REVITALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL BROWNFIELD: CASE EXAMPLE OF BARRACKPORE INDUSTRIAL BELT

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the different methods of industrial brownfield revitalization, aimed at repurposing abandoned and contaminated sites for the benefits of local economy, societies and environments in the context of brownfield revitalization of the Barrackpore Jute mills area in West Bengal, India. The area has a historical background of environmental contamination as it is located in an industrial belt and also shares a social advantage because of its location i.e.the riverfront. Many contemporary studies around the globe have been conducted on revitalizationof industrial brownfields. The prominent ones in global context is Scotland-Dundee, whereas in Indian context is Mumbai mill land report by Charles Correa and the team. One of the successful examples of revitalization in South Asian context is the revitalization of the closed Jute mills of Bangladesh, which are now leased out to the textile factories.The main objective of the paper is to illustrate how the local economy and society in the area of brownfield restoration activities in Barrackpore Jute mills will greatly benefit from its activities, especially in terms of increased property value, job provision and quality of life.

Keywords: *Revitalization, Brownfield, Industrial Belt.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent times, many heavy industries have been closed down in West Bengal due to numerous reasons. Most prominent ones being shortage of raw material, lack of government interventions in terms of policies and orders etc. These resultsin closed mills becoming a liability for the state as they are taking up a considerable chunk of high-value lands as most of them are located on the riverfront. These unused industrial lands are hence getting converted to brownfields. A Brownfield is a parcel of land that has been previously developed (usually for commercial or industrial use) and likely has contaminants which need to be remediated before it can be redeveloped.(Moss Design, 2015) [1]. Brownfield can be of various type, one of them being Industrial Brownfield. Among the closed mills majority are jute mills which are located at the Barrackpore industrial belt. Industrial belt can be defined as geographical area where industries are concentrated, typically characterized by a high density of factories and manufacturing facilities [2]. One of the methods to overcome this problem is through revitalization. Revitalization is instilling new life and vitality into a community through enhancing local assets, such as reusing or renovating building facades, or streetscaping to beautify an area. (Miller & Hughes, 2019, p. 1). [3]

2. AIM & OBJECTIVE

The aim of the paper is revitalizing the industrial brownfields to suggest the appropriate landuse for the betterment of the community.

The objectives include:

- To study literature related to Revitalization and Brownfield.
- To identify the issues related to brownfield in Barrackpore Industrial Area.
- To define strategies for revitalization of brownfield in Barrackpore Industrial Area.