

## SLUMS VIS - À - VIS URBANIZATION

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City is a living and dynamic organism due to its complexity in variegated functional pattern. The growth of cities in most of the developing economies is the single largest factor influencing imbalances in economic development. In the tide of change that will engulf the developing countries, the most dramatic and fundamental trend is that of urbanization. The phenomenon of urbanization and its repercussions have been studied in a rather stereotyped pattern in India, in the false hope that urban growth can be prevented, retarded and diverted. The urban administrative system has been left unprepared to cope with the expansion of urban services made necessary by rapid urban population increase. The developing nation must come to grips with the problems and challenges of urbanization.

One important impact of urbanisation in developing economics particularly, is the proliferation of slums. Rapid economic growth and industrialization has caused the emergence of 'Slums' in the cities / towns. A large population of the country lives in urban slums, nearly 6.18 crore.

Apart from this, very high rates for residential plots in the cities / towns which are beyond the reach of the poor, lack of developed residential land and the influx of population to urban areas in search of employment are the root causes for the growth of slums. The houses are either in dilapidated condition or kutchra in slum areas, which totally lack basic civic amenities such as light, drinking water, toilets, fresh air, roads etc. The paths in the slums are narrow and filthy. There is likelihood of occurrence of air and water borne diseases in such areas. Urban environments, particularly in poorer sections of cities without proper water, sanitation and solid waste services, are hosts to rats, mice and insect carriers of disease. Unhygienic surroundings, unremoved heaps of garbage, waterlogging, blocked drains, defecation in streets are common scenes which make the slum dwellers vulnerable to several diseases due to the infection breeding milieu.

Though it is very difficult to define slums, the Census organization classified the following areas as slums:

1. All such areas which have been notified by State / local government or central administered areas by any act, as slums.
2. All such areas which have been recognised as slums by State / local government and central administered areas but not notified by any act.
3. All such congested areas which have a minimum population of 300 or 60-70 households with unplanned residential clusters which totally lack basic civic amenities of light, drinking water, sanitation, unpolluted air etc.

Only 25 cities / towns including UAs have identified slums in their jurisdiction. Municipal authorities of Jhunjhunu, Churu, Bhilwara, Bundi, Dhaulpur Ganganagar, Gangapur City, Hindaun and Tonk have reported nil slum population.

On an average, the slum and squatter population is increasing at more than double the general growth rate of population of the cities. What is more alarming is the fact that the slum population is growing not only in absolute terms but also in relative terms, so much so that larger and larger proportions seek shelter in the slums or spontaneous settlements.

In absolute terms the highest number of slum dwellers i.e. 350,353 are living in the limits of Jaipur Municipal Corporation which alone constitutes 29.05 percent of slum population of the State and 15.07 percent of total population (2,324,319) of city. Jodhpur, Kota and Ajmer follow it with 18.31, 21.56 and 24.57 percentage of slum population to their total population respectively. The highest percentage of slum dwellers to total population has been recorded at 35.12 for Kishangarh city of Ajmer district. Kishangarh is notable for its fast growing marble industry in the country. This can be seen from the table no. 1 given below.

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Table No. 1 Slum Population in Towns, UAs of Rajasthan in 2001

