

PROFILE OF SLUMS IN KASHMIR

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Abstract

The term "slum" has many different connotations in both developed and developing countries. In some countries slums simply refer to the urban poor in general, while in others only informal settlements are considered as slums. With the growing Urbanization around the globe the urban poverty is also increasing because of lack of the sufficient resources, over-urbanization and more importantly un-planned urbanization. The urban population in India is also increasing at an enormous pace and it has resulted in various urban consequences of which Slum formation is one. In this research paper the researcher has given the general outline of existing slums in Kashmir, the paper also highlights the general living conditions of the slums in Kashmir. The research article is based on review of existing secondary sources. This research would help to give an insight to slums in Kashmir and would surely be helpful for future research in this area of concern.

Key Words: Living conditions, Profile, Slums , Urbanization.

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Introduction

1.1 CONCEPT OF SLUMS

A slum refers to an urban settlement characterized by sub-standard living and working conditions, lack of sanitation, clean water, and other basic services. In the Sociological framework, Slums may be characterized as sub-standard dwelling with sub-human living conditions. In Slums, are found deteriorated, overcrowded, insanitary or unsafe structures that jeopardize public welfare (Singh & Pothen 1982). 'Slum area is a locality characterized by inadequate and deteriorated housing deficient public utilities overcrowding and is usually inhabited by the poor and socially heterogeneous people'. (Naik & S.khan, 2007). The urban slums have always been a two-way station for transition. The slums have furnished temporary shelter to the new arrivals to the city. They also receive those members of the urban community who have lost their livelihood and social foothold in the society. 'To some sociologists, the urban slum is one of the effects of industrialization, urbanization and mass unemployment. The modern city functions as a climax area for the damages of modern industrialization. (Singh & Pothen, 1982).

Slums are an urban phenomenon and represent imbalance between migration into cities and economic growth within the city itself. They grow due to poor utilization of the reproductive child health services provided by the government, lack of awareness regarding the birth spacing, illiteracy, and marriage at a young age. Another reason for the growth of slum is migration from rural areas to more developed areas by those people who seek to earn more (Mridula, 2010). Alan, M and Mike, S. (1993) has given the following features of Slums:

- I. Slums often demonstrate a concentration of multiple deprivations experienced by the urban poor;
- II. Excluded from achieving their political, social and economic rights.
- III. Slums are usually characterized by urban decay, high rates of poverty & unemployment.
- IV. They are commonly seen as 'breeding grounds' for social problems such as crime, drug addiction, alcoholism, high rates of mental illness & suicide.

1.2. NATURE & MAGNITUDE OF SLUMS

To define housing as "Adequate" or "Substandard" as obviously somewhat arbitrary. As there is a lot of variability in the living standards among the slums, because much of worst housing in the U.S.A is of a level of quality for better than that which commonly exist is in much of the third world. Still, there can be little question that housing characterized by structural defects, inadequate plumbing heating, or sanitation poses a threat to the health and safety of those

who live there. Slums form & grow in many different parts of the world for many different reasons. Some of the factors are rapid rural-to-urban migration, economic stagnation and depression, high unemployment, poverty, informal economy, poor planning, politics, natural disasters and social conflicts.

Regionally, today sub-Saharan Africa has the largest slum population where 199.5 million (or 61.7%) of its urban population live in such areas. It is followed by southern Asia 190.7million(35%),Eastern Asia with 189.6million(28.2%).According to census 2011,the slum dwelling population of India had risen from 27.9million in 1981 to 65.4million in 2011.Increase in Indian population over a period of time has also resulted in slum population growth. After Mumbai, Delhi has the second largest slum population in India. It is estimated that by 2017,India's total slum population will be 104 million(U.N. Habitat report.2012).

1.3 . SLUMS IN INDIA

As India is still on the path of development, there is large number of people living below the poverty line. These people usually live in slum areas connected to the city. According to Government sources, the Slum Population of India has exceeded the population of Britain. It has doubled in last two decades. According to last census in 2011, the slum-dwelling population of India had risen from 27.9 million in 1981 to 65 million in 2011. Indian economy has achieved a significant growth of 8 percent annually in last four years, but there are still large number of people nearly 1.1 billion who still survives on less than 1 \$ (around 46 INR) in a day.(Primary Census abstract for slums 2011).

Increase in Indian Population over a period of time has also resulted in slum population growth. Despite of the Government efforts to build new houses and other basic infrastructure, most of the people living in slum areas do not have electricity, water supply and cooking gas.

Slum Population in Mumbai - The financial capital of India known as Mumbai is home to estimated 6.5 million slum people. Nearly half of Mumbai's Population lives in small shacks surrounded by open sewers. Nearly 55% of Mumbai's population lives in Slum areas.(Primary Census abstract for slums 2011).

