



SOCIO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF SLUM-DWELLERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH A CASE STUDY IN GUNTUR CITY

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization is the most happening term in these days which was experienced by economically advanced countries as well as developing countries. The increasing number of people moving from villages to towns and to the cities, it keeps on continuing to scale up as countries place emphasis on industrial development. In general, cities and towns provide a large financial side of agglomerations and deliver a variety of choices in terms of economic opportunities and urban style of life for the people. The rapid urban development has brought in to awake an alarming inevitable and persistent growth of slums where living environment is very pathetic. Today, half of the world's population lives in urban areas, by 2050, 70 percent of the population will be in urban areas. India has been witnessing massive urbanization over the six decades since independence; India's population grows three-fold from 350 million in 1947 to 1210 million in the year in 2011. During the same period, the urban population raised almost as past – from 62.4 million to 377 million (Census 2011). In India as per 2011 census nearly one in every six urban Indian resident's lives in slums and 1.37 core households, or 17.4% of urban Indian households lives in slums. In India there is a severe problem of slums not only in big cities but also in medium and small towns. As in some observations, the most of the Indian small towns are much congested and unhygienic although their effect on an individual is mitigated by the openness of the environment. For a planned healthy growth of a small town, it is essential to check the problem of slums at their primary stage.

Keywords: Urbanization, developing countries, economic opportunities, population,

Introduction

The Concept of Slum:

“Geographical assessment of slums and its effect on urban environment” 8 Most urban centers of the worlds irrespective of location and size have invariably developed as slum. Slum emerges within a relatively big urban center and always trends to grows and multiply. The concept of slum as given by R.E. Dickinson “as extreme condition of blight in which the housing is unfit as to constitute a menace to the health and the morale of the community.”

It exists in all towns and owing to insufficient housing facilities it is mostly occupied by the poorest class of society and new coming migrants.

Definitions of the Slum:

The Encyclopedia Britannica defines slums as: Residential areas that are physically and socially deteriorated and in which satisfactory family life is impossible. Bad housing is a major index of slum conditions. By bad housing is meant dwellings that have inadequate light, air, toilet and bathing facilities; that are



in bad repair, dumped and improperly heated; that do not afford opportunity for family privacy; that are subject to fire hazard and that overcrowd the land, leaving no space for recreational use

Registrar General of India has adopted the following definition for the purpose of Census of India 2001, the slum areas broadly constitute of:

- All specified areas in a town or city notified as 'Slum' by State/Local Government and UT Administration under any Act including a 'Slum Act'.
- All areas recognized as 'Slum' by State/Local Government and UT Administration. Housing and Slum Boards, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act
- A compact area of at least 300 populations or about 60-70 household's of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually within adequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities.

For the purpose of the survey in 1993 and 2002, NSSO adopted the definition of slums as-

“A slum is a compact settlement with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually within adequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions. Such an area, for the purpose of this survey, was considered as “**non notified slum**” if at least 20 households lived in that area. Areas notified as slums by the respective municipalities, corporations, local bodies or development authorities are treated as “**notified slums**”.

Slum Definition Adopted By Andhra Pradesh government:

- a) The Definition of Notified Slum Area as provided in "Andhra Pradesh Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Act, 1956. Act. No. XXXIII of 1956" is "Where the government is satisfied that any area is or may be a source of danger to the public health, safety or convenience of its neighborhood by reason of the area being low lying, insanitary, squalid, or otherwise, they may by notification in the Andhra Pradesh gazette declare such area to be a slum area.”
- b) The Slum areas recognized by Local Governments (ULBs) but not notified by the State Government as above are "Non-notified Slum areas".

**Objectives:**

The objectives of the study is

1. To examine the slum scenario in Andhra Pradesh
2. To identify the socio-economic problems of slum dwellers in Guntur City in Andhra Pradesh.
3. An examination of the various government schemes 'for the rehabilitation of urban slums
4. To suggest suitable policy measures to improve the Socio-Economic conditions of slum dwellers in the city.

Significance of the study:

'Cities without slums' is a slogan of urban planning, which* however desirable, is believed to be unreachable. But it is a serious thought of urban planning and development concern. Certainly the degree of effort to upgrade slums to a more habitable level is of paramount importance. Clearance or upgrading slums is not a problem of individual urban settlement, but it is ubiquitous and a national problem. Improvement of the environmental situation, education standards, better civic conditions, planned housing and consciousness 32 of health and improving the standard of living and quality of life in general are very important to eradicate the slums in particular. Geographically, a slum is an areas of any size possessing quite contrasting spatial, Structural and socio-economic characteristics of urban environment. Though slum is a part and parcel of urban sprawl, it has its own spatial identity and functional behavior. Being a part of the urban Spread and environment analyzing the site and situation of slums as well as their spatio- socio-economic dialectics is of paramount importance for clean urban environment and urban development. It is in this perspective that the present study of "Socio economic problems of slums in Andhra Pradesh a case study in Guntur city" is an attempt with a view of provoking more detailed and profound information on origin, evolution of slums and socio-economic problems of slum dwellers. It is hoped that this diagnostic study will help to evolve both prophylactic and curative measures and ultimately to upgrade the slums and improve the quality of life of Slum dwellers of Guntur city.

Methodology:

The present research work is considered as an explanatory study aimed primarily going on socio economic problems of slum dwellers in Guntur city. By keeping in view of all these aspects and socio economic implications a number of hypotheses have been formulated and scheduled along with general questionnaire have been planned to gather detailed information.

In any scientific study in which the method or interview is employed, it requires administration of their questionnaire or schedules. The schedule consist of questions regarding demographic information like age, sex, occupation, religion,



marital status and other socio economic information like family size, socio economic status of family, level of education, causes of migration and social changes etc.

