

Talk titled 'Dissecting Akrama-Sakrama: Understanding the Amendment to KTCP Act on Regularizing Unauthorized Construction Developments in Urban Areas of Karnataka'

Date: March 1, 2011

Venue: Bangalore

Dr. H. S. Sudhira, Researcher with Gubbi Labs, Bangalore delivered a talk at CSTEP titled 'Dissecting Akrama-Sakrama: Understanding the Amendment to KTCP Act on Regularizing Unauthorized Construction Developments in Urban Areas of Karnataka'.

Abstract:

In the course of a city's evolution, people and land become central in its evolution. Although many instruments and forms are employed for regulation of land during the city's evolution, often 'land' gets embodied in different claims and contestations. With metropolitanisation, the outskirts are agglomerated into the larger urban local body as in the case of several Indian cities, adds an additional dimension to the nature of claims and consequent regulation. Spatial planning by way of state-backed Master Plans often fails to capture the underlying dynamics and contestations. Thus, such practices have been a miserable failure with respect to guiding and regulating urban growth. A case in point here is the State Government's initiative called as 'Regularization of Unauthorized Development and Constructions', popularly called as Akrama – Sakrama. Colloquially, Akrama – Sakrama, means legalizing the illegal. The entire process of this scheme is captured on a Mindmap in order to analyse the genealogy and the interconnections among multiple realms (legislative, political, judiciary and public). Additionally, the map also notes the issues that entail in the conceptualization, mechanisms, and implementation of the scheme. The analysis while revealing the legal pluralism points out that the current instrument of land regularization actually leads to a loss of power by local groups – shaped by their declining claims to land and reworked tenure situations.