



URBANISATION AND PROBLEMS OF SLUMS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Urbanisation in India is neither unique nor exclusive but is similar to a world-wide phenomenon. Due to economic change, there has been wide expansion of urban settlement all over globe. As a result, there has been widespread change, mainly in occupation of agriculture to urban based industries as well as services. Slums are the inevitable by products of the process of urbanization. Nowadays urbanization is a world-wide phenomenon which has brought in its wake an alarming, unmanageable, inevitable and persistent problem of slums. They grow over years defying all attempts at planned urban development. Any attempt at slums clearance gives rise, ironically to further growth of slums. The cities as well as towns are experiencing the impact of Population explosion resulting in cancerous outgrowth of the misery belts in the form of slums and squatter settlements. Their growth causes nuisance to urban landscape. The present paper is an attempt to study the effects of urbanisation on slums and their genesis in the city of Ahmedabad.

KEYWORDS

Urbanisation, Slums, Ahmedabad, India, Development



INTRODUCTION

Urbanization in India is not a new concept in itself. No doubt it emerged in India, little late in the 90s as compared to that, of rest of the world. Most of the ideas as well as changes that are evident in the concept of urbanization are same all over. Due to economic change, there has been wide expansion of urban settlement all over globe. As a result, there has been widespread change, mainly in occupation of agriculture to urban based industries as well as services. Due to green revolution, there has been immense increase in the production of agriculture and its performance in India. Such performance in agricultural also promoted urbanisation in some or the other way, For example, there has been noticed change in rice and wheat production in various districts (District of Krishna, Ludhiana, chengalpet, kurukshetra) in the country. There has been variation in the urban population all across India. Kurukshetra tops with the highest number of urban population. In spite of agricultural increase or any other factor new setups, mainly industrial investment and majority of services available in these sectors are also considered as one of the factor for improvement in urban settlements in India. If we compare to the past years, there has been 12 to 13 times growth in urban population right now out of total population around 28 and 30% of the population belong to urban settlements. In the following 20 years, the urban population will nearly double itself to reach about 550 million.

It is being estimated by the world urbanisation prospects that urban population might increase to 42% in 2025. These figures, however, do not portray a full picture. The state-wise variations are significant. The pace and spread of urbanisation among states varies. Maharashtra with an urban population percentage of 42 %, Gujarat with 37 % and Tamil Nadu with 44 % and the least urbanised state, Assam with 13 per cent in 2001 indicate this inter-regional variation. In 2021, There has been gradual shift in urban population. As in Maharashtra (50.45%), Gujarat (44.45%), Tamil Nadu (42.54%), Karnataka (41.12%) and Andhra Pradesh (39.13%) will be the most urbanised states in the country in that order. Central India as well as. Southern states have more population as compared to northern and North Eastern states of India due to several reasons. the northern states of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh varies in the rate of urbanisation. The rate of urban increase will also vary. Between 2001 and 2016, in the country as a



whole, urban population has increased by nearly 50 per cent compared to 17 per cent rural.

If we compare urban population with that of rural population decade wise we can conclude that there has been Constructive increase as well as drop in the rate of urban population. Many scholars suggest that there has been a slowing down of urbanization, but that is not true. Many government official Data's claim that there has been significant rise in urban population, but there has been a slowing down of urban rural migration.

Contrary to popular perception, migration is not the principal or the dominant factor in urban growth. People have tilted more towards urbanisation due to improvement in service sector, reclassification of towns, better government facilities, better educational opportunities, as well as many opportunities which yield self-developmental opportunities highly motivate rural people to shift to urban centres. When a large population shift or migrate to urban centres it also invites a lot of problems be it of slum creation by top population explosion or increase rate of crimes.

NATURE AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SLUMS

In availability of jobs as well as economic security is a major reason in rural areas for migration toward cities and urban settlement. The pattern of city growth in the underdeveloped and developing in general and in India is particular due to their social, economic, cultural perspectives of that particular region. The ordinary man is experiencing various socio- economic strains and a stressful condition to fulfil their basic amenities. So they try to invade and occupy the vacant areas mostly in illegal way in order to sustain shelter. Now we can say the slums are the areas where poverty stricken rural migrants finds their first shelter at a cheaper rent from where they begin a search for their livelihood and employment and try to make necessary adjustment with the city life. Slums are the places in cities which provide housing to the poorest class of the society, with very low rents or no rents at all.

Generally slums are characterized by overcrowding and congestion inadequate and poor housing, insufficient structural and basic amenities, social isolation etc. The dwellings are poorly arranged having insufficient lighting and ventilation. The dwellings are mostly built with mud or brick walls with roof made of materials like scraps of tins or straw mats.