Sl. No.	Towns having Slums	Population			Population in 0-6 age group			Literates		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rajasthan	1206123	634848	571275	206021	108372	97649	662060	414696	247364
1.	Hanumangarh M	25318	13620	11698	3941	2183	1758	15328	9272	6056
2.	Bikaner M.CI.	76964	40370	36594	12401	6454	5947	43108	26468	16640
3.	Sardarshar M	29877	15666	14211	5701	3037	2664	14716	9517	5199
4.	Ratangarh M	5168	2695	2473	1015	551	464	2704	1730	974
5.	Sujangarh M	11369	5805	5564	2208	1146	1062	6487	3989	2498
6.	Nawalgarh M	205	112	93	38	23	15	75	53	22
7.	Alwar UA	15923	8455	7468	2476	1298	1178	9293	5962	3331
	(a)Alwar M.CI.	15923	8455	7468	2476	1298	1178	9293	5962	3331
	(i) Itarana OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Bharatpur UA	29474	-	13712	5207	2809	2398	15866	10186	5680
	(a)Bharatpur M.CI.	29474	-	13712	5207	2809	2398	15866	10186	5680
	(i) Chak No.1 OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Sawai Madhopur UA	2190	1109	1081	351	168	183	1011	724	287
	(a)Sawai Madhopur M	2190	1109	1081	351	168	183	1011	724	287
	(i)Sahu Nagar Cement Factory OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Jaipur M.Corp.	350353	185137	165216	63434	33575	29859	175187	111261	63926
11.	Sikar	7224	3783	3441	1241	641	600	3762	2379	1383
	(a)Sikar M.CI.	7224	3783	3441	1241	641	600	3762	2379	1383
	(i)Samrathpura OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Fatehpur M	19659	10162	9497	3444	1815	1629	10404	6710	3694
13.	Nagaur UA	9547	4982	4565	2014	1014	1000	3200	2253	947
	(a)Nagaur M	9547	4982	4565	2014	1014	1000	3200	2253	947
	(i)Manasar Village OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(ii)Chenar Village OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Makarana UA	2650	1394	1256	541	272	269	1251	819	432
	(a)Makrana M	2650	1394	1256	541	272	269	1251	819	432
	(i)Makrana Village OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Jodhpur UA	156770	82829	73941	27136	14340	12796	81832	52054	29778
	(a)Jodhpur M.Corp.	156770	82829	73941	27136	14340	12796	81832	52054	29778
	(i)Nandri Village OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(ii)Pal Village OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(iii)Mandor Ind.Area OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Barmer M	22316	12126	10190	3964	2116	1848	12488	8540	3948
17.	Pali M.CI.	35589	18841	16748	6622	3434	3188	18499	12637	5862
18.	Kishangarh M	40796	21574	19222	6954	3671	3283	23362	14576	8786
19.	Ajmer UA	12431	62412	58019	16783	8711	8072	81655	47939	33716
	(a)Ajmer M.CI.	12431	62412	58019	16783	8711	8072	81655	47939	33716
	(b)Kiranipura CT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Beawar UA	3797	1962	1835	736	388	348	1853	1212	641
	(a)Beawar M.CI.	3797	1962	1835	736	388	348	1853	1212	641
	(i)Nayanagar (Saket Nagar Colony OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Udaipur M.CI.	43180	22501	20679	7112	3671	3441	24765	15008	9757
22.	Banswara UA	10329	5352	4977	1734	905	829	5396	3324	2072
	(a)Banswara M	10329	5352	4977	1734	905	829	5396	3324	2072
	(i)Bhawanpura and Thikaria Ind. Area OG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Chittaurgarh M	11517	5932	5585	2260	1162	1098	6131	3861	2270
24.	Kota M.Corp.	151955	79884	72071	24491	12805	11686	90811	56014	34797
25.	Baran M	23522	12383	11139	4217	2183	2034	12876	6208	4668

Note: Slum population reported 'Nil' in 9 cities / towns namely Jhunjhunu, Churu UA, Bhilwara, Bundi, Dhaulpur UA, Ganganagar, Gangapur City UA, Hindaun and Tonk.

Source: Census of India 2001, Series - 9, Provisional Population Totals Paper - 2 of 2001, Rural - Urban Distribution of Population.

Most of these slums exist along the major city road network and are a problem to the smooth flow of traffic. The literacy rates for persons, males and females of the slum population of the State have been recorded as 66.19, 78.77 and 52.23 percent respectively which are lower than that of the total urban population of the State. On the other hand, the sex ratios of the total slum population and its population in 0-6 age group have been recorded as 900 and 901 respectively, which are significantly higher than that of corresponding sex ratios of the urban population of the State as can be visualised from the table below. Since most slum dwellers are migrants for economic purposes, family migration is low and this is reflected in the lower sex ratio.

**Table No. 2 Literacy and Sex Ratio in Total Slum Population of Rajasthan as Compared to its Total Urban Population**

		Persons	Males	Females
A.	Literacy rate			
	(i) Rajasthan (Urban)	76.89	87.10	65.42
	(ii) Slum population	66.19	78.77	52.23
B.	Sex-Ratio			
	(a) Rajasthan (Urban)			
	(i) Total	890		
	(ii) 0-6 Population	886		
	(b) Slum population			
	(i) Total	900		
(ii) 0-6 population	901			

Source: Census of India 2001, Series – 9, Provisional Population Totals Paper – 2 of 2001, Rural – Urban Distribution of Population.

They contribute more to the economy in term of labour than the well to do, since more people in each family work. Slum however is not just a physical entity but is a consequence of social and economic system. Slum as a live entity has both the assets as well as liabilities.

Slums represent raw energy for economic growth. People who make a living in the informal economy live in slums. Formal economy is closed to them, so is formal housing. They are compelled to get their roti and makan from the informal sector.

Although there is a growing understanding among officials that slum demolition, makes housing shortages worse, but still it continues. In Rajasthan the condition of slums, generally in class I cities can be upgraded either through environmental improvement or by relocating the slums. The expenditure on environmental improvement has generally been incurred on providing water, electricity, and drains and on paving the streets. But most slum houses do not have toilet facilities, bathing places and legal water connections. Moreover, houses are not in a planned manner due to which drainage becomes difficult. The maintenance is expensive and has to be attended to every year. In short, the influx of rural migrants has been the major reason for the swelling of the slums and the miserable deterioration in civic amenities.

