

Guidelines for Rebooting City Transport System under Covid-19:

A Tripod Model for Kerala

ISED Policy Briefs

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ISED Small Enterprise Observatory
Jointly with
ISED Centre for Social Development

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About ISED Policy Briefs

Brought out by the Institute's knowledge platform, the ISED Small Enterprise Observatory, titles under this Series are meant to stimulate a discussion on some of the latest developments in the economy and society. The contents of 'ISED Policy Briefs' emerge largely from the findings and experience of research work at the various Knowledge Centres of the Institute of Small Enterprises and Development. They are meant to be a backgrounder for policy debates and discussions at various levels.

Preface

The perception on public transport has been undergoing significant changes around the world. In many countries, as also in India, there exist a hybrid system involving public undertakings and private transports side by side. While there could be conflicting interests between the two, the modern debates are largely focussed on public interest. In many of the cities of the world, social enterprise models are a new addition. These enterprises meet the larger social needs, rather than confining to profit motive. Such social orientation in public transport has become an increasingly important subject in the context of Covid-19 the pandemic, characterised by its dual challenge of protecting lives and livelihoods. This study is based on a series of research initiatives on the subject of social enterprises by the author, based on his studies in the Netherlands and UK, and more based on his extensive field research in the city of Ealing, Western London.

This Policy Brief, brought out jointly by the ISED Small Enterprise Observatory and the ISED Centre for Social Development, is expected to contribute to the debates on social enterprises and strategies for management of pandemics.

The Institute wishes to thank the research team for its support and cooperation.

Cochin

Apr 14, 2020

P.M. Mathew

Director

Guidelines for Rebooting City Transport System under Covid-19: A Tripod Model for Kerala

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Abstract

The perception on public transport has been undergoing significant changes around the world. In many countries, as also in India, there exist a hybrid system involving public undertakings and private transports side by side. While there could be conflicting interests between the two, the modern debates are largely focussed on public interest. In many of the cities of the world, social enterprise models are a new addition. These enterprises meet the larger social needs, rather than confining to profit motive. Such social orientation in public transport has become an increasingly important subject in the context of Covid-19 the pandemic, characterised by its dual challenge of protecting lives and livelihoods. This study is based on a series of research initiatives on the subject of social enterprises by the author, based on his studies in the Netherlands and UK, and more based on his extensive field research in the city of Ealing, Western London.

Key words: Social Enterprises, Covid-19, Ealing, public transport, social orientation

1.0. Background

Public passenger transport system in Kerala today is a hybrid model. There is Government intervention through price control. But efficiency of service delivery is not ensured. Unhealthy competition need to be curbed. This study is based on a series of research initiatives on the subject of social enterprises by the author, in the Netherlands and UK, and more based on his extensive field research in the city of Ealing, Western London.

2.0. Global Scene of Regional Transport System

The perception on public transport has been undergoing significant changes around the world. In many countries, as also in India, there exist a hybrid system involving public undertakings and private transport system side by side. While there could be conflict of interest between the two, against the wider public interest, the modern debates are largely focussed on the public interest. In many of the cities of the world, public transport system has been increasingly moulded on lines of social enterprises, such that these enterprises meet the larger social needs, rather than confining to profit motive. Such social orientation in public transport has become an increasingly important subject in the context of Covid-19 the pandemic, characterised by its dual

challenge of protecting lives and livelihoods. The time has come for exploring a Social & solidarity Economy Model' as a viable alternative business model. Covid 19 brings in the context. The process can best be experimented now as a Pilot Project in the State of Kerala. The city of Cochin is best suited for such a Pilot Project.

3.0. Objectives

The alternative business model, as we propose, has the following objectives:

- Placing the local economy on track, at the earliest.
- Restricting the contagious effect of COVID-19 as per 'social distancing' norms.
- Develop an alternative sustainable public transport model for Kerala

4.0. Basic Elements of the Alternative Model

- Bus routes to be rearranged zone-wise(indicative model for Cochin City, as follows):
 - Alwaye(Palarivattom to Alwaye)Zone
 - Ernakulam(Palarivattom to Thopumpady)