

A Sociological Study of Government Schemes For Slum Dwellers

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Abstract :

As per the Census of India 2011, a total of 13.75 million households live in the slums, i.e. 17 per cent of India's urban households lived in slums. This percentage would be higher if one was to generate estimates of urban households living in slum like conditions. In 2011, 63 per cent of the 4,041 statutory towns reported having slums. The idea of a smart town or a city with gated communities and overcrowded informal settlements seems incongruous. Twenty six per cent of households in urban India use dirty or unclean fuel like firewood/crop residue, cow dung cake/coal etc. This is not a smart energy choice since use of dirty fuel contributes to indoor air pollution. Any city or town aspiring to be smart needs to work on ensuring that the basic physical infrastructure is in place. It is only after that can technology help in stemming leakages and facilitate differential pricing. So in the context of urban India, it would require smart thinking to improve the access to water, sanitation and other dwelling characteristics. Hence the question is how would one improve the quality of municipal services.

Keywords: Slums, Urban areas, Major issue, and Schemes

Introduction -:

A slum is a highly populated urban residential area consisting mostly of closely-packed, decrepit housing units in a situation of deteriorated or uncompleted infrastructure, inhabited primarily by impoverished persons. While slums differ in size and other characteristics, most lack reliable sanitation services, supply of clean water, reliable electricity, law enforcement and other basic services. Slum residences vary from shanty houses to professionally built dwellings which, because of poor-quality construction or provision of basic maintenance, have become desiccated.

Definition of slum -:

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has set up a Committee to look into various aspects of Slum Statistics / Census and issues regarding conduct of slum census 2011 under the chairmanship of Pranab Sen. The Pranab Sen Committee has defined Slums as:

"A Slum is a compact settlement of at least 20 households with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions"

According to **David R. Hunter** (1968) who thought that, "Slum is more than a crowded building; it is more than dirty streets, the lackluster people sitting on the stems, the shrieking children running up and down, the sullen boys having at the corners, the stupefied addicts leaning against. It is a way of life and it run on a way of looking at the future or is perhaps looking away from it."

Methodology

"The study is based on secondary sources. The paper is the initial part of my Ph.D thesis entitled "Health status of slum women: A sociological study".

The Government of India has undertaken several initiatives such as:

- a) **Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)** was launched in December 2001, VAMBAY was a centrally sponsored scheme with an in-built subsidy for undertaking construction of dwelling units for slum dwellers. The scheme was successful in providing affordable houses to the urban poor and with the launch of JNNURM, elements of this scheme were dovetailed into JNNURM.
- b) **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)** was launched on 3rd December, 2005 with the objectives of augmenting infrastructure facilities in cities and towns along with provision of shelter and basic civic services to slum dwellers/urban poor. JNNURM aims at creating 'economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive Cities' by a strategy of upgrading the social and economic infrastructure in cities, provision of Basic Services to Urban Poor and wide-ranging urban sector reforms to strengthen municipal governance in accordance with the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
- c) **Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)** aimed at providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under-employed poor, through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures by the urban poor living below the poverty line, skills training and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.
- d) **Integrated Low Cost Sanitation (ILCS):** This scheme envisages the conversion of dry latrines into water seal twin-pit sanitary latrines on a whole town basis.
- e) **Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP):** It seeks to promote various kinds of public-private partnerships -government with the private sector, the cooperative sector, the financial services sector, the state parastatals, urban local bodies, etc-to create affordable housing stock. Under the scheme, the Government provides subsidy at the rate of Rs.50,000 per affordable unit or 25% of the cost of infrastructure(internal and external), whichever is lower.
- f) **Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana :** has been launched on 02.06.2011. The Phase I is expected to cover about 250 cities, across the entire country by the end of 12th Plan (2017).The selection of the cities will be done in consultation with the Centre. The States would be required to include all the mission cities of JNNURM, preferably cities with more than 3 lakh population as per 2001 Census; and other smaller cities, with due consideration to the pace of growth of the city, of slums, predominance of minority population, and areas where property rights are assigned. The scheme will progress at the pace set by the States. Under the Scheme, Fifty percent (50 %) of the cost of provision of basic civic and social infrastructure and amenities and of housing, including rental housing, and transit housing for in-situ redevelopment – in slums would be borne by the Centre, including operation & maintenance of assets created under this scheme. For the North Eastern and Special Category States the share of the Centre would be 90% including the cost of land acquisition, if required.

