An Analysis of the Growth of the Slum Population in India

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Abstract

Roughly one-third of India's population lives in urban slums or other low-income regions. Increasing industrialization, a lack of employment in rural regions, poor pay, and unsuccessful land reforms are all contributing factors. Despite just making up 5% of the world's geographical area, urban areas are home to around 27% of the world's population. Overcrowding, dilapidated structures, unsanitary living conditions, a lack of essential amenities, a disorganised street layout, and limited access are only some of the worst aspects of these unimproved slums. So, people living in urban slums need access to information on how they may help their communities improve. This highlights the need of initiatives to minimise economic disparity and raise living standards in these areas. A "slum population" refers to the total number of individuals who make slums their permanent home and have incomes that are below the poverty level. Many Indians, despite the country's development and prosperity, nevertheless live in extreme poverty. You'll find a lot of them in poor neighbourhoods of major cities. Government statistics show that there are now more people living in slums in India than there are in all of Great Britain. For the last two decades, it has expanded by a factor of 100. The number of people living in slums in India has increased dramatically, from 27.9 million in 1981 to 61.8 million as of the most recent census in 2001. India's GDP has increased by an annual average of 8% during the last four years. Even though the minimum wage has increased, many Americans still struggle to make ends meet on less than $1 a day (or 46 INR). And much like the rest of India, the slum population has increased as India's overall population has. The great majority of slum dwellers still do not have access to modern conveniences like electricity, running water,

and gas for cooking, despite government initiatives to build new housing and other necessary infrastructure.

Keywords: *Growing slum population, rapid industrialization, unhygienic, poor accessibility, promote policies, enlighten of the poor.*

Introduction

Since India's independence, both political parties have supported the country's well-planned development programmes, which have worked to better the lives of Indians throughout the country. Policymakers, planners, leaders, administrators, and development practitioners are worried that poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and hunger are so pervasive because results have been so disappointing. According to the author, just 5% of the city's land is used by the city's slum residents, even though they make up 27% of the population. Unimproved slums are characterised by overcrowding, crumbling buildings, dirt, a lack of essential services, a disorganised design, and restricted access. Even though many colonies have been in this state for at least 20 years, traffic is only expected to become worse in the future.(**Abdul and N. S 2015**)

The population of India's major urban centres has exploded in recent years. Between the pre-industrial era and 1988, urbanisation in the nation more than doubled. It rose dramatically from 84.94 million in 1991 to 285 million in March of 2001. Annually, around 31.2% of the population makes the move from rural areas to urban centres. New research shows that 28.1% of the world's population currently lives in urban settings. The 1991 census showed that the population had grown by 2.57 percent from the last count in 1987. Forecasts indicate that by the year 2001, this country's population will have surpassed 100 million, making up more than a third of the world's population. India's urban population is anticipated to grow from its 2001 low of 33 crores to a whopping 65.8 crores by 2025, much outnumbering the country's entire projected population of roughly 122 crores. (**Annuar, Salihu and Obid 2014**)

The pace of urbanisation varies greatly across India's individual states. According to the 2011 census, 27.28 percent of India's total population, or 286.11 million people, lived in urban areas. Cities with populations of 35 million or more were home to more than a third (33.85) of the urban population. By 2001, there were already 35 cities with a population of 1,000,000 or more; by 2011, that number is expected to climb to 50. By 2011, it was projected that an extra 78 million individuals will have made their way to metropolitan centres throughout the world. If the estimated population increase of 39 million has occurred in around 50 million plus cities between 2001 and 2011, the average annual growth rate would be roughly 1.2 million (45-50

percent of the total urban population by 2011). The number of people living in cities in India is expected to grow to 600 million by 2031. There will probably be 87 major cities by 2031. It is projected that by 2050, the world's urban population would have more than doubled, reaching 255 million from an estimated 160 million now. As many as 217 million more individuals would call a city home in 2031 than did in 2011. **(Basu, et al. 2007)**

The population of India's main cities grew from 5161 in 2001 to 7935 in 2011. Any city with a population of a million people or more would struggle to maintain order during such a big gathering. As a consequence of India's continued drive for economic liberalisation, globalisation, and transformation, the country's major cities are urbanising at a breakneck pace. A lot of big cities are seeing dramatic increases in their populations. By 2025, urban areas will be home to more than half of the country's population. The rising cost of infrastructure building and upkeep is a growing challenge for city planners, elected officials, and managers of urban affairs. Unfortunately, problems including urban infrastructure and insufficient service supply persist despite the government's efforts to fix them over the course of five years. In 2002, a national assessment of significant "Public Services by Public Affairs" revealed that critical services supplied by metropolitan city governments were subpar in quality, dependability, and effectiveness. Rapid urbanisation in developing countries compounds the problems already faced by these countries as a consequence of their meagre resources. Due to a lack of funding and unequal distribution, urban environments have worsened in terms of sanitation, water quality, and waste management. Because of the increased strain it has placed on the city's fundamental infrastructure, the quality of life for individuals, households, and neighbourhoods has declined.**(Hanlon, 2005)**