Sources of Data:

The present study is based upon two sources of data. viz primary source and secondary source. Data concerning is derived from the secondary sources, such as D- series of census publications in India records of various government offices such as, Chief Planning Officer, Mandal Revenue Officer, and Office of the District Labor Commissioner, Books, Articles and Papers written by eminent scholars both published and unpublished. The Guntur city is primarily selected for the present study, the location which is recently developed and characterized with high density will be selected. The selection of location with high concentration of slums will also be identified with the help of municipal authorities.

Identification of Slums in India:

Slums have been categorized and defined as of the following three types:

- Notified Slums
- Recognized Slums
- Identified Slums

All notified areas in a town or city notified as 'Slum' by State, UT Administration or Local Government under any Act including a 'Slum Act

All areas recognized as 'Slum' by State, UT Administration or Local Government, Housing and Slum Boards, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act.

A compact area of at least 300 populations or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities (Identified).

Type of Slums:

Informal housing can also be classified according to the diverse processes of land /housing supply and varying degree of tenure security in the following manner

- a) Freehold land (inner city blighted areas)
- b) Urban villages and land owned by village panchayats
- c) Chaws/Bustees
- d) Encroachments on public/private land (squatters)
- e) Government/private leasehold land (resettlement colonies)
- f) Slums on the urban periphery



- g) Illegal land-subdivisions/unauthorized colonies/ revenue layouts/ gramthana layouts (where land ownership may be legal or quasi legal but land subdivision is illegal)
- h) Refugee Resettlement Colonies
- i) Pavement dwellers, although small in percentage, are found in large mega-cities.

Slum Characteristics

The economic disparity between the rural and urban population is a key factor pulling/inducing the rural poor population towards cities in search of economic betterment. Cities grow by migration, natural increase and reclassification of rural areas as urban. The migration and urbanization process, with city authorities not being able to provide space to the increasing number of poor that cities need, has led to the mushrooming of slums. These poor quality human settlements extend to public lands or wherever else space can be found without being subjected to deterrent action by various agencies, even on road margins and vulnerable locations like river banks, drains, swamps, garbage dumping yards, etc.

Guntur city of Andhra Pradesh

The State of Andhra Pradesh is one of the big states in India and in which Guntur is one of the civil districts out of 13 districts in the state. Guntur district covers an area of 10,268 sq. km., consists a total of 729 villages. The District is divided into 57 Revenue Mandals and each Mandal contains a minimum of 7 and maximum of 20 villages with a total population of 48,89,230 as per 2011 census. Guntur city is the main administrative head quarter of Guntur district where 6,51,382 populations of which male and female are 3,23,151 and 3,28,231 respectively. Guntur city is one of the major slums occupied cities in Andhra Pradesh. Thousands of poor families from rural villages are migrating to Guntur city in search of employment came and settled here in outskirts, pavements, behind drainage canals and open public places of Guntur city, and many of them engaged in various daily wage labor works like house constructions, factories, mechanical, transportation, painting, carpentry, motor repairs this happens due to the failure of agriculture works in rural areas. Slum dwellers becomes an over populated in the city so that the revenue departments are driven out to shift these families to the far outskirts areas in the city. Likewise many slums formed in Guntur city and in the outskirts.

SLUM AREA DETAILS IN GUNTUR:

Number of slums	187
Notified slums	133
Non notified slums	54
Slum population	186927
Slum house holds	37932

Sourc. City Profile GMC



The rapid urbanization had its adverse effects on this town. The sixth decade of the last century saw, the sudden growth of Tobacco Industry, and consequent raise in the number of migrants from even far off villages. It was basically the case of Pull Factor. The rise of Chilly Industry, Cotton Industry etc., unabatedly contributed to the migration. The nature of this human inflow had been like that only; in practical every part of the city witnessed the growth of illegal settlements without basic facilities. The fact that 133 slums exist in the city speaks volumes about the stress on the meager resources of the urban administration. The gap between the financial and personnel resources and the growing aspirations of the subjects has been continuously on rise.

Socio Economic Problems of Slum Dwellers:

Slum dwellers will get very low earning compared to others who live in urban areas; the urban areas too do not provide the proper job for slum dwellers, because they do not have any formal education facilities in their local areas. Dwellers of slums engaged in informal labor through which they cannot earn much. They work in environment which is harmful to them. These facts force them to work in informal sector. Poverty is a common characteristic of slums. Most of the slum dwellers in developing countries are living below poverty line. They do not have good source of income. Most of them have been attached with informal sector through which they cannot feed their families properly. Unemployment rates are very high in urban slums. Living conditions of dwellers of slums are not good. Even though the living condition of slum dwellers are worse than of rural dwellers. They are more exposed to communicable diseases and malnutrition and at the same time exposed to greater risk of accidents at work.

The houses are usually inadequately ventilated in urban slums. Indoor quality of air is very bad which may cause respiratory infections. An adequate supply of drinking water is basic human need. Unfortunately, most of the households in slums do not have access to safe water. In some areas public water supply is available but quality of water is not so good. Sanitation system is very poor in slums. In some slums condition is better but these are very few. Slums generally do not have any drainage system. The streets are narrow and unpaved; slum dwellers have to face water stagnation in rainy season. This makes the environment of that area very unhygienic. Such environment causes a number of diseases in slums.

Conclusion:

The rapid growth of population in urban centers since independence has led to the emergence and growth of urban slums in the country. The developmental activities in urban centers provide employment to the rural migrants as well as the local urban population. These low income groups, in the absence of proper shelter were settled in pockets of the slum areas characterized by overcrowding, dilapidated dwellings, lack of sanitation and civic amenities. Realizing the gravity of the



situation governments have implemented a number of schemes and programmes to improve the living conditions of people living in slums.

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