On the basis of the place of their living slum peoples are also called by several names. For



example, Jhuggi or Jhopapabi, Chawls people, Bustee vale, Pettas and Zopadapatti or quahchhavasti.

We can classify slums broadly in 3 categories. First type of slum is the original slum, wherefrom the beginning of the buildings are unsuitable and are beyond recovery. The second types of slums are those areas which are deteriorated after the departure of middle and upper class families. The third types of slums develop within the zone in transition around the Central Business District or the central part of the city which is called Down Town. The other types of slums include semi-slum and super- slum, metropolitan and rural slums, hand-made and prefabricate d slums. The typology of the other types of slums are based on the size, the places, the nature and the material used etc.

In Indian context on the basis of building Material, Slums can be categorised Into areas Like :- Areas with single or multi-storeyed buildings built long back as the then prevailing standards and which are today in very bad conditions and require immediate action of demolition, sometimes Sustained by iron or wood sheets or Areas having semi-permanent structures which are not even authorised by government and neglected by government. Lastly area which are mean the built by using shacks or mud.

Where the government is satisfied that any area is or is likely to be a source of danger to health, safety or convenience of the public of that area or of its neighbourhood, The main aim, or the focus of the government will remain 2 shift the public to a more safer hygiene place where all the facilities of sanitation, health, transport is available at cheapest Or subsidised rate. In the Indian context, even Article 21 of Indian Constitution, which deals with right to life and Liberty, uphold the norms of clean environment. If any person is having difficulty or inaccessibility of health facilities, it is considered as violation of his or her fundamental rights. In simple word, if you are having any difficulty related to health due to environmental degradation as externalities, it is the responsibility of the government to provide facilities to their people that they can enjoy their fundamental right.



SLUMS IN INDIAN CITIES

In India, the word Jhuggi is so common that it has become a normal. Problems that are being faced by slum people are clearly visible even in many Bollywood movies, in songs, even in newspapers. And in these governmental official Bollywood movie Slumdog Millionaire, Also highlighted very bad and contagious situations that are being faced by the slum people not because they are poor firstly because of the unavailability of the resources. Through which they can use their capabilities as mean to attain economic security.

Indian government From time to time, introduce various schemes and programmes. In 2000, Indian government have introduced Millennium Developmental Goals, which mainly focused on the rehabilitation of slum people and providing them better facilities. After 2015, government reintroduced Millennium Development Goals, but with the positive name of sustainable developmental goals, which need to be achieved by 2030 few goals which mainly deals with the poorest of poor such as 0 hunger, no poverty, Better educational facilities, better sustainable jobs, no gender discrimination etc.

No doubt, how many times government have been trying to eliminate the slum population. But in these slums have become an important feature of urban poverty, which is very evident in any Indian city or town, irrespective of their size. In 1990, Days India have experienced great economic reforms by the name of LPG or liberalization, privatization and globalization. With these development, there has been rapid urbanization in India, which load out lead. To great advances and improvement in every sector, but with this we have also experienced urbanisation of poverty.

These slums are full of numerous problems and they also became a fundamental global challenge where all regional and international bodies plan to deal with. Many development plans implemented over time have laid substantial stress on adaptive approaches at the cost of proactive approaches, and thus have not been able to address the subtleties of slum development. For an effective and coordinated policy for development and rehabilitation of slum dwellers, an important requirement is to have comprehensive information and data on slums, as emphasized by the Government of India in its recent planning initiatives.



According to census 2011, Around 31.1% of the population belongs to urban settlement, whereas it is been estimated at around more than half percent of the population that is 60% and above will constitute urbanization. By 2050. But there is some parties that 1/3 of Indians population in urban settlement is slum, which constitutes 17.04%.

The Report of the Committee on Slum Statistics (Government of India 2008) stated With the introduction of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), an urban modernization project, Government relies date non availability of authentic data. Regarding slum areas and Urban Development is the main reason for their failure.

The reasons for the development or uprising of slums In Ahmedabad are related with the rise of urban settlement and urbanization. With the upsurge of population of rural India to urban India, lead to creation of slums due to the shortage of developed land for housing. Slum conditions are caused by poverty and due to this economic insecurity. Sometimes it leads to social exclusion and economic stagnation as there is no hope of development and lack of future perspectives for earning a living. Moreover, due to informal nature of economy, there is no surety that they have a secure job. This is for the creation and options of slums varies from time to time, but the government also plan various policies in developmental program, mainly focus on slums by creating. Inclusive City development plans, which try to provide all the basic facilities along with affordable housing to the poor urban people. For instance, Jawaharlal Nehru national Urban Renewal Mission, which is being introduced by Government of India to provide all the basic necessities to the urban poor people along with housing plan and slum developmental program. Here, this slum developmental programme refers to a proper organised structure, Instead of Kachha houses, which further create Lots of health diseases.