Because of regional and urban disparities in the provision of infrastructure and essential services, there is a wide gap in micro-level quality between high-income neighbourhoods and slum/squatter areas. In consequence, low-income communities are hit the most. Since they are unable to afford to buy into the expensive housing market, they form illegal colonies on unsewered ground near railways, rivers, and hills where there is an abundance of cheap land. About half of India's urban population lives in areas that are socially, economically, and politically disadvantaged. These areas include slums and squatter colonies.In the 2011 Census, data on slums was divided into three categories: 1) those that had been reported, 2) those that had been acknowledged, and 3) those that had been recognised. In India, 34.3% of slum dwellers call a government-recognized slum home, 30.4% call a widely-known slum neighbourhood "home,"

and 35.3% call an easily-identifiable slum neighbourhood "home" (as per 2011 census) Graph-1 below displays the percentage of India's urban population that resides in each state.

Chart1. *Primary Census Abstract for slum 2001 & 2011*
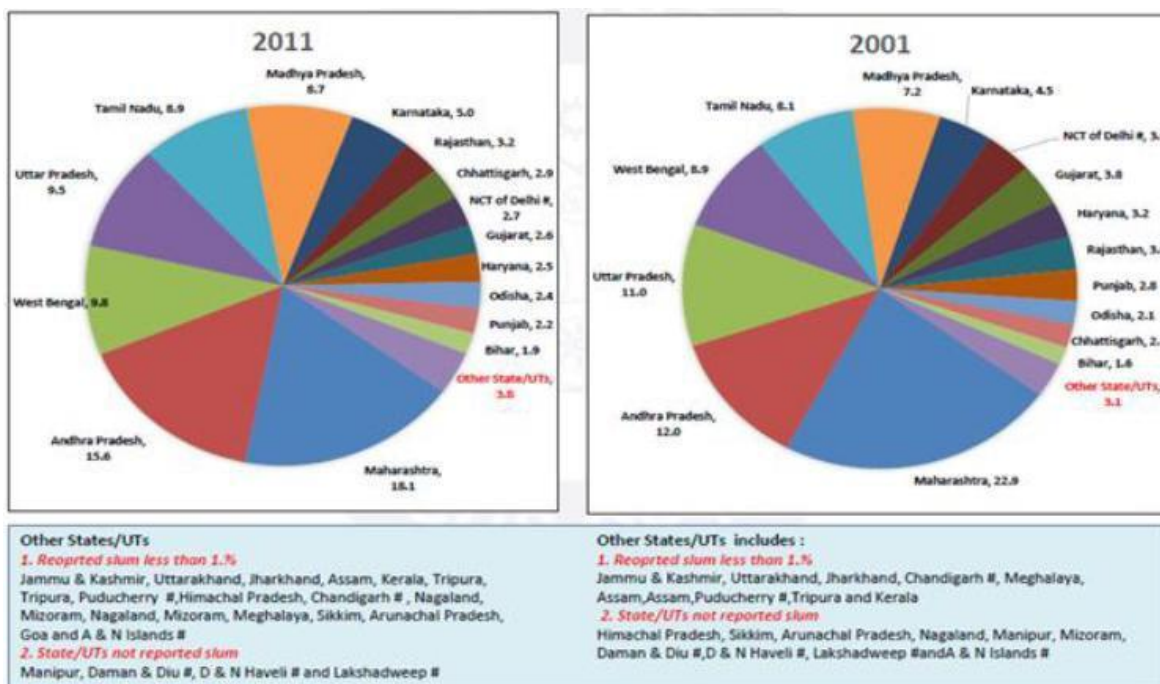
Source: Primary Census Abstract for Slum, 2011
Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

Indian Scenario

Statistics on slum populations were included for the first time in the national census in 2001. Urbanization's consequences and causes on slum expansion were examined, and four primary problems emerged. To begin, there is a concentration of the world's impoverished in urban areas. One-third of city dwellers are believed to live in slums or circumstances comparable to slums, and this percentage may be substantially higher in metros and megacities. Although the city as a whole rises by 2% to 3% annually, the population of its shantytowns and informal settlements climbs by 6% to 8% annually.Secondly, the city is seeing an influx of low-income residents who are not being met with enough employment or housing opportunities. People on limited budgets sometimes make due by squatting on undeveloped land or dwellings because they cannot afford to purchase adequate housing or land. When people in slums don't make an attempt to better their living circumstances, they often contribute to the terrible situation that already exists.**(Watts 2003)**

Last but not least, slum residents' self-help efforts are often discounted as "insignificant" to the expansion of the urban economy since the general public and local government are sometimes

unaware of how much slum residents contribute to the city's wealth. People who are so poor that they have to live in slums are seen as a "civic issue" rather than as citizens.

