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## **PROCESSES OF SLUM FORMATION AND ITS SPATIAL PATTERN IN THE STUDY AREA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The vast majority of slums are located in and around urban centres in the less economically developed countries, which are also experiencing greater rates of urbanization compared with more developed countries. This rapid rate of urbanization is cause for significant concern given that many of these countries often lack the ability to provide the infrastructure (e.g., roads and affordable housing) and basic services (e.g., water and sanitation) to provide adequately for the increasing influx of people into cities. While research on slums has been ongoing, such work has mainly focused on one of three constructs: exploring the socio-economic and policy issues; exploring the physical characteristics; and, lastly, those modelling slums. This paper reviews these lines of research and argues that while each is valuable, there is a need for a more holistic approach for studying slums to truly understand them. By synthesizing the social and physical constructs, this paper provides a more holistic synthesis of the problem, which can potentially lead to a deeper understanding and, consequently, better approaches for tackling the challenge of slums at the local, national and regional scales.*

**Keywords:** - Slums, Urban, Population, Century, Health.

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Over the last century there has been tremendous growth in the urban population. This growth, however, has not been uniform. Growth in urban areas in less developed regions of the world has been especially rapid, increasing at an average rate of 2% annually compared with 0.5% in more developed regions. This trend is expected to continue with most of the less developed countries faced with the challenge of absorbing the majority of the future population growth. Increased urbanization is a major concern for less developed countries since they often lack

the infrastructure and basic services (e.g., water, sanitation and healthcare) necessary to absorb the increasing number of people.

Unable to adequately meet the demands of the growing population, slums have emerged and continue to proliferate in many less developed countries. Currently, about 1 billion people live in slums, with most slum dwellers located in less developed countries, which accounts for about 30% of their urban population.

The number of slum dwellers is projected to increase to 2 billion by 2030 and to 3 billion by 2050 if current trends persist. The presence of slums has regional and global implications, impacting areas such as education, health and child mortality, and political and social exclusion, among many other things.

## **II. IDENTIFICATION OF SLUMS**

Slum housing is defined by the Indian government in 1988 as "housing that is unfit for human habitat or detrimental to the safety, health, and morals of the inhabitants."

The development of slums is inextricably linked to urbanization. The key components of the process are those that deal with the expansion of individual concentration as a result of urban population growth; gradually, there is a natural increase in urban areas, which is followed by migration from rural to urban areas and also the relocation of rural settlement to urban areas as a result of the expansion of municipal boundaries. As a consequence, new concentration spots have emerged.

Assam's urbanization rate is growing more slowly than that of other states. The Town and Country Planning Department of Assam estimates that there were 214 towns in the state of Assam in 2011. Assam as a whole had a population of 22.23 lakh urban residents in 1991 (10.97%); this number increased to 32.93 lakh in 2001 (12.72%); and to 43.88 lakh in 2011 (14.08%). Assam has 197266 people living in slums overall, according to the 2011 Census.

According to the Assam government, there are thirteen (13) officially recognized towns in the Tinsukia district (Statistical Hand Book Assam 2011). Five significant towns make up the Tinsukia district. Digboi, Doomdooma, Margharita, Makum, Ledu, and Tinsukia are among them. Town committees are present in Digboi, Doomdooma, Margherita, and Makum towns. While Digboi is a class second category town, Margherita is a class third category town, Doomdooma and Makum are ranked as fourth category towns, and Ledu, despite having been dubbed a "town," lacks a town committee, Tinsukia Town is classified as a class one town and the only town with a Municipal Board. Block Development Office and GaonPanchayat are in charge of maintaining it.

## **III. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROCESS OF SLUM FORMATION AND ITS DISTRIBUTION PATTERN**

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Tinsukia district's slum pockets are distributed as a result of a number of circumstances. There are many different physical characteristics and variations in how each physical characteristic manifests itself that contribute to the spread of slum pockets. The distribution of the slums is influenced by a few common variables. These include things like rural poverty, unemployment, greater work prospects, and urban amenities in towns, among others. The natural growth comes first and foremost. Natural expansion has a noticeable impact on each of the six towns in the Tinsukia area, and in most instances, this process has increased the municipal limits of each town. Most migrants relocate to cities in pursuit of employment. The majority of rural migrants work in unregulated industries and are unskilled. They mostly work as wage laborers.