This physical problem arises from an anarchic attitude to land development, which manifests itself in squatting and called as “unauthorised construction”, which may be described roughly as a more expensive and elaborate form of squatting. This anti-planning phenomenon is taking place on a vast scale all around the city dwellers. Inadequate recognition is given to the negative, social and economic effects of unplanned and uncontrolled urban growth.

These are not only a manifestation of urban poverty and housing deficits but are, also, an indicator of the positive efforts of the poor towards finding a solution to the shelter problem. Ownership of property and land is a prime determinant of status and power in any society. Illegality leads to denial of infrastructure and public services needed to improve the habitat.

**National Slum Policy:-**

All the six mega cities and 35 metros with a population of over one million will be made slum-free by 2010 under the National Slum Policy being evolved by the centre. First time such a policy was being framed since there was no integrated approach to the development of slums. States could announce their own policies keeping in view the framework of the national policy, but they would be required to specify a cut-off date for the rehabilitation of slum-dwellers. Broadly, the components of the policy would include rehabilitation of slum-dwellers, re-location from hazardous places and upgradation of infrastructure.

**Slum Improvement:** - The policy of the Government lays emphasis on environmental improvement of urban slums rather than their massive clearance and relocation, The scheme envisages provision of seven basic amenities viz., water supply, sewerage, community baths, improved pathways, community latrines, street lighting and other community facilities to the slum dwellers. Slum improvement is rewarding theft. The programme is linked with the Urban Basic Services for poor and Nehru Rojgar Yojana by involvement of resident associations. Government action has focused on welfare and habitat improvements under various poverty alleviation programmes but has been unable to make linkages between these improvements and increase in productivity and income of the urban poor.

**Resettlement Programme:** - The uprooted people not only went back to their original sites in the city, leaving the allotted plots that could not guarantee them the employment but also disrupted their social life. Resettlement programmes that have moved the poor to fringe areas to provide them with improved shelter and environment have been antagonistic to the space economy of the poor households, which is typified by the need to be near a variety of income-earning opportunities and have resulted in loss of income of the poor. Also, many of the income earning opportunities, exist among the poor themselves but require a minimum density of poverty to remain viable. Thus, scale and concentration of poverty provides its own level of agglomeration economies to provide income-earning opportunities where more dispersed patterns of living would not.

**Strategy for Slum Development: -**

Urban slums pose yet another problem to the development of the city owing to inadequate infrastructural facilities and environmental degradation resulting in crimes, gambling, distress among youth, and anti social activities. Improvement of slums and upliftment of the economically weaker sections should get priority as these may slowly spill over to the other areas too. With a boom in the construction industry the migratory population in search of employment had taken shelter in the slums, further worsening the living conditions. To curb this problem rehabilitation, improvement and partial clearance, prevention measures and prohibition etc should be taken up in slum areas.

For the regularisation of kutchi basties, a holistic approach may be adopted by networking services and other infrastructure, which may benefit rest of the city also. Integration of slum settlements into urban areas as a whole, having a frame-work for involving all stakeholders in the slum development process and strengthen the legal and policy frame-works should be undertaken at the local level to fulfil these aims.

Granting security of tenure and title of land for the squatters, is an important issue. Security of land tenure would enhance the creditworthiness of the beneficiaries and encourage the individuals to invest in shelter upgrading.

Land adjustment mechanism is extensively used for urban extension programmes in Tokyo and has been successfully implemented in Hyderabad for development of slum areas located on private lands. Under the Hyderabad slum Improvement Project (HSIP), the private owners retained part of the land while the slum households were assisted to build low cost houses, at a higher density, on a smaller area of land.

The grant of additional Floor-space Index (FSI) for slum occupied lands works as an inducement for developers to create extra space for sale in the open market.

The shelter programme for the urban poor should be linked with provision of employment. Slum improvement and urban renewal programmes are significant from the point of view of ensuring economic growth in the urban areas.

Government has adopted programmes to upgrade slums. Housing improvements have been left to individuals based on the assumption that the low-income households could and would mobilise personal resources for housing improvements if their neighbourhoods were improved.

Amelioration of urban poverty should be accorded the same priority as that given to the rural poverty. A credit support programme would encourage self-employment of the urban poor. Production and market support should be given to the self-employed urban poor.

The steps on improvement of slums and the policy in regard to the employment opportunities for the slum dwellers and urban poor and other related issues should also find their mention in the policy document. An appropriate blend of policies and institutions can improve urban living conditions at various levels of economic development. Quality of life, which is often measured by the availability and efficiency of public services, is also a major issue.

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