthly, CAG has pointed out that the numerous sites have the potential of commercialization and generation of additional funds such as film shooting and its social relevancy to a large extent, but such

potentials have not been explored till now. In this context, several MOUs have signed between the ASI and NCF, but did not show sufficient success. It has also been observed that the central archaeological department as well as the states, are not functioning well in accordance with the requisite standard (CAG Report 2013).

Fifthly, there are numerous sites which are having a complex nature and numerous of people living on the premises since generations. And it becomes too difficult to de-attach these people from these monuments.

Sixthly, the population pressures and remoteness of some sites make it difficult for the ASI to monitor them on a daily basis. There are some of sites, have been lost due to development like construction of roads and Dams. There are many sites which have changed their original fabric and now become difficult to access. For example submerged Bilaspur town of Himachal Pradesh, which has been submerged in Gobind Sagarlake of Bhakra Dam. There are various ancient temples which have been so submerged in the water.

Eighthly, The ASI primarily does repair, maintain and undertake adhoc

restoration, without really understanding the overall within the site.

The responsibility to conserve and restore our nation's heritage cannot simply be the solo preserve of government agencies. The involvement of local communities who form part of the eco system of this heritage is, therefore, essential for conserving the historic past (Dilip. K, 1999) Preservation of heritage is an investment for the present as well as the future. According to the authorities, the tomb projects proved 2,00,000/- man days of employment and expected to increase many fold and may be translated in to revenue through tourism.

Suggestions in order to formulating a 'concrete policy' on conservation of historical buildings and monuments, it become imperative to suggest some of positive suggestions to ameliorate the situation for future. These suggestions are given as follows :

- There should be an adequate funding for implementing the conservation projects, for historical buildings. It is essential to explore partnership like public-private partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility to bring in additional funds. The additional funds may be managed by renting the historic sites for film shooting etc.

- The rules and regulations should be implemented effectively without only further delay. There should be some of awareness programmes, so that the people may become fully aware of all rules and regulations, laid down by the authority.
- There should be an effective and comprehensive conservations plans at a different lands. Long-term strategy should be checked out on project modes with projections of adequate human and financial resources.
- The Indian culture should be integrated within the overall development framework. An innovative approach should introduced with the local people's active participation.
- There should be 'capacity building' programme for the personnel, belong to the 'conservation department' as well the local people, so that a 'joint-venture' may prove more effective to implement the 'conservation policy'. There is need of civil society for conservation works with the government agencies. The involvement of local communities who form a eco-system of this heritages.

Hence, it is clear that the above mentioned suggestions may help to existing position. It can be proved conductive to

bring out historical building and monuments into its original shape conditions and retaining out cultural heritage will grow on the principle of 'sustainable' heritage development.

CONCLUSION:

In India, there are numerous of historical buildings and monuments. All these ancient buildings, monuments and the temples have been a symbol of glorious historic past. In order to conserve these ancient buildings and monuments, various national and international agencies have been playing a significant role retaining the 'cultural heritage'.

It has been observed that these 'conservation agencies' have been suffering with some of 'pit-falls' and drawback which become a constraints in effectively implementation. As a result, we have failed to get the desired results. It is therefore, become imperative to replace to obsolete technology with innovative technology to make the 'conservation policy' more effective. It also require more fund raising by involving

Corporate sectors, so that the business houses may consider it as 'Corporate Social Responsibility' and moral

duty to funding for conservation projects. It also need of an active people- participation from different strata of society, the civil society and the institutions like INTECH, jointly work together for attaining the TQM (Total Quality Management) in 'Heritage Conservation' System (Misra, 1999).

It also requires the people should be well aware of the rules and regulations of the "conservation policy" so that the problem like encroachment, mis-use of monument land using the monuments premises as commercial use may be avoided.

These problems are to be overcome, without any further delay. Only then, the ancient buildings and monument will ensure to be 'conserved' in a accordance with changing scenario.

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