

Sky Booming Urban Slums in Metro Cities of India (Special Reference to Characteristics of Vizag Slums)

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Abstract: In India, one of every three urban people lives in slums. Land value are extradianarily high and living conditions accordingly are worse in the million plus cities. Slums have grown simultaneously with the growth of towns and cities partially in large industrial cities. Prohibeteration of slums has been taking place whenever the urban resources are stretched by intense population pressure. Industries in all major towns and cities have attracted a sizable number of people from rural areas who were reeling under the pressure of poverty there by leading to proliferation of slums at a faster rate. Such people who came to the cities in search of livelihood settled themselves in vacant places, due to lack of any basic civic amenities and these areas have soon grown into slums where people live under unhygienic and insanitary conditions. In India slums population has been growing at an alarming rate. Visakhapatnam the slums have been more or less a result of the rapid industrialization it experienced over the last four decades. Heavy influx of laborers from rural to the port city has meant a growth in slum population at a rate higher than 6% per annum. During October, 1985 and April, 1986 the urban community development project of municipal corporation of Visakhapatnam has conducted a survey of slums in the city on the state of physical amenities in the slums and socio-economic conditions of slum-dwellers. Most of the Visakhapatnam slum dwellers live under sub-standard environmental conditions. In this paper we presented growth of slums and their characteristics.

Key Words: Alarming rate, industrial, population, sub-standard.

I. Introduction

The phenomenon of urbanization in conjunction with industrialization has resulted in the growth of slums. The sprouting of slums occur due to many factors, such as the shortage of developed land for housing, the high prices of land and building material beyond the reach of urban poor, a large influx of rural migrants to the cities and they are compelled to live in chaotically occupied, unsystematically developed and generally the most neglected areas which are over populated by persons and over crowded with ill repairs and neglected structures (Siva Raju & Udaya Kumar, 1986)

There are many factors that contribute to the continued formation and expansion of slums. Among these are rapid rural-to-urban migration, policy failure, increasing urban poverty and inequality, population growth and globalization. While more people are migrating from rural areas to towns and cities, urban areas are not expanding enough, there are not enough affordable houses, and municipalities are not being able to provide enough accommodation. Therefore, the in-migrants are forced to occupy illegal settlements on marginal lands at the urban periphery, along railways and riversides, or on other hazardous areas that are not suitable for development leading to expansion of slums. According to Retnaraj (1998) it is generally believed that urban growth is mainly due to three components, viz. natural growth, migration and changes in urban jurisdiction. Natural growth represents the rate of growth of population, (which reflects the difference in the change in birth and death rates). Migration is considered to be an important contributing factor to the process of urbanization.

Not only rural-urban migration, urbanization or population growth etc. that is the cause of slum formation, but also the failure of governments, failed policies, corruption, inappropriate regulation, dysfunctional land markets, unresponsive financial systems etc. to provide low income people with essential public infrastructure and services (UN Habitat, 2003). Result of lack of basic public services and facilities to sustain slum dwellers exposed them to many problems related to health (Alberti & weddell, 2000). For instance, water-borne diseases, such as malaria, cholera, typhoid, and malnutrition, child mortality are common in addition slum dwellers are prone to polluted and hazardous areas example next to toxic plants, on areas threatened by land slip or waste water disposal areas, flood and environmental hazardous and they are vulnerable to risk. The contamination of water by human and animal waste is responsible for the scourge of chronic diarrhea, which kills infants. Urban slums are marked by deplorable living environment and are often marked by a lack of civic amenities and facilities leading to environmental degradation and higher incidences of

morbidity and mortality (Anuradha Banerjee, 2006). Generally, the causes and effects of slum formation are manifold and are not the focus of this study.

The growth of population was more than 80% during 1971-81 and 37.11% during 1991-2001. Due to formation of GVMC and merger of surrounding villages, several well established urban components of the city are located within the GVMC. The details of population of the Municipal Corporation Visakhapatnam and now functioning as the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation are given. About one third of population of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation's reside in slums, squatters and other poor settlements. Their contribution to city's economy has also been growing over the period. In the absence of developed land and clear policy to address their problems, the poor suffer from many inadequacies in terms of access to basic services and socio-economic needs. The distribution of slums is scattered all over the city but main concentration is observed in older parts of the city and also nearer to industrial establishments. Most of the slum dwellings are 'Kachcha' with no proper sanitary facilities of water supply and showing haphazard growth of huts along the roads and on unauthorized lands and also government lands. It is necessary, therefore, to articulate policies and programmes to mainstream the slum communities with the city, both in terms of infrastructure provision and social and economic development.