Slum Population in Mumbai - Approximately 6.5 million people live in slums in the commercial metropolis of India, Mumbai. Slums like this, many of which are situated next to unsanitary open sewers, are home to more than half of Mumbai's population. The slums of Mumbai are home to almost 55% of the city's population.

Slum Population in Delhi - The slum population of Delhi is significantly bigger than that of Mumbai. New Delhi, India's capital, is home to around 1.8 million people. Since many of them are either jobless or making too little money, they often can't afford even the most fundamental of essentials.

Future Slum Population in India

When that year comes around, it is anticipated that the states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh would have the highest concentrations of India's slum population. Already, these countries are home to a considerable slum population, most of which is likely to be located in and around the biggest cities in their respective countries. The state of Maharashtra would have the largest concentration of people living in slums in India by the year 2019, followed by the states of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh in descending order of population density. It is anticipated that there will be 104 million people living in India's slums by the end of the year 2014.

Industrialization and Consequent Migration of Rural Masses to Urban Areas

Since our country gained its independence, the pace of industrialization has increased, which has led to the establishment of big and small firms across a wide range of industries. The job opportunities provided by the city's industrial businesses have contributed to the growth of the population in the surrounding rural areas. The increase in the number of people living in rural areas has resulted in the partitioning of land, which has led to the creation of smaller farms that produce less revenue. The situation has been made much worse by the recurrence of natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and diseases.**(Givoly, and Hayn 2004)**

Lack of Employment Opportunities and Livelihood Resources in Rural Areas

Despite the fact that agriculture sometimes only employs people for limited time periods, residents in rural regions depend largely on the sector for their means of subsistence. A great

number of people are forced to leave the countryside in pursuit of job in the cities since there are so few chances available there. The lack of available jobs in rural regions was a driving force behind the growth of slums on the outskirts of big towns.

Absence of Adequate Facilities in the Urban Area

People are forced to live in most of our nation's cities because they were forced to relocate for jobs in industries such as construction, transportation, and commerce; however, they are unable to find homes that are within their price range. This results in congestion and overcrowding in our cities. Until this issue is resolved, it is unlikely that the situation in cities that are currently battling with traffic and overcrowding would improve much. If there were no permanent housing alternatives available, thousands of industrial employees would probably hunt for temporary accommodations that were located in close proximity to their place of employment. Every time they come across abandoned government property, a huge number of filthy huts spring up in the vicinity of industries or other economic activities. These huts are often located in poor neighbourhoods. These areas rapidly degenerate into slums as a result of a lack of space, inadequate transit connections, and the absence of services such as running water, sewerage, and electricity.

Low Wages

We have a big population of employees that have a low level of education or training, and they make up a significant portion of the labour force in our metropolitan centres. A substantial number of them are just working in temporary capacities. They are not in a financial position to purchase traditional homes made of brick and mortar that come equipped with all the latest amenities. Because of this, they have little choice but to reside in locations with poor economic conditions.**(Hanlon and Heitzman 2010)**

In Effective Land Reforms

The fact that some individuals possess land while others do not has resulted in a practise that has been around for a long time: the employment of landless labourers. Landless employees, in quest of greater economic prospects, abandon their customary vocations for jobs in cities and suburbs because of the promise of permanent employment in the industrial sector. This promise attracts and entices landless workers. There is little room for debate about the fact that these migrants play a significant role in the expansion of urban slums.**(Givoly and Hayn 2002)**

