SLUM UPGRADE

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INTRODUCTION

- Only about 27.78% of the total Indian population resides in urban areas.
- But according to the most recent Census, growth of the urban population (31.36%) during 1991-2001 was much higher than the rural growth (17.9%). This was largely due to the accelerated increase in the populations of the class I cities of India.

### Slum population in Major Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of slum dwellers in Mumbai</th>
<th>6.5 Million</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of slum dwellers in Delhi</td>
<td>1.9 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of slum dwellers in Kolkata</td>
<td>1.5 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of slum dwellers in Chennai</td>
<td>0.8 Million</td>
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</tbody>
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(The Times of India, 17 Dec.2005, based on Census figures)

- However, the data being accessed is not definitive due to various degrees of inadequacy in data collection, improper notification of clusters and for lack of accurate definition of slums and slum settlements.
What is a Slum?

“...actual living conditions rather than the mere physical appearance”

The definition uses the word, “‘Substandard’ not in an objective or technological but rather in a relative social sense, i.e., specific to a given country at a given period of time”

Firstly, the fact that a slum is always a community and hence calls for **community action**. Secondly, that the requirements of a slum are very culture specific and invariably need **public participation** in some degree, for identification of immediate and long term issues
What does the slum dweller realistically need? Is it shelter & tenure, nutrition, health, sanitation, water, education, employment alone, or is it recognition, acknowledgement & empowerment?

Slum eradication/eviction was one of the earliest and most crude form of a solution looked at by the government. Besides being an extreme measure, it was also a failure in terms of its implementation.

Other housing schemes looked at generating a general surplus of housing stock with special emphasis on housing for the poor and EWS (Economically Weaker Sections), they bordered on suggesting that the problem of the urban poor is mainly restricted to Shelter.

Gradually it was acknowledged that slum communities are an integral part of any city’s infrastructure, and cannot be indefinitely shifted or removed. With this realization came the concept of Slum Upgradation. This involved the betterment of slums in-situ.
The earlier schemes tended to focus on the physical component. However, it has been established that all such efforts should adhere to local standards of physical development. Whereby reinforcing the concept of public participation.

According to the Action Plan for Slum upgradation identified by the UNCHS and World Bank - Cities Alliance for Cities without slums: “Slum Upgrading consists of physical, social, economic, and organizational and environmental improvements undertaken cooperatively and locally among citizens, community groups, businesses and local authorities.”

For the purpose of this study the physical aspect has been left aside in order to closely study the relation between the three concepts mentioned earlier, namely, urban community development, community centres and slum upgradation.
Why is slum upgrading important?

• Promoting economic development. Upgrading releases the vast untapped resources of slum dwellers that have skills and a huge desire to be a more productive part of the economy, but are held back by their status and marginality.

• Addressing overall city issues. It deals with city issues by containing environmental degradation, improving sanitation, lowering violence and attracting investment.

• Improving quality of life. It elevates the quality of life of the upgraded communities and the city as a whole, providing more citizenship, political voice, representation, improved living conditions, increased safety and security.

• Providing shelter for the poor. It is the most effective way to provide shelter to the urban poor at a very large scale and at the lowest cost.

• In addition, in-situ slum upgrading is:
  • Affordable. Slum upgrading costs less and is more effective than relocation to public housing. Developing land with basic services costs even less.
  • Flexible. It can be done incrementally by the city and by the residents at a pace that is technically and financially possible for both.
  • Viable. The poor can and are willing to pay for improved services and homes.
A community centre is the physical entity, instrumental in supporting community development.

Culture is the metaphysical catalyst enabling focused Community Development.

Community Development is an integral part of Slum Upgradation.

Urban Community Development comprises of certain specific Socio-Economic indicators.
FRAMEWORK

Slum Upgradation

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
  - Including primary education, girls education, adult
- GENDER RELATED
  - Including midwife, balwadis
- ORGANIZATIONAL
  - Including political empowerment, women’s fora
- SOCIAL EVILS
  - Including awareness programs against drinking gambling

ECONOMIC

ENVIROMENTAL OR PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC
- EMPLOYMENT
  - Including skill development and vocational training
- CREDIT
  - Including micro-credit and house investment
- INCOME
  - Including marketing & entrepreneurship
References

- http://www.globalcommunities.org/node/36921