II. Main Objectives of the Study

1. Causes for growth of urbanization and slums formation in city.
2. Trace of the Infrastructural facilities in slums.
3. Policy and suggestions.

III. Study Areas Profile

Visakhapatnam, popularly known as Vizag, is a fast developing port city. With a population of 15, 00,000 in 2001 and a land area of 530 square kilometres, Visakhapatnam is the country's largest city in terms of land and Andhra Pradesh is second largest urban agglomeration in population. On account of rapid industrialisation, there has been significant migration into the city. The city was originally a small fishing village but due to its natural harbour it developed into a major port. It has experienced rapid industrialisation with the growth of major industries, including steel, petroleum refining and fertiliser. With the formation of "Greater Visakhapatnam" in 2005 the city's development is set for a quantum leap. The Municipal Corporation of Visakhapatnam, prior to its constitution as Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation in 2005 has a jurisdiction of 111 square kilometres with a population of 9.69 lakhs as per the 2001 census while the Visakhapatnam Urban Agglomeration covered approximately 5.3 square kilometres with a population of 13.62 lakhs. The government of Andhra Pradesh has reconstituted the Municipal Corporation of Visakhapatnam in the year 2005 by extending the jurisdiction and by merging the adjoining municipality and panchayat. The reconstituted Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation has an area of 515 square kilometres with a population of 14.5 million. Thus the GVMC is representative of the urban agglomeration in terms of area as well as population. The Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority has a jurisdiction of 1701 square kilometres and covers a population of 22.02 lakhs.

IV. Review Of Literature

D.Retnaraj (1998)ⁱ Causes it is generally believed that urban growth is mainly due to three components, viz natural growth, migration and changes in urban jurisdiction. Natural growth represents the rate of growth of population, which reflects the difference in the relates of change in birth and death rates. Migration is considered to be an important contributing factor to the process of urbanization.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (2001)ⁱⁱ, along with other United Nations agencies, continues to recognize that urbanization offers both promise and perils. While the promise of urbanization is highlighted, in statements such as, "as more and more people make cities their home, cities will be the arenas in which some of the biggest social, economic, environmental and political challenges will be addressed, and where solutions will be found", the perils are also described, "if cities are hubs of dynamism, change and opportunity, they are also places of exploitation, disease and unemployment. Crime, drug abuse and pollution e increased in growing numbers of cities. New tensions are emerging between migrants and established residents, adding to already sharp divisions along class, racial and ethnic lines. In many cities, slum dwellers account for 50 per cent of the population or even more, with little or no access to adequate housing and basic services".

Chandramouli, Dr.C. I.A.S. (2003)ⁱⁱⁱ, Living conditions have a direct impact on public health. One of the biggest challenges that face urban planners worldwide is the proliferation of slums in urban areas and the host of health hazards that they bring along in their wake. Though the prolific spread of slums has been a rampant problem in urban areas worldwide, there is little by way of an empirical database upon which scientific planning could be based. With a view to bridge this data gap, the Census of India 2001 has sought to collect and

compile disaggregated data on slums. The concept of slums and its definition vary from country to country depend in upon the socio-economic conditions of society. The basic characteristics of slums are - dilapidated and infirm housing structures, poor ventilation, acute over-crowding, and faulty alignment of streets, inadequate lighting, and paucity of safe drinking water, water logging during rains, absence of toilet facilities and non-availability of basic physical and social services. The living conditions in slums are usually unhygienic and contrary to all norms of planned urban growth and are an important factor in accelerating transmission o various air and water borne diseases.

Amitab Kundu (2009)^{iv} analyzed that migration from rural to urban areas in India too has serious problems of comparability. The scope and coverage of data compilation have varied significantly from one census to the other and over different rounds of the National Sample Survey (NSS). The data problems pertain not only to the distribution of migrants across differ streams within and across the districts and states, due to not-too-infrequent reorganization of state and district boundaries, but also their duration of stay in the city. Despite these problems, however, the data on the total number of migrants are fairly robust and comparable over time (Kundu2006). One may add that even the percentage of lifetime migrants, which in 2001 was slightly above that of 1991, is significantly below that of 2001 was slightly above that of 1991, is significantly below that of 1961 and 1971. The data from NSS too, is significantly of men, which is often linked to the strategy of seeking livelihood (as opposed to family-lined migration for women), has gone down systematically over the past few decades. This can be attributed to the process of urbanization under globalization, making the cities unaffordable to the poor, besides the regular slum clearance programmers whereby development authorities or municipal corporations bulldoze unauthorized structures, often at the initiative of elite and middle class-based resident associations. Thus, it is not so much the reactionary policies, of the market for land and basic services, combined with a sense of “others” among urbanites, have become the major barrier.

