

Chapter 2

Changes in Infrastructural Condition of Slums in India: A State Level Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Addressing the importance of infrastructure development towards inclusive city, the study aims to see the change in the condition of housing, road, latrine, drainage, sewerage, etc. within the slums across states and over time in India. The study has been done with the help of three rounds (49th, 58th and 69th) of NSSO data on slum. Though the condition of slums seems to have improved over time, but it is not satisfactory. However, it seems the improvement of one infrastructural aspect in slum is very much associated with the improvement of others. The factors like 'Workforce Participation Rate of slums' and overall infrastructure of the state have a positive influence on the infrastructural condition of slums, whereas, per capita NSDP is affecting it negatively. The 'associations made by the residents of slum for improvement' within the slums seems to have played no role to improve it.

INTRODUCTION

The world is now experiencing a rapid expansion of urban areas with growing urban population¹. One among the main reasons behind the rapid growth of urban population is migration from rural to the urban areas either due to pull Lewis (1954), Harris-Todaro (1969) or push Davis (2004) and Harvey (2008) of the population and among those migrants, most of them are poor and take shelter in slums. This phenomenon has created an over congestion toward the slum as well as non-slum areas, which is putting pressure on infrastructure facilities available to the cities².

Like most other developing countries, urban and slum population in India has grown rapidly. Census data has revealed that the share of slum population out of the urban population and the share of urban population out of total population have increased over time (see Table 1). Moreover, it is found that the rate of growth of slum population is higher than the growth rate of urban population. This situation has added up pressure on civic infrastructure³.

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Table 1. Share of slum and urban population

Year	% of Urban Population Out Total Population	% of Slum Population Out of Urban Population
2001	27.81%	14.88%
2011	31.16%	17.37%

Source. Author's calculation with census data of 2001 and 2011

Table 2. Percentage of comprehensive or good housing in urban areas

Year	% of Proper Housing in Urban Areas with Proper Facilities
2001	64.2%
2011	68.4%

Source. Author's calculation with census data of 2001 and 2011

But in contrast with the growth of slum and urban population in India, housing with all proper facilities together (like latrine, electricity, etc.) have not improved accordingly (see Table 2). This may indicate the inadequacy of infrastructural facilities in urban areas. In recent future, urban population in India is estimated to increase to a large extent and will be excess than the capacity of the cities. Compared to this, infrastructure has to grow at a higher rate than the rate the population will increase⁴.

Besides, the government's attention towards slum and urban development in India has been limited to its capacity and the deficiency in comprehensive urban planning has fostered the problem of infrastructure inadequacy to the slum dwellers.

However, it is true that adequate infrastructure plays an important role behind the economic growth of the urban areas, but the concept of modern city is sometimes built upon dispossession and displacement of the urban poor⁵. In India, building of new roads, modern houses, office spaces, etc. within the cities has required free and enclosed spaces which occasionally have been expropriated through eviction or dislocation of slums⁶. This had worsened the infrastructure condition within slums as there was high chance that these evicted slum dwellers would be shifted to other slum locations; in turn it created added pressure on the infrastructure of those slums. Development with eviction gave rise to social and economic exclusion and comprehensive urban development with growth would fail to achieve.

So, to cope with the problem of urban poverty and to make an inclusive urban development, one of the most vital instruments can be development of slum infrastructure and sustainable infrastructure development to reduce the gaps between the slums and non slum areas within the urban areas. Subsequently, infrastructure development in slums will increase the productive capacity and standard of living of the slum dwellers. Here the search is not intended to explore how infrastructure performs as an engine of modern sector growth but the search will be directed to see whether the improvement in infrastructure is performed for the development of slums to make the cities an inclusive one. This chapter will focus to see the change in the infrastructural condition over time within the slums in India and the factors that have influenced the infrastructural development of slums.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Notion Regarding the Concept of Inclusive City

The UN-Habitat report, 2003 has described slum, is a place where there is 'insecurity of tenure, lack of basic services,... hazardous land, etc' and the report has opined that 'development management' can

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