

## **Slums In India: From Past To Present**

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**ABSTRACT:** *India is one of the fastest developing countries with many metropolitan cities (e.g. Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Chennai). During last two decades; migration from villages and small towns to metropolitan areas has increased tremendously in India. This leads to the degradation of urban environmental quality and sustainable development especially in the metropolitan cities. The problems faced by the people living in the urban areas of India have become major concerns for the government. Slums are considered to be the major issue within many urban areas; particularly problems related to transportation, population, health and safety. Considering today's poor urban environmental quality in India, the majority of families affected by urban development projects are located in slum areas which are under consideration for resettlement and/ or rehabilitation. The aim of this paper is to study and examine slum areas and their living conditions, and finding out the most critical and problematic zone of the slums.*

**Keywords:** *Developing country, Metropolitan cities, Decades, Migration, Degradation, Urban Environmental Quality, Sustainable development, Slums, Major issue, urban areas, Resettlement, Rehabilitation.*

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

According to (UN-HABITAT) report, April 2007, India is a third world country that suffers from poverty, malnutrition, diseases, unhealthy conditions, and more in Indian slums. India alone is responsible for more deaths of children than any other country in the world. . Due to the dramatic rise of slums after India's independence in 1947, its population has tripled.(UN-HABITAT, report, April 2007).Most of India's population is currently living in slums. Every year, hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children die around the world and India alone is responsible for 25% of the deaths. By 1980, slum-dwellers were half of India's entire population.(SOURCE: CENSUS OF INDIA 2011 - CIRCULAR No. 8) Slum-dwellers constantly deal with issues such as: lack of clean water, constant migration at slums, no sewage or waste disposal facilities, pollution, and unsanitary living conditions.High levels of pollution, lack of basic needs, and room-crowding are some of the basic characteristics of slum housing.The Government of India has not been able to solve the problems that are strangling the entire population of Indian slums.

### **II. EARLY SLUMS**

Slums have risen dramatically since 1947. There were main two reasons for slum development. One is Partition of India and the other is Industrial revolution after independence.Before 1950 slums were predominantly found around the mills,factories etc. They were mostly industrial workers in one room tenements. Health and Services provisions to these areas rose as main issues.Instead of going farther, the density of the slums started growing in and around thecities. From 1950 to1968 the number of slums increased to 18%, in the 1970s they had a huge surge and by 1980 slum dwellers were half of the entire city's population. (Joshua Arbury, 2006)

### **III. PRESENT SCENARIO**

The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), India, defines a slum as a "Compact settlement with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions" (NSSO 2003 Pg 6). Also, there are two kinds of slums: notified and non-notified. Areas notified as slums by the respective municipalities, corporations, local bodies or development authorities are treated as notified slums. A slum is considered as a non-notified slum if at least 20 households lived in that area.

As per the Census 2001 data, India's population was1027 million on 1<sup>st</sup>March 2001. 72% of India's population lived in rural areas while the remaining 28 % lived in the urban areas. In 1981, 24% and in 2011, 31 % lived in the urban areas (Table 1a).

	% of Urban Population to Total Population	Decadal Urban Population Growth
1981	23.34	46.14
1991	25.72	36.46
2001	27.78	31.36
2011	31.16	34.64

*Includes Slums Source: Census 2011*

The increase in the percentage of population residing in urban areas is attributable to three factors.

- The first factor is the rural - urban differential in the rates of natural increase. During 1991-2011 the percentage growth of population in rural and urban areas was to the order of 18 and 31% respectively.
- The second factor is migration from rural to urban areas.
- The third reason is the reclassification of villages as town.

The number of towns and cities have increased to 4378, while the number of metropolitan cities having million plus population has increased to 35, as per 2011 census. (Table 1b) provides further information on number of cities according to population classes.