^v A “non-notified slum” is a compact urban area with a collection of Poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together Usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in Unhygienic conditions, if at least 20 households lived in those area. and Urban areas notified as slums by respective municipalities, Corporations, local bodies or development authorities were treated as “Notified slums”. And On an average, about 205 households live in a notified slum and 112 in a non-notified slum.

^{vi}Government of India (GOI) announced a prestigious scheme namely Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) for slum dwellers and urban poor for achieving inclusive and sustainable Growth of the urban areas. Government of India will extend support under JNNURM to the States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum area to create a slum free India in five years.

V. Methodology

We collect the data about the total slum by randomly to the purpose of the study. As well as depend on secondary data to understand burning problems of urban slums in the national and analyzed with various national sample surveys. In this study we collect the data from the whole slum problems ---i.e. (physical settings of the slum, civil amenities of the slums) compared with state and national samples.

VI. Description Of The Study

Table 1 : Major Features of Population of GVMC, 2011

	Total		Male		Female	
			No	(%)	No	(%)
Population	1,703,320	100.00	875,199	50.58	855,121	49.42
Literates	1,298,896	100.00	698,959	53.81	599,937	46.19
Children (0-6)	158,924	100.00	81,119	51.04	77,805	48.96
Average Literacy	82.66	-	88.02	-	77.18	-
Sex Ratio	977					
Children Sex Ratio	959					

(Source: Census 2011)

Above table 1 shows that the GVMC is characterized by a very significant presence of the urban poor, with a growing poverty profile. Slum settlements have multiplied over decades and the living conditions of the poor have not improved. Environmental decline, vehicular pollution, inadequate basic services and infrastructure in the poor settlements hit the poor. Slums are scattered across the city and surrounding areas, with high population densities and the number of people inhabiting them is around 5.5 lakh. It is estimated that more than half of these slums are on GVMC and Government lands, and the rest on lands belonging to various public entities. Poverty has a visible gender dimension too. The incidence of poverty among women is higher and female-headed households constitute the poorest of poor. The poor, not only habitat in slums of GVMC area but are spread in squatter and informal settlements in small groups deprived of basic services. This makes them

more vulnerable to vagaries of nature and threat of eviction. A major problem is the incorporation of 32 villages around Visakhapatnam in the GVMC. Almost all these villages are inhabited by poor and the infrastructure is very low. These areas should be taken as 'poor areas' and special programmes need to be initiated to develop them on par with the city. According to data from the GVMC, the total number of slums are about 741 inhabited by about 1, 25,049 male and 24,187 female household heads, which is 83.79% and 16.21%, respectively. Out of the 741 slums only 521 are notified slums and the remaining are categorised as unidentified slum. This means more than a quarter of slums are not officially recognised. Thus these slums and their dwellers are not entitled for the developmental programmes and other special benefits provided for the slum dwellers. The overall slum population is 5, 52,859 among which 50.74% and 49.26% are male and female in their gender groups, respectively shows the distribution of slums by their development mode. About 98% of the slums are being developed by providing basic infrastructural facilities to some extent.

6.1 Growth Rate of Slum Population in Urban India and Andhra Pradesh 1951-2011.

Table 2- Growth of Population in GVMC

Year	Total population	Percentage of the growth	Slum population	Percentage of slum population growth	Percentage of slum population to total population
1951	1,08,042		27,000	-	24.99
1961	2,11,190	95.47	51,357	90.21	24.32
1971	3,55,045	68.12	86,567	68.55	24.38
1981	5,65,513	53.27	1,52,000	75.18	26.88
1991	7,39,947	30.84	2,21,347	45.62	29.91
2001	13,45,938	81.89	3,42,658	54.81	25.46
2011	1,703,320	26.55	5,58,000	62.84	32.76

Source: Greater Municipal Corporation Visakhapatnam (GVMC).