Government of India also provide partnership plans as well as subsidy schemes for housing the urban poor people for better Shelter and livelihood. Furthermore, government also introduced Rajiv Awas Yojna, which aimed at bringing slums into more formal structures and providing all the basic facilities and necessities for a better livelihood. This very scheme started in 2013 and aimed to achieve all its goal till 2022. Government have introduced so many plans as well as schemes which have high aims to achieve. But problem Leela? Guys in its implementations, another name



which aims to create slum areas is PradhanMantriAwasYojana housing for all urban mission. This game was implemented during the period of 2015, Killed 2022 and they mainly try to address all the housing requirements of slum people who are living in the urban settlement so that they will be able to avail all the benefits from government. Recently, government has announced smart city mission under the leadership of NarendraModi, in order to provide better infrastructural facilities to all.

It's high time to shift towards a collaborative approach in which we civil societies as well as Local governance. We should not misunderstand the holistic concept of inclusive growth, as in Ahmedabad, there has been a wide development in Sabarmati riverfront and bus rapid transportation project but in these programs, poor citizens were the sufferer. In order to achieve high level of growth and economic development.

Government of India is well aware of their fault in accumulation of a proper data and analysis regarding the slum population and their needs, along with the problems they are facing. There is vast difference in the report, which is being presented by sensor of India as compared to that of AMC—MHT SURVEY. Government agencies such as AMC and from NGO suggest South and MHT-SEWA, (11)Actively involved In the development of slum in the city of Gujarat, but the problem lies in the applicability of All these Program at the ground level, there is a vast difference in the data as being calculated by all of them. Due to which role of government remainslimited. Preparation of municipal-level action plans will require a considerable amount of data on the actual number of existing households, availability of infrastructure services and many other such parameters.

SLUMS AND THEIR EFFECT

Slums are the inevitable by products of the process of urbanization. Nowadays urbanization is a world-wide phenomenon which has brought in its wake an alarming, unmanageable, inevitable and persistent problem of slums. They grow over years defying all attempts at planned urban development. Any attempt at slums clearance gives rise, ironically to slums. The cities as well as towns are experiencing the impact of Population explosion resulting in cancerous outgrowth of slums. Their growth causes nuisance to urban landscape. According to Singh and Kumara “In the



coming years, a now, the urban landscape will continue the mirror, probably more glaringly, the contrasts and evils of society, economic disparities, social inequalities, cultural alienation and an ever increasing deprivation for a great majority of poor city dwellers.”

Scholars who supported the idea of slum clearance and shifting them to a well-developed organised structures viewed slums as a chaotically occupied, unsystematic development and generally neglected area which is over populous by persons and over crowded with ill repaired and neglected structures. The area has insufficient communication facilities along with sanitary arrangement and inadequate amenities which are necessary for the maintenance of physical and social health of a person and the minimum needs and comfort of human beings and the community. There is a general absence of availability of social services and welfare agencies to deal with the major social problems of persons and families, in respect of standard health parameter, inadequate income and low standard of living, who are the victims of biological, pathological and social consequences of their physical and social environment.”

SUGGESTION TO IMPROVE SLUMS

The slums particularly in cities are growing frequently every day because of continuous rural-urban migration. If the same rate of migration will continue, it will be very difficult to cope with the situation. There are two methods by which we can control the slum growth within the urban areas. The direct method is to clear the areas of blight and slums and house the affected dwellers in a decent environment. This method is called ‘Slum Clearance Scheme’ which refers not only to cleaning slums but also properly rehabilitating the dis-housed population. Population living in temporary hutments and Jhugis-Jhoparis, but before this there is urgent need of educating slum dwellers to keep their environment by healthy practices. The indirect method is to control rural-urban migration, develop agricultural incomes, redistribution of land to peasants, increase employment opportunities in small towns and create new settlements with employment avenues. In addition the ‘Slum removal program’ is also the most exciting project which has been implemented in many towns.

There must be a National Policy for improvement and rehabilitation of slum dwellers in the



country. Slum population constitutes a merger proportion in the country. Therefore, we cannot ignore their demands as well as well-being. Voluntary organization should come forward to help the concerned authorities for slum improvement in cities.

It appears that cities will continue to increase rapidly even in the coming years. Our cities have slums primarily because ‘the power to clean or prevent them has been taken away from us.’ The slums are the greatest blot on administration. The philosophy of separate urban identity is to be revised and rural development for social-economic facilities must be at par with the urban counterpart.

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