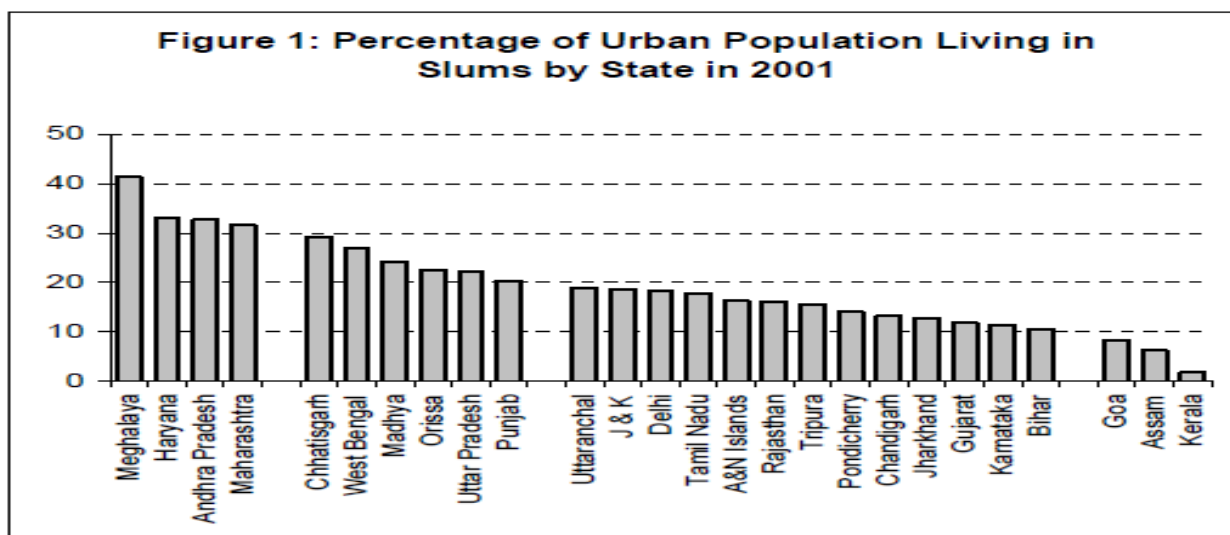
Class	Population	No. of UAs/Towns
Class I	1,00,000 and above	393
Class II	50,000 - 99,999	401
Class III	20,000 - 49,999	1,151
Class IV	10,000 - 19,999	1,344
Class V	5,000 - 9,999	888
Class VI	Less than 5,000	191
Unclassified		10
All classes		4378

*Includes Slums Source: Census 2001, NSSO 2003*

Although the level of urbanization has been rising gradually, and the decadal increase in urban population remains quite high there is still potential for enormous increases in India's urban population. As per the United Nations projections, if urbanization continues at the present rate, then 46% of the total population will be in urban regions of India by 2030 (United Nations, 1998). Within urban India between 1981-2001 there was a 45 % increases in the number of people living in the urban slums. Figure 1 provides the percentage of urban population living in the slums by state.

As per 2001 Census data, in 1981, nearly 28 million persons lived in the slums, in 1991 there were 45.7million slum dwellers and in 2001, 40.6 million persons living in slums. There is reason to suspect that this decline is on account of an underestimation of the number of people living in the urban slums.

Between July - December 2002, NSSO, India conducted a survey on the condition of urban slums. This was the third survey on slums, the previous surveys having been conducted in 1976-77 and January-June 1993. As part of the survey in 2002, information on the civic facilities of the slums was collected. At the all-India level, a total of 692 slums (360 notified slums and 332 non-notified slums) were covered in the 2002 survey. A survey of slums nationwide conducted by NSSO during 1993, estimated the total number of urban slums to be 56311 and 36% of the slums were notified ones. The recent survey estimated the number of slums to be 52,000 with 51% of the slums being notified slums. It is estimated that every seventh person living in the urban areas is a slum dweller (NSSO 2003). The bulk of the urban poor are concentrated in the urban slums or are squatters.

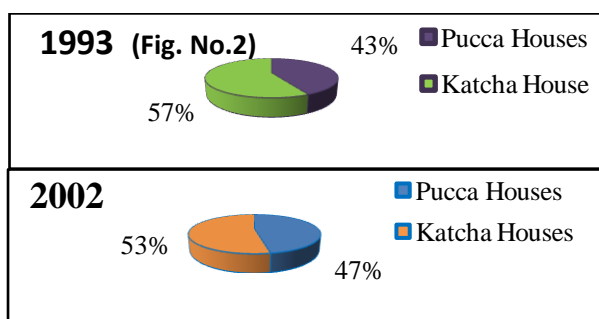


Source: Census 2001

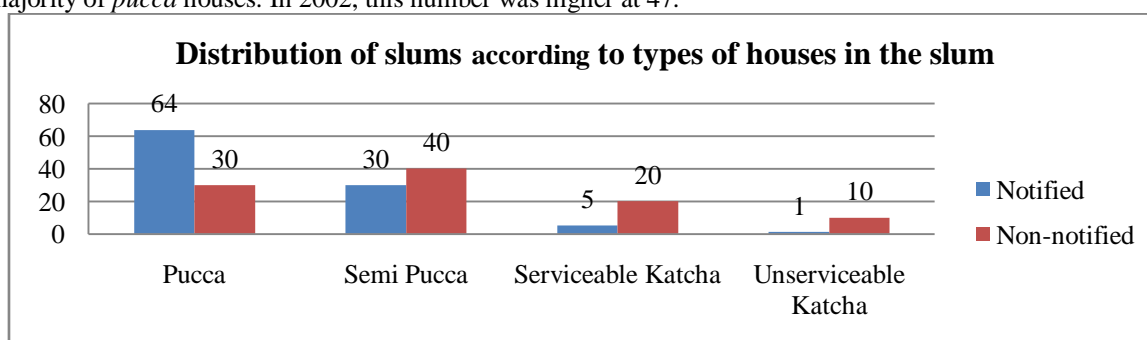
#### IV. HOUSING CONDITION IN THE SLUM AREAS

In terms of density, the notified slums are denser in terms of households (205 per slum) as compared to the non-notified slums (112 per slum).