Above table show that the city population has increased from 1,08,042 to 17,03, 320 during the past six decades at an increase rate of about 16 times, while the slum population has increased from 27,000 to 5,58,000 at an increase rate of 21 times over the period. The growth of slum population over the period is relatively higher than the total city population in all the periods (except in the period 1951-61). However, the city population growth as well as slum population growth has shown decline in the period 1981-91, when compared to the growth rate of 1971-81. Another important aspect, the percentage of slum population to total population, has shown increase from 24.38 per cent to 32.76 per cent over the period. It is evident from the above analysis that the growth of slum population is very rapid over the period.

6.2 Communities

Slum population in GVMC is heterogeneous in character - with Hindus, Muslims and Christians having migrated from different neighbouring villages, Languages predominantly spoken in slums in Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation are Telugu and Oriya.

6.3 Land Holdings:

Slums in GVMC are located on GVMC, Govt lands, Railway, Port, Endowment, Wakf and private lands as given in figure:1 Government of Andhra Pradesh classified all the slums on government land into objectionable and unobjectionable. Categorisation as "objectionable" was based on location and land use - location on riverbeds, low lying areas, drains, road margins, etc. In case of surrounding areas, they were the small and scattered villages inhabited by the poor; particularly the labour from the industrial areas. They suffer from worse deprivations in terms of physical and social amenities as well as sustainable livelihoods.

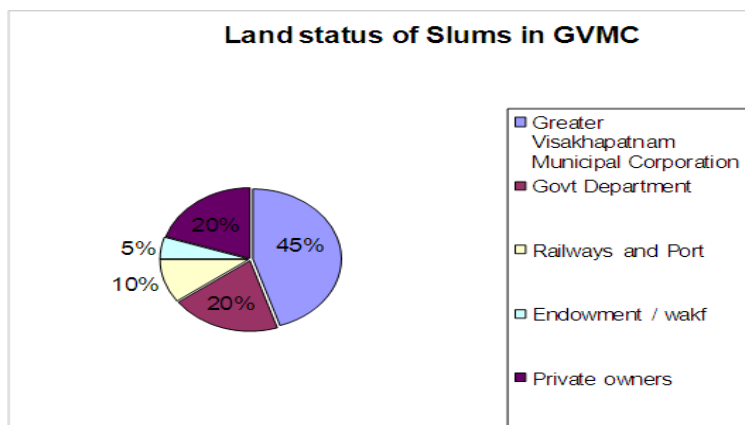


Fig:1 Land Status of Slums in GVMC.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Urban Slums by Slum Development Mode:

Slum Development Mode	No.	%
Insitu	5	0.67
Partly Insitu	1	0.13
Partly Relocation	4	0.54
Relocation	7	0.94
Providing Infrastructure	724	97.71
Total	741	100.00

Table: 4 Growth pattern of the slum population in the Visakhapatnam city. Both Notified and Non-Notified Slums.

	Notified	Non-Notified
India	50.6	49.4
Andhra Pradesh	75.5	24.5
Visakhapatnam	60.72	39.27

(Report: Depending upon NSS report and also GVMC Slums Status).

Table: 4 shows that the 60.72% of these slum colonies are notified by the local authorities, majority are yet to be notified. The NSSO data projects that most of the slum household have come up in the notified colonies. In this study we covered 200 slums in a total of 742 urban slums across all City of Visakhapatnam level; the average slum size was estimated at 263 households

