

Slums in India: Results from Census, 2011

Research Article

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Abstract

An increasing pace of urbanization in India after economic liberalization has pulled the migration from villages to towns/cities of India. These migrated people get some lucrative employment but face the problem of shelter as city system hardly allows them to have good shelter. As a result, these low income migrants have settled in pockets of city known as slums. This leads to the degradation of urban environmental and sustainable development. The present study examines the magnitude of the slums in towns/cities of India using most recent census 2011 data. 65.5 million Peoples are living in slums in different size class of towns/cities of India. A popular view that the larger cities are marked by higher incident of slum than the smaller one is not authenticating by census 2011 data. Small towns with a population of less than 20,000 and medium towns with a population of 20,000 to 1,00000 have recorded 27.2% and 24.3% respectively.

Keywords: Slum; Urban areas; Census; Urbanization

Introduction

The rapid growth of urban population poses serious challenges in terms of provision of basic minimum services. Slums are an outcome of an imbalance in urban growth. The appearance of slums may be seen as a by-product in the process of urbanization in a developing country like India [1]. Poorly managed urban growth can thus lead to deteriorating health and environmental conditions, with serious implications for national government stability and international security [2]. Slums and squatter are considered as problem areas for urban development in third world countries. They are illegally occupied houses, creating a nuisance of environmental pollution and degradation of living conditions. Slums are the marginal areas of cities where the facilities are poor, people are illiterate, drinking water supply is miserable. Slum dwelling signifies as a common phenomenon of degraded life of urban dwelling itself. A slum represents a microhabitat institute that exists within a larger framework of urban built up space [3].

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 [4]. Recently, Indian towns/cities have witnessed a significant increase in their development activities in the form of renewed urban planning and construction, establishment of industries and trade, expansion in transport and communication system, availability of their infrastructure facilities in post-independence era. Urban congestion, tremendous migration of labour force both skilled and unskilled, non-availability of housing infrastructure has lead to occurrence of slums and reflects the deteriorating quality of life in urban areas [5].

Census slums have been earmarked in all the statutory towns irrespective of their population size based on the same definition as in 2001 [6]. Three types of slums have been defined in Census, namely, Notified, Recognized and Identified; (i) All notified areas in a town

or city notified as 'Slum' by State, Union territories Administration or Local Government under any Act including a 'Slum Act' may be considered as Notified slums (ii) All areas recognized as 'Slum' by State, Union territories Administration or Local Government, Housing and Slum Boards, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act may be considered as Recognized slums (iii) A compact area of at least 300 population or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. UN Habitat define that a slum is an area that combines to various extents the following characteristics; inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, poor structural quality of housing, overcrowding and insecure residential status [7].

Slums in towns/cities in India in 2011

The 21st century has witnessed a rapid growth of urban population coupled with incommensurate development of social facilities which has resulted in the creation of slums and associated problems of an

alarming magnitude. Owing to lack of employment and suitable jobs in the countryside, people from rural areas migrate to the towns/cities. In cities they obtain jobs, but their income hardly allows them to have good accommodation or neighborhood. Hence they occupy vacant land or try to adjust themselves in the existing slums. This results into a growth of slums and squatter settlements in most of the cities and towns of the country. In India, slums are found in all the cities, large and small, old or new, unplanned or planned [5].

Slum demography had been presented on the basis of actual count in census 2011. The slum population was reported from 31 states/union territories in India. Four states/union territories namely, Manipur, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep did not report any slum population in their cities/towns. 2613 towns reported slum population out of 4041 statutory towns. In 2001, 42.6 million populations were lived in slums in India which increased to 65.5 million by 2011. This constituted 17.4% of the urban population of the states/uts in 2011. The distribution of slum towns across the states and union territories was not uniform in India.

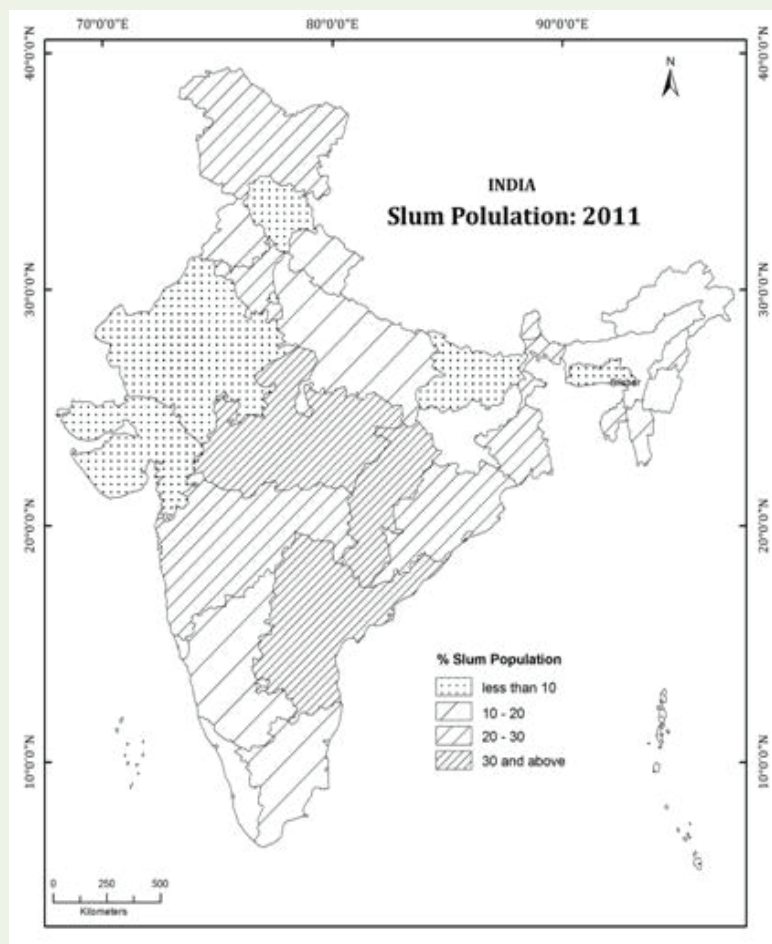


Figure 1: Slums in India as per census, 2011 [6].

Table 1: Statistics of Indian slum population, 2011.

State/Uts	Towns		Total population		Slum percent
	Statutory	Slum reported	Urban	Slum	
Maharashtra	256	189	50818259	11,848,423	23.3
Andhra Pradesh	125	125	28219075	10,186,934	36.1
West Bengal	129	122	29093002	6,418,594	22.1
Uttar Pradesh*	648	293	44495063	6,239,965	14
Tamil Nadu	721	507	34917440	5,798,459	16.6
Madhya Pradesh	364	303	20069405	5,688,993	28.3
Karnataka	220	206	23625962	3,291,434	13.9
Rajasthan	185	107	17048085	2,068,000	12.1
Chhattisgarh	168	94	5937237	1,898,931	32
Gujarat	195	103	25745083	1,680,095	6.5
Haryana	80	75	8842103	1,662,305	18.8
Odisha	107	76	7003656	1,560,303	22.3
Punjab	143	73	10399146	1,460,518	14
Bihar	139	88	11758016	1,237,682	10.5
Jammu & Kashmir	86	40	3433242	662,062	19.3
Uttarakhand	74	31	3049338	487,741	16
Jharkhand	40	