##### Housing Conditions:



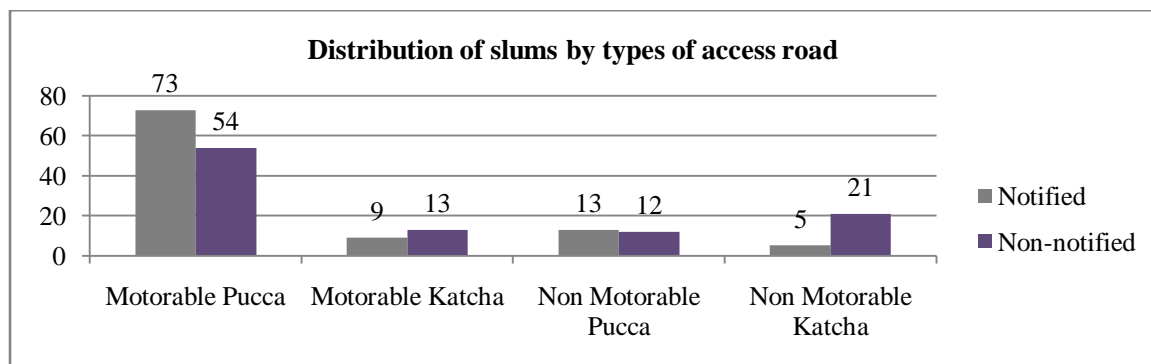
As is evident from (Figure 2), a large number of houses are not *pucca* in nature. The problem is more acute in the non-notified slums. There have however been improvements since 1993. In 1993 only 30 % of slums had majority of *pucca* houses. In 2002, this number was higher at 47.



Source: NSSO 2003

##### Roads and streets:

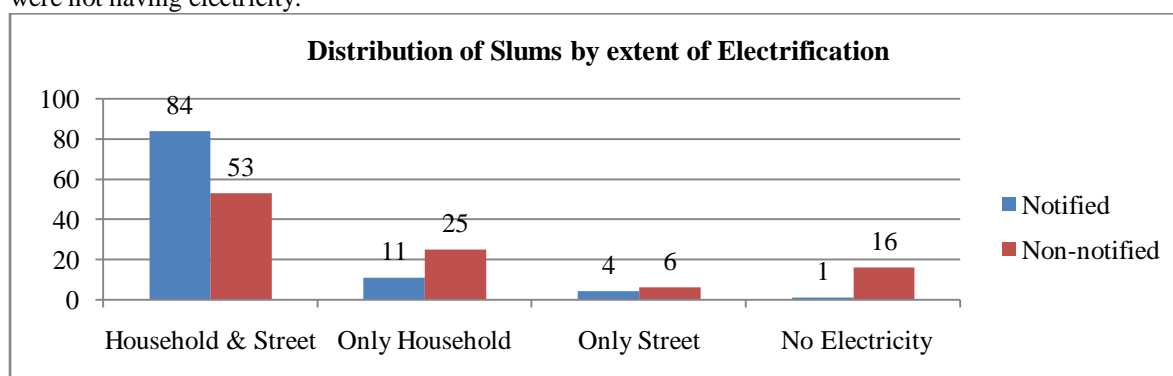
71 % of the notified slums have a pucca road while only 37 % of non-notified slums have a pucca road within the slum. Significant strides have been made in terms of availability of roads since 1993. In 1993, only 47 % of slums had a pucca road within the slum. In terms of access road to the slums, 86 (27) % of notified (non-notified) slums have a pucca approach road to the slum. In 1993, only 74 % of slums had such a road.



Source: NSSO 2003

**Electricity:**

There have been improvements in terms of electrification of villages. In 2002, electricity connection was not available in 1 % of the notified slums and about 16 % of the non-notified slums. In 1993, about 25 % of slums were not having electricity.



