

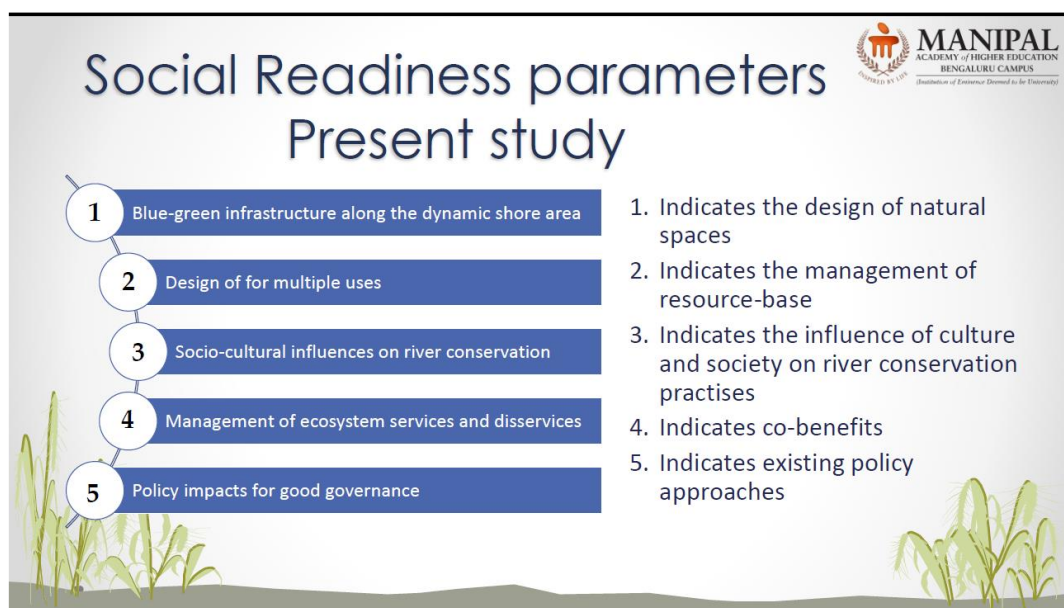
Social readiness assessment for planning policies for river resources management

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'Social readiness' is a concept associated with the assessment of a society's engagement with technological advancements, organisational changes, educational or public health assessments or project implementation (for example, Madsen et al., 2005; Ladd et al., 2006; Yusif et al., 2017; Vik et al., 2021; Bernstein et al., 2022 etc.). Balancing social readiness levels (SRL) with organisational (ORL) and technological readiness (TRL) is being explored to achieve multiple development goals. In alignment, a conceptual framework of social readiness (SR) is proposed here to integrate the socio-cultural perspective of 'Knowing' (people, technology, and infrastructure) in the background with the insights of socio-ecology 'Being' state of ecosystem in the foreground for evolving river management policies. Recognising that SR would be critical to manage the emerging risks due to climate change (e.g. Bellamy, 2019) would lead towards consequential steps in the policy planning cycle and governance. In this context, the importance of parameterisation from the perspective of SR will be presented from not merely its metaphorical value but with an emphasis on interventional value-addition to policymaking.

Presented through the lens of a perspective grid, the current study on SRL will emphasise on establishing connectedness in terms of five SRL determinants: 1. Blue-green infrastructure along the dynamic shore area (indicative of the design of natural spaces); 2. Design of for multiple uses (indicative of the management of resource-base); 3. Socio-cultural influences on river conservation (indicative of the influence of culture and society on river conservation practises), 4. Management of ecosystem services and disservices (indicative of co-benefits) and 5. Policy impacts for good governance (indicative of the existing policy approaches). A social readiness index is under formulation at the Department of Public Policy, MAHE BLR for assessing operational statuses of ecosystem services. This research is being conducted in the lab of Dr. Harini Santhanam, Associate Professor and Head, DPP. Screenshots of the database for which fieldwork is ongoing is shown here:



Development of a Social Readiness Index for river resources management

This work was presented at the IHD Global Conclave 2024 at New Delhi. The thematic panel on River cities was a unique forum launched for increasing the awareness about the central roles of ecosystems in human development, with the special emphasis on riverine ecosystems. The panel was co-organised by IHD and MAHE, the latter being a knowledge partner. The session was chaired by Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in the rank of Secretary to Government of India with Prof. Bish Sanyal, Ford International Professor of Urban Development and Planning and Director of the Special Program in Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS)/ Hubert Humphrey program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

IHD Global Conclave 2024
Thematic Panel 16 : River-Cities Nexus: Positioning Ecological, Social, and Cultural Resilience


Panel Organisers:
 Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi &
 Department of Public Policy, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru
 

Social Readiness Assessment for Planning Policies for River Resources Management

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The panelists presented their cases, hypothesis and ideas for river rejuvenation and community preparedness from Global South countries of Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia and India. A unique social readiness framework being developed by the research team of Dr. Harini Santhanam, Associate Professor & Head, DPP at MAHE Bengaluru campus was presented as a novel framework to assess and measure the effectiveness of policy development, deployment and implementation of natural resources management methods for India. Dr. Harini presented both the conceptual framework as well as the current work being carried out in South India for measuring the readiness levels. The panel as well as the ideas were well received. Further, several queries were posed that created a good discussion forum. It is a matter of great honour to partner with IHD as a collaborator to take forward the important research at MAHE. A IHD research Network was launched to continue the collaborative research.

Keywords: Social readiness, technological readiness, organisational readiness, Blue-green infrastructure, policy impact, policy interventions