Slum Population in Delhi - After Mumbai, Delhi has the second largest slum Population in India. Nearly 1.8 million people lives in slum areas in capital of India - New Delhi. These people are mostly unemployed or daily wage workers who cannot even afford basic necessities of life.(Primary Census abstract for slums 2011).

Future Slum Population in India - According to recent estimates, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh will have largest share of slum population in India by 2017. These states are already home to a large number of slum populations which mostly lives in and around urban areas. By 2017, Maharashtra will be home to more than 20 million of slum population in India followed by Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. It is estimated that by 2017, India's total slum population will be 104 million.(Primary Census abstract for slums 2011).

Slum population (all towns)

| Indicator | Absolute Slum population | | Decadal growth | Slum%(2001) | Slum%(2011) |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Persons | 5,23,71,589(2001) | 6,54,94,604(2011) | 25.1 | 23.5 | 22.4 |
| Males | ----- | ----- | 22.4 | 23.6 | 22.4 |
| Females | ----- | ----- | 28.1 | 23.3 | 22.5 |
| Sex ratio | 887 | 928 | | | |

Source: Census of 2011, series, phase 2,provisional population totals

Slums and census

Slums have been earmarked in all the statutory towns irrespective of their population size based on the same definition as in 2001.And the same population has increased during 2001-11. The total number of towns reported slums in 2001 were 1743 and number increased to 2613 as per census 2011. The states/union territories not reporting slums as per census 2011 are/includes- Manipur, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, & Lakshadweep.

Three types of slums have been defined in census , namely (i) Notified (ii) Recognized (iii) Identified.

(i)All notified areas in a town or city notified as 'slum' by state, union territories administration or local govt. Under any act including 'slum act' may be considered as Notified slums.

(ii) All areas recognized as 'slum' by state, union territories administration or local govt. , housing & Slum boards, which may not have been formally notified as slum under any act may be considered as Recognized slums.

(iii) A compact area of at least 300 population or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in an unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. Such areas should be identified personally by the charge officer nominated by directorate of census operation. This fact may be duly recorded in the charges register. Such areas may be considered as Identified slums.

The absolute number of children living in slums has increased from 75,76,856 (census 2001) to 80,82,743(census 2011). The child sex ratio for the state of J&K is 860 as per census 2011 and as a result the state of J&K is among the bottom five states that records the lowest child sex ratio in India. The J&K also falls in the bottom five category of the states which have lowest literacy rate i.e., 68%.

1.4 .SLUMS IN J&K

The Slum definition adopted for J&K(Slum free city action plan,J&K) is a contiguous area with 10-15 households having Slum like characteristics identified as :-

- I. Predominant roof material: any material other than concrete
- II. Availability of drinking water source: not within premises of the census house.
- III. Availability of latrine: not within the premises of the census house.
- IV. Drainage facility: no drainage or open drainage.

AS per the survey conducted by the Municipal corporations of Jammu and Srinagar, most of the areas (Slum areas) identified have primitive drinking water and sanitary conditions. The establishment of slums in Kashmir can directly be related to the arrival of migrant labour force whose number has increased to lakhs. These Slum dwellers are mostly illiterate, extremely poor, under-fed, disease prone, crowded and dirty environment. The worst endure are women and children. 'It is usually felt by the people in surrounding colonies that these slums have populated the social, cultural and moral ethos of their society'(B.A., Dabla. 2012). In urban Srinagar these slums are occupied mainly by migrant labor (migrant labor from Bihar) and also by local populace of some specific occupational classes e.g. fishermen (Hanji) community and sweeper (Vatal) community. The migrant labor practice their own native patterns of social life here. After their arrival here those labors had to search first of all cheap accommodation in Srinagar and other towns in the valley and the establishment of slums in these area solved their problem

| Name of State/U.T | Total population | Slum | Notified Slums | Recognized Slums | Identified Slums |
|-------------------|------------------|------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| India | 6,54,94,604 | | 2,25,35,133 | 2,01,31,336 | 2,28,28,138 |
| J&K | 6,62,062 | | 1,62,909 | 1,36,649 | 3,62,504 |

Source: Census Report 2011

1.5. Perspective on JK Slum situation

During the last two decades, urban population of J&K state has observed phenomenal rise of 98.4% against the national average of 64.2%. To be specific out of every four individuals in the

state, one lives in urban area. Among hilly states of India, J&K is the most urbanised state with 81 notified urban areas. Srinagar and Jammu are the focal points of urbanisation. This rise in urban population puts increased pressure on urban infrastructure, especially housing sector along with other civic services.(Housing and Urban Development- Census 2011) . The Slums has given rise to organized as well as unorganized begging menace in cities, towns and villages in the Kashmir valley. Most all migrants live a life of 'Cultural aloofness' in Kashmir socially and culturally they hardly interact with the locals. They live in 'Separate social cluster ' and practiced their home cultures, especially in terms of dress, languages, attitude, life styles, behaviour patterns, food habits, religious beliefs and practices and so on. Due to undesirable social activities of the slum dwellers, a situation of social tension has arisen between these labourers and the local population; particularly in the affected areas. The situation has strong potential of bursting any time in near future, which many possibly lead to violence between the two communities, the locals and the migrants(B.A.,Dabla.2012).In the worst living conditions in slums, emergence of acute, chronic and dangerous health problems could neither be avoided nor controlled.