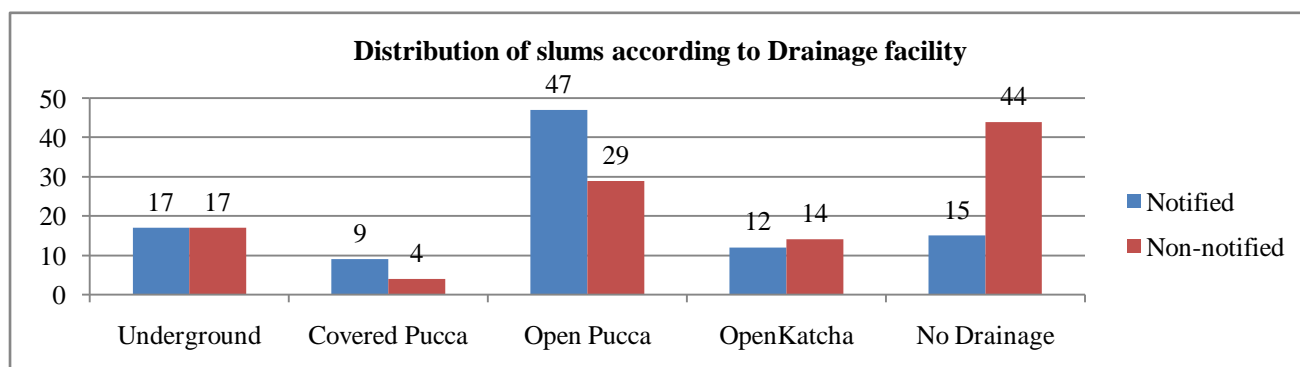
Source: NSSO 2003

**Water supply and Sanitation:**

Inadequate water supply facilities and poor sanitary conditions can have a deleterious impact on household outcomes. In 1984, 71% of the notified (non-notified) slums the main water source is the tap. But these numbers mask differences across the states of India. In the states of Bihar none of the slums get water via the tap. In Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh less than 35 % of slums get tap water. There has not been any significant improvement since 1993. In 2001, 83 % of notified slums and 70 % for non-notified slums drew their drinking water from tap.

**Drainage:**

Nearly 44 % the non-notified slums do not have a drainage system of any type. In contrast only 15 % of notified slums do not have a drainage system. In 2001, there was no drainage facility in 30 % of slums.



Source: NSSO 2003

**Availability of Schools and Health Centers:**

We now look at the availability of schools within the slums. Over 90 % of the slums have a primary school within one kilometer. However in the state of Chhattisgarh, only 37 % of slums have a primary school within a distance of one kilometer. More important than the availability of a primary school is the issue of governance. On the issue of governance, the Indian government's Draft National Slum Policy recognizes that, "Mobilizing the community and use of resource persons from within the community to supervise and monitor the educational activity would greatly enhance the delivery of this service." Less than 50 % of the slums have a government hospital within one kilometer. But what is more importance is to initiate the primary health centers in the slums and carry out IEC campaigns to create demand for health services.

**V. ANALYSIS**

As per the above study it is observed that as per 2001 Census data, there are 40.6 million persons living in slums in India. In this survey estimated the number of slums to be 52,000 with 51% of the slums being notified slums. It is estimated that every seventh person living in the urban areas is a slum dweller. Housing condition of the slum area is also in very critical condition. Density of house hold is larger in notified slums in comparison to non- notified slums. A large number of houses are not *pucca* in nature and the problem is more acute in the non-notified slums. 71 % of the notified slums have a *pucca* road while only 37 % of non-notified slums have a *pucca* road within the slum. There have been improvements in terms of electrification; Provision of electricity is left only 1 % in the notified slums and about 16 % of the non-notified slums. Inadequate water supply facilities and poor sanitary conditions are the major problems in the slums. In the states of Bihar none of the slums get water via the tap. In Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh less than 35 % of slums get tap water. In 2001; there was no drainage facility in 30 % of slums. The availability of schools within the slums are varies from state to state, In Kerala it is 90% but in Chhattisgarh it is 30%. Even less than 50 % of the slums have a government hospital within one kilometer. So it is observed that urban areas are facing lots of problems such as housing shortage, water supply, sanitation, electricity and urban services, garbage disposal etc. Even they are unable to get proper affordable land, reasonably priced materials, employment opportunities and basic infrastructure and social services.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

- Countries need to recognize that the urban poor are active agents and not just beneficiaries of development.
- Developing cities requires local solutions. Local authorities need to be empowered with financial and human resources to deliver services and infrastructure to the urban poor. Cities should draw up local long-term strategies for improving the lives of slum dwellers.
- Local governments should develop strategies to prevent the formation of new slums. These should include access to affordable land, reasonably priced materials, employment opportunities, and basic infrastructure and social services.
- Public investments must focus on providing access to basic services and infrastructure. Working with the urban poor, cities need to invest in housing, water, sanitation, energy, and urban services, such as garbage disposal. These services and infrastructure must reach the poor living in informal settlements.
- The transportation needs and safety concerns of a city's poorest residents should be a high priority in planning urban transportation systems, which can expand the choices people have regarding where to live and work.
- Building codes and regulations should be realistic and enforceable and reflect the lifestyle and needs of the local community. This means, for example, that they may have to be flexible enough to allow housing that is built incrementally, out of low-cost materials and on small plots of land.

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