Karnataka government schemes

Nirmala Jyothi Programme

The Nirmala Jyothi programme was sanctioned in Govt. Order No. HD 13 KSCB 2000 Bangalore Dated 15-01-2001. The project cost is Rs.274.00 to develop 998 slums in 21 Class - I cities of the state. The state Govt. grant is Rs. 54.00 crores and Rs. 220.00 crores is the Hudco loan. The programme was launched during August 2002. In the first phase of the programme 260 slums have

been taken up to provide the basic amenities like drinking water, roads, drains, streetlights, toilets and UGD. The Works have been completed in 4 cities and the remaining works in 17 cities is expected to complete by Nov.-Dec. 2004. In the 2nd Phase of the Nirmala Jyothi programme all preparatory works has been completed to call for tenders to provide basic amenities in 265 slums of 18 Class I cities at an estimated cost of Rs.66.94 Crores. This is a massive slum improvement programme initiated by Govt. of Karnataka to provide basic amenities to the Slum dwellers to keep the slums in hygienic and better living conditions.

Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) :

This is a centrally sponsored programme wherein housing for Urban poor (for slum families) has been considered as priority sector. This programme was launched in April ' 2002 to provide housing facilities to the slum dwellers. This is off budget borrowing programme and no subsidy / Govt. grants are requested in the budget 2004-05. The central sanction committee of Govt. of India have agreed in principle to sanction 33282 houses to Karnataka of Which 9951 houses have been completed during 2003-04. Totally 17550 houses have been completed under this scheme.

Nirmal Bharath Abhiyan Yojana :

Under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana, central government sanctioned Nirmal Bharath Abhiyan Yojana. In this scheme, community toilets are being provided to the slum dwellers. Totally 279 community toilets at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.16 crores was sanctioned by the Govt. of India. During 2003-04. 243 community toilets are completed.

New Schemes of Central Government.

National Urban Livelihood Mission

Started: 2013 Vision: To alleviate urban poverty and homelessness

Implemented Cities: 790 cities across the country Initiatives: skill development, self-employment opportunities, shelter with essential services for the urban poor. Launched in 2013 by replacing the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, National Urban Livelihood Mission aims to provide skill development and employment opportunities along with housing solutions equipped with necessary services to the urban poor and the urban homeless. This scheme would largely benefit those employed in the unorganised sector in the urban cities.

Smart Cities Mission

20 cities will be shortlisted for the Smart City project in the first phase. 40 others will be selected in the next phase followed by 40 more later on. Smart Cities are intended to enhance the quality of urban life by providing a clean and sustainable environment with 24 hour water and power supply. Sanitation and solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transportation, affordable housing for poor, and robust IT connectivity among others are essential features. Smart City aspirants will be selected through a "City Challenge Competition" intended to link financing with the ability of the cities to perform to achieve the mission objectives. Cities must qualify themselves through city-challenge criteria like sanitation, clean water, power, greenery quotient and ratio between revenue and expenditure on municipal salaries. Each selected city would get central assistance of Rs.100 crore per year for five years.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

500 cities having 1 lakh and more population will be chosen for AMRUT project. AMRUT will focus on ensuring basic infrastructure services such as water supply, sewerage, storm water drains, transport and development of green spaces and parks with special provision for meeting the needs of children. Promotion of urban reforms like e-governance, setting up of professional municipal cadre, improvement in assessment and collection of municipal taxes, credit rating of urban local bodies and citizen-centric urban planning are among other essential features.

Housing For All (Urban)

The Housing For (Urban) scheme will ensure every urban poor is enabled to own a house by 2022. The scheme provides homes to slum-dwellers at no cost through a PPP slum rehabilitation project. According to a quick back-of-envelope calculation by JLL India, close to 57,392 acres would be required to build the 2 crore homes, if one were to assume a size of 500 sq ft per home and an available floor space-index (FSI) of 4. Under this scheme, the government aims to make 2 crore homes in urban areas, mainly to service the urban poor. The scheme will also have provisions for tax incentives on interest rates charged by banks on loans for the poor section of the society

Conclusion:

The Government of Karnataka and Central Government has initiated several programs for the development of Slums in India. Gradually Slums are improving and there is lot of improvement in the living conditions of Slum Dwellers.

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