Slum establishments in J&K

Slums in cities of most developing countries are characterized by poor infrastructure facilities such as solid waste disposal , sewage disposal and drainage which lead to environmental degradation and in absence of sufficient number of community toilets these people are forced to excrete in open (Bharadwaj, 2007). Jamwal (2004) reported that clogged drains, putrefying waste, children defecating in the open are common pictures in the slum areas of Delhi. Ray(2002) also reported that slum dwellers of Calcutta reside in unhygienic environmental conditions manifested by overcrowding & poor building materials.

IN Jammu division, 100% of slums were located on private land whereas in Kashmir division, about 93% of slums were located on private land & 7% of slums were located on other public land. Another important fact is that 89% of slums in Urban J&K were surrounded by residential areas whereas only 66% of slums at all India level were surrounded by residential areas. In Jammu division 60% of Slums were surrounded by residential areas and 40% of slums were surrounded by industrial areas whereas in Kashmir division, 92.5% of slums were surrounded by residential areas and about 7.5% of slums were surrounded by commercial areas.(NSS 69th Round, 2015).

Health and Hygiene

In Jammu division , 80% of slums had taps as the main source of drinking water, 20% of slums had tube well/bore hole as the other source of drinking water whereas in Kashmir 100% of slums had taps as the major source of drinking water. About 73% of slums at the state level in

J&K were having no garbage disposal arrangement whereas at all India level, It figures at 27%. Only 17.7% of slum clusters in urban area of J&K state were having the govt. Hospital within a distance of 1km. Majority of slums (70.9%) were more than 5Kms away from a govt. Hospital/Health centre in J&K state whereas at all India level , it figures at about 12%. (Nss 69th Round,2015).

Malaviya .P & Bhagat.k.n(2013).In their study conducted in the non-notified slum area () in Jammu found that every house had a single small entrance in the form of small door. Windows and other provisions of ventilation were found to be absent in most of the houses. Congested lanes with garbage made life of the urban poor miserable. The problem of congestion inside was so acute that people of all the three generation were pushed inside the single room which made them vulnerable to contagious diseases as well as hampered their privacy.

In about 86% of Slums in the state of J&K, most residents use latrine with facility of dry pit, flush/ pour flush & , other types of latrines owned by them. In jammu division , most of the residents of slums i.e., 40% of slums used shared : dry pit type of latrine, 20% use public latrine (Without payment) & 20% of slums had no latrine facility whereas in Kashmir division, most other residents of slums i.e., 80.5% of slums used owned : dry pit type of latrine. (Nss 69th Round,2015).

Conclusion

The Slum dwellers are socially, economically and educationally backward and are incapable of fulfilling their basic needs viz., proper shelter, food and clothing; Which make them more vulnerable and prone to various problems such as health related issues, social stigmas and psychological problems. The Slum dwellers of urban Srinagar live in deplorable and pathetic conditions. They have no access to bathroom and toilet facilities and indulge in open defecation, which in turn leads to spread of various diseases and parasitic infestation .They are socially excluded from mainstream society .Since they are isolated, segregated, exploited poor and live in pathetic conditions, it becomes desirable to carry out need and intervention based social work research on this community.

- I. The living conditions of Slum dwellers in Jammu and Srinagar cities vary considerably from each other'. Slum dwellers in Srinagar have a better standard of living condition as compared to their Jammu counterparts. The composition of Slum dwellers differ extremely. While in Jammu, they are mostly locals, in Kashmir (Srinagar), they are non-locals. In addition to other factors, some concrete house/dwelling is necessary for living in the valley especially during the winter season.
- II. 'The slum dwellers of the Jammu and Srinagar cities have a pathetic life condition and live in dilapidated and temporary houses'.

- III. 'Migration and Urbanisation are the social factors which are directly responsible for the formation of slums'. Lack of sustainable employment opportunities in rural areas has led to the migration of people from rural areas to urban areas. 'To some sociologists , the Urban Slum is one of the effects of Industrialization , Urbanisation and mass unemployment. The modern city functions as a climax area for the damages of modern Industrialization'.

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