**Palli Janapad (PJ) and Compact Township (CT) - By Salim Rashid**

RDA Bogra has pioneered a new concept for rural living, ‘PalliJanapad’. Both the similarities and the differences with a CT are significant, so it may be useful to briefly recount them. In addition to newspaper accounts, see link below, RDA kindly hosted a talk by Dr Salim Rashid in March 2014, when there was an extended discussion.

The PJ proposal is excellent for focusing on the saving of land and on a method---bio-gas---which provides the renewable energy needs for a community. These advances must be applauded.

The differences between a PJ and a CT are several, stemming perhaps from the smaller size of a PJ and the potentially limited economies of scale following therefrom. While the idea of a PJ is perhaps compatible with many ancillary features, as proposed currently it differs from CT’s in that it has no *direct* link with transport, economic infrastructure for manufacturing, modern agro-industry.

The scale is small, 2500-3000 individuals per PJ, while a CT is for some 20,000,and is addressed at present largely to those who are better off.

From the point of view of long-run local initiatives, the PJ has no explicit link with the formation of local governments, which will partially have revenue, taxation and policing powers. Hence the PJ is a more finished product and not a template, like a CT,which can be significantly modified by local needs, such as eco-tourism (ShoronKhola),or expatriate exports (Tontor).

We wish the PJ every success while continuing to believe that the CT is a mode by which sustainable long-run development can be achieved.

[http://www.thedailystar.net/new-scheme-to-give-villages-a-new-look-37862](https://webmail.illinois.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=34fJ5L5Kw0WmO7mIfQ742obBTaIFqtEIFhXI5XpJBF9-AgLdkFG0j4siK4wkJtKHevHXh0XU2zs.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.thedailystar.net%2fnew-scheme-to-give-villages-a-new-look-37862)