They are left with no option but to live in slums since the rent is so cheap. Companies and job agencies, commonly known as "malik," do not provide them the bare minimum in terms of sanitary housing. These migrants are so forced to live in slums. The accessibility of open space is a significant element in slum dispersion. Tinsukia district has a lower population density than certain other Assamese districts, such as Kamrup or Nagaon. As a consequence, the Tinsukia district has a sizable unoccupied land area that is located beside railroad lines and close to the railroad colony and is suitable for temporary habitation.

**Some specific considerations regulate the decision of which pockets to settle:**

1. The accessibility of public and railroad property.
2. It is simple to enter an established slum. Local government does not conduct any inquiries or investigations. Additionally, landlords remain mute about their rentals.
3. In the slum pockets of the Tinsukia district, housing rent is just 200 to 500 rupees per month for Kutch single-room houses with shared facilities, which is a significant factor in why slum dwellers choose a certain pocket.
4. Nearer to the workplace. Most of the slum areas are dispersed around the periphery rather than the center of each of the six municipalities in the Tinsukia district. Because of the affordable housing, migrants favored settling in intermediate or peripheral areas. They have no issues traveling a considerable distance to their place of employment. Additionally, accessible transportation options assist the slums reach towns' periphery.
5. An invitation for family members to relocate with them. In slum areas, it happens naturally. Strong familial ties exist among slum inhabitants, which aid them in finding employment.

#### **IV. DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF SLUMS**

The easternmost district in Assam is Tinsukia. Only 78 kilometers separate it from Arunachal Pradesh. includes six major towns, each of which is located on the fertile terrain of the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries. Makum and Tinsukia are located on the bank of the Dibru River, while Doomdooma Town is located on the bank of the Doomdooma River. Margherita is located on the Buridhing River's floodplain, Digboi is near the confluence of the BuridhingRiver's Bogapani, Tingrai, and Kharjan tributaries, and Ledu is on the Tirap River's bank. All of the district's slum enclaves may be found either along the riverbank or in the center of the city.

During the British era, slums began to spread and expand across the six towns of the Tinsukiaarea. The need for sanitation employees has increased as a result of urban features. Local Assamese were hesitant to do such tasks. As a result, the colonial government was forced to bring in outsiders. According to Action Aid's 2004 report, "the very nature of their work created a certain stigma and compelled them to live in isolation in small colonies with subpar facilities."

The slums of Doomdooma, Digboi, Ledu, Margherita, Makum, and Tinsukia town are located either along the banks of rivers or along railroad tracks, or in the center of the city, although most are cut off from the rest of society because of their precarious economic conditions. Only via their labor market and political parties during election season do they have a social identity. The distribution of urban and slum dwellers in Tinsukia District is shown in the table below along with respective percentages.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

The creation of slums is mostly a result of poverty, social illiteracy, unemployment, and a lack of work possibilities for rural residents, who are forced to relocate to urban areas due to a lack of alternative options. Slums are also the first place migrants stop since they provide them a place to live within their means due to the affordable housing, despite the lack of basic amenities like clean water for drinking, hygienic restrooms, drainage, trash disposal, and many other crucial services.

The fact that migrants go to metropolitan areas in search of work and rely on the informal economy to support themselves is intriguing. By providing their services, they keep the wheels of the city or town running in a variety of ways. They are the ones who are forced to live in both the urban and rural extremes. On the one hand, they have the same economic difficulties, educational gaps, and lack of access to healthcare as rural residents do.

On the other side, they also experience the negative consequences of inadequate housing, eviction, and the lack of essential amenities, as well as from a lack of appropriate and consistent employment, insecurity, debt, and the rootlessness of urban life.

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