

SLUMS IN INDIA

- Anybody wants to live in slums??
- What are slums? – form part of our existence
- Slums is an urban phenomena – physical, social, economic, cultural and political profile is important to understand
- Slumming is going to increase in India/third world as urbanisation is increasing at a rapid pace

What causes the growth of slums?

Push factors -

- Agriculture and rural occupations unremunerative (not enough)
- Poverty
- Sluggish industrial growth and static agriculture
- Increase in population
- Means of production in the hands of few
- Increasing inequities

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Pull factors (big cities and urban centres)

- Employment opportunities – “Bright lights”
- Increasing industries
- Growth of the informal sector
- Better wages and
- Space for living and security
- Established channels (usually people from the same area/village/caste/kin) for movement, employment

Urban Slums

- Urban slums – 22% (40 million) of India's urban popn.
- Mumbai – 55% in slums (of the 11 million) occupying 12.85% land
- Maharashtra, A.P, U.P andlast is Goa
- Essential aspect of urbanisation
- Urban poor – form a necessary labour force
- Engaged in labour market contributions and informal production activities

Urban Slums

- Located on encroached lands (unplanned areas of the city/towns) – high density
- No basic services – environmental pollution
- Drain on the existing planned services
- Encourage social evils
- Its growth makes it difficult to link planned and unplanned areas
- Eye sores and tells on the poor planning
- Increase in urban poor in the cities/towns

Socio-economic Profile

1. Regional origin – same state/district, regional and linguistic blocks
2. Socio-economic origin – small & marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers
3. Gender aspect – men migrate first and women follow with family. Men employed in factories or manual/semi-skilled labour, women as domestic help, informal sector or sex trade.
4. Recently women migrating in groups

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Education

- Uneducated to secondary level
- Older people are largely uneducated, no skills

Occupation

- Skilled (formal sector – driver, peon, teacher etc.)
- Unskilled (informal sector – small trade & business, self employed, piece-rate work)
- Hours of work – 8-16 hours
- Some do not get minimum wage
- Supplementary income – wife, children (e.g ragpickers), Household commercial activities (shops etc.)

‘Slum Wallas’ vs ‘Kothi Wallas’

- There is a divide
- Unclean, crime prone, indecent vs clean, honest, decent, cultured...

State Approach to Slums

- Eviction, slum clearance
- Improvement – sites and services – water, sanitation, school, health etc.
- Rehabilitation – in other areas – regularising the slums

Current Discourse on Slums

- ***Little people's rights*** (slum people)
 - (a) Right to stay, (b) Right to resettle, (c) Right to minimum services
- ***Big people's rights*** (Planners, NGO, donors etc)
 - (a) Right to define and redefine
 - (b) Right to align and re-align – changing alliances between govt., NGO and donors, celebrities

How to deal with slums

- Sustaining the problem rather than finding sustainable solutions?
- Bringing orderliness and sanity
- Demand rights for all – housing, decent living
- Clear definition of development roles
- Ask for rights not favours
- Do we allow the ‘Culture of Silence’ to prevail?

How to deal with Slums?

- Can they be ignored?
- Can they be stopped?
- What is the solution?
- What to do with the urban poor?
- In a democratic set up can the urban poor be given a life of dignity free from fear?
- Can the urban poor get opportunities in urban centres – equity and distributive justice?
- Urban poor in slums too need development options
- Urban poor serve a very important role in the life of urban residents in India

Urban Slum Policy

- Came into existence in 2001 (India)

Objectives:

- To create awareness among people and govt. about the process of slum development and integrating settlements into urban areas
- Strengthen the legal and policy framework for slum development on a sustainable basis
- To establish a framework for involving all stakeholders for the efficient and smooth implementation of policy objectives

Urban Slum Policy

Rationale:

- Slum clearance is not a solution
- Strict guidelines for resettlement and rehabilitation for certain slums
- Slums need access to basic services irrespective of their tenure status
- Planned growth of cities to help integrate all existing slums and informal settlements
- Urban local bodies and proper urban management systems – (a) resource allocation and use, (b) service delivery, and (c) urban governance – democratic, efficient, transparent and gender sensitive

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- Present planning framework – Master plans ignore the slums – problem areas
- Town planning, land management, poverty alleviation, basic service delivery and capacity building – inclusive approach
- 74th constitutional amendment – role of ULBs in ensuring slum improvement and upgradation
- Ward committees and Municipal Planning Committees – decentralised participatory structures to ensure slum inclusion and integration

Strategic Interventions

1. Inclusive approach to definition of slum/informal settlement
2. Listing and registration
3. De-listing
4. Classification of land tenure/status
5. Granting of tenure
6. Resettlement and rehabilitation
7. Planning for integration
8. Environmental improvement

Strategic Interventions

9. Improving access to social services
10. Municipal services to be brought under Consumer Protection Act
11. Economic Empowerment
12. Financing Sustainable Slum Improvement and service – explore role of pvt sector, CSR
13. Improving creditworthiness of slum dweller
14. Strengthening municipal governance and management
15. Shelter upgradation
16. Monitoring Evaluation

Last Word

“Urban poverty slumming is not about poverty to be fought with virtuous charity and kindness, but about injustice to fought with vicious intolerance” (Gita Dewan Verma, 2002, p.xxiii)

Book – Slumming India







Women in Informal Sector