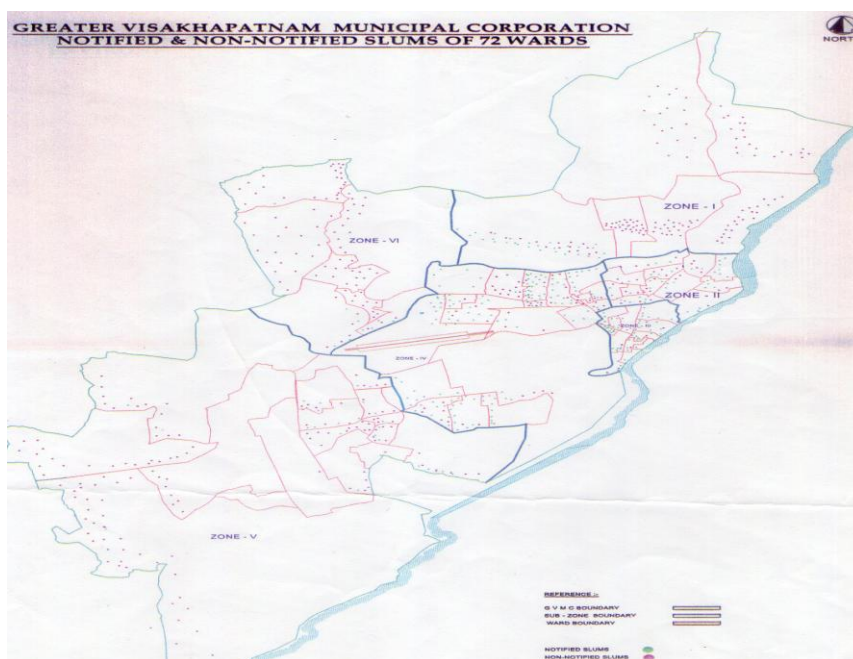


Figure 2: Total slums distribution of Visakhapatnam city 2011 census source: GVMC UCD.

Basic services: This makes them more vulnerable to vagaries of nature and threat of eviction. At present there are 742 slums and the slum population is over 6 lakhs. A major problem is the incorporation of 32 villages around Visakhapatnam in the GVMC. Almost all these villages are inhabited by poor and the infrastructure is very low. These areas should be taken as 'poor areas' and special programmes need to be initiated to develop them on par with the city.

Table 5 Percentage Distribution of slums by major source drinking water

	Notified				Non-Notified			
	Tap	Tube well	well	others	Tap	Tube well	well	others
India	79	17	1	3	77	17	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	80	12	1	9	68	32	0	0
Visakhapatnam	62	8	4	12	20	2	8	70

(Source: NSS Reports and GVMC City urban planning)

Urban poverty in Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation is presented. More than one-fifth of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation's population reside in slums, squatters and other poor settlements. Their contribution to city's economy has been also been growing over the period. In the absence of developed land and clear policy to address their problems, the poor suffer from many inadequacies in terms of access to basic services, socio- economic needs. It is necessary, therefore, to articulate policies and programmes to mainstream the slum communities with the city, both in terms of infrastructure provision and social and economic development.

Table 6 : Percentage of distribution of slums has availability Electricity connection:

	Notified				Non-Notified			
	Households and street lights	Households only	Street lights only	No Electricity	Households and street lights	Households only	Street lights only	No Electricity
India	76	16	7	1	53	26	15	7
Andhra Pradesh	94	3	4	0	74	0	10	17
Visakhapatnam	81	5	14	0	35	25	10	30

(Report: Depending upon NSS report and also GVMC Slums Status).

Table shows that the Visakhapatnam had the maximum share of 38% of the Andhra Pradesh slums. Households had 18%. A slum has been defined as "any 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, provided at least 20 households lived there. While the survey findings point to how government agencies have a huge task ahead to make these residential blocks livable it has indicated how the ground situation has improved to some extent with the improvement in power supply, drainage, garbage disposal and other facilities.

Table shows that 93.5% of slums have power supply and 41% have access to drinking water. Similarly there has been improvement in drainage, sewerage, garbage disposal, primary education and medical facilities ranges between 15% and 45% compared to what it was five years ago.

Pointing to how big the sanitation issue is in the case of rural areas, the NSSO data projects that as many as about 60% rural households do not have access to toilet facilities. However, the record is better when it comes to urban India where only less than 9% of the population still lacks the facility.

VII. Findings

1. 44% of slums are located on private land
2. only 6.5% of slums have no electricity
3. Main roads of 66% slums are concrete ones

The survey findings showed that across the country, 70.8% of households cited better accommodation as the main reason for which they moved out of slum/squatter settlement whereas 11.7% identified proximity to the place of work as the main reason.

VIII. Conclusions

1. Interestingly, the data shows that the proportion of people who live in slums in cities and who own their homes is higher than those who don't live in slums and own homes, although this could well be a function about the ease of home ownership in slums, both in terms of cost and the process involved.
2. And at least nine out of every 10 slum households have an electricity connection. Mint couldn't immediately ascertain whether the reference is to legal electricity connections; Vizag's power utilities have maintained that many of the connections in urban slums are illegal and partly responsible for the significant distribution losses they suffer.
3. Consolidating on the past initiatives the Municipal Corporation proposed to prepare a City Development Plan with a focus on service delivery improvements and comprehensive and citywide slum up gradation. Administrative Staff College of India is assigned for the purpose with the assistance of Cities Alliance.



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