Information city: Is it a sustainable one?

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to identify whether information city is a sustainable one or not?.

The city is an organism, with interdependent social and physical elements. There is a close relationship between urban form and pattern of social life. The relationship between transport and special form of city is equally an important issue on the sustainable urban development. It has been argued that compact urban form could reduce the needs to travel by private car and provide a grater accessibility and social interaction compared to the low density urban development. It can reduce the use of energy on the energy consumption for transportation and promotes a more sustainable urban environment. On the other hand, in the historical perspective of urban development, technological changes facilitates the possibility of disperse and decentralised of urban settlement and urban activities. This has been resulted separation between home and work place and encouraged more dispersed urban form, particularly during the last 100 years. Information Communication Technology (ICT) has speeded up this process faster and of course much more complicated. The existence of contradictory theories such as the compact city and urban dispersal, and lack of empirical research on the impact of ICT on urban structure makes the issue more complicated. It seems that existing paradigms are unable to give a clear picture of the relationship between ICT and urban sustainability.

This paper discuses first, the importance of the relationship between technological changes and urban form the quality of life. Second, it will addresses to the main characteristics of information city and sustainable urban form. And, finally, it will focus on the main objective of this paper of whether information city form could be a sustainable city. The paper will focus on two aspects of sustainable urban development including social and environmental sustainability with regard to the information city.

Keywords: Information Communication Technology (ICT), Urban form, Sustainability, Quality of Life (QoL)