Metropolitan Cities and Slums

In the year 2001, one person out of every five who lived in the city was a resident of a slum. There were a total of 369 municipalities and 57 districts in which these shantytowns may have been located. People living in slums accounted for 52.6% of the overall population in slums and 20% of the population in major metropolitan regions. There were a total of 35 significant urban centres that provided a home for this population of 22.4 million people. Greater Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Faridabad, Meerut, Nagpur, Vijayawada, Asansol, Jabalpur, Amritsar, and Ludhiana each have a higher population density than any of India's other major cities, which results in a higher number of slums per person. Two of India's major cities, Patna and Kochi, have the country's lowest percentage of citizens living in low-income neighbourhoods (also known as slums). It has been discovered that slums may be located on the outskirts of cities that have large population concentrations. It was found that the number of people living in a concentrated region had a positive link (r=0.59) with the size of the metropolitan area in which they were situated. This was determined by using correlation analysis. There are now 4,965 people living in slum conditions in Patna, which is the capital city of the state of Bihar in India. The Greater Mumbai region is home to around 718,447 inhabitants at present (Maharashtra). Greater Mumbai has a higher proportion of its inhabitants living in slums than any other metropolitan region in the country, including New York City and Los Angeles. There are 71.9 million people living in slums in this region, which accounts for 32.1 percent of the total slum population in metropolitan areas around the globe. The next largest population centres in India are Kolkata (2.8 million) and Chennai (1.2 million), followed by Delhi's 20.3 million residents (1.2 million). Sixty-four and a half percent of the metropolitan area's overall slum population is distributed throughout these five cities. The population of Greater Mumbai is comprised of 32.1 percent people who live in slums. With the exception of Coimbatore, every city in India has a slum population of more than one hundred thousand people. In Faridabad, 46.5 percent of the population lives in slums, which is followed by Greater Mumbai with 43.7 percent, Meerut with 40.6 percent, and Nagpur with 40.5 percent (40.6 percent). We have travelled one-third of the way there. Patna and Kochi were the only two big cities in India with a slum population that was less than 1 percent of the entire population of both cities. Patna's figure was 0.3 percent, while Kochi's was 0.6 percent. In each of the seven other major cities, slum dwellers made up a lower proportion of the total population. People who live in slums make up the whole of the population in seven of the country's most important cities. The bulk of India's shantytowns are located inside the country's major metropolitan areas. Greater Mumbai Area wins the cake when it comes to the proportion of blame, with 32.1 percent, followed by Kolkata (12.7 percent), Delhi

(9.1 percent), Hyderabad (5.4 percent), and lastly Chennai (5.4 percent) (3.2 percent). (5.2 percent). The percentage of people living in slums makes up less than one percent of the total population in 15 of the most important cities in the world (Table 2). The results of the research indicate that the presence of slums is a big problem in the more populated cities throughout India. Inhabitants of slums made up just 16% of those who lived in the outgrowths of municipal corporations, but residents of slums made up 84% of those who lived in the regions that were administered by municipal corporations. The slum population in urban agglomerations such as Dhanbad and Jamshedpur, each of which comprised one million people or more in the year 2001, is fast growing, according to an assessment of intra-urban agglomeration in metropolitan regions. Because of this, more than sixty percent of the people who lived in slums were found on the edges of the cities rather than in the centres of the towns where they had been living. More than forty percent of new residents in Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Asansol all live in slums, and the municipal corporations of all three cities have populations that are comprised of people who live in slums to a greater extent than fifty percent of the total population of those municipal corporations. Nevertheless, neither Greater Mumbai nor Delhi had a larger proportion of their people living in slums while they were expanding as compared to the percentage that they have today. Nevertheless, in this series, Chennai, Patna, and Pune each had an offshoot with a slum population that was more than one fifth of the entire population of their respective cities. The core areas of big cities are home to the vast majority of the world's poorest people who call slums their home.(Finnerty, et al. 2007)

Conclusion

Since it gained its independence in 1947, India has adhered to the principle of planned development in an effort to improve the standard of living of its people throughout the nation. Since the government began implementing seven different programmes for a period of five years each, there has been some degree of forward movement. Even if these and other human challenges like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and malnutrition have not been eradicated entirely, they are still very much a part of our world today. Policymakers, social planners, leaders, administrators, and development practitioners have therefore been presented with substantial new areas of concern to address. This is as a consequence of the fact that the actual outcomes have not met the forecasts that were made. The rate of work has to be maintained at a consistent level in order to get the results that are desired by a long-term strategy. In order to partially satisfy the need for the artificial planning process, it is necessary to conduct an accurate diagnostic of the difficulties that individuals face within the setting of the social framework. Due

to a lack of information on several essential subjects of socioeconomic importance, potential growth avenues are not only impossible, but also do not cater to the requirements of the audience that will be served by the business. If the challenges that are faced by people living in slums are ignored during urban development planning, the planning will never be completed.

People who live in slums make up just 5% of the total urban land area, despite the fact that they account for 27% of the total population of the metropolitan region. Slums that have not been modernised often display characteristics such as overcrowding, architecture that is in a state of disrepair, insufficient sanitation, a lack of even the most basic amenities, a design that is disorganised, and a lack of physical access. In addition, there are several characteristics, such as dilapidated structures, an excessive population, and bad sanitation. There are a number of colonies that have been in this condition for at least twenty years, and the passage of time has only served to make their situations much more difficult. People have been enticed to move to this region for a number of different reasons, one of which being the chance of an improvement in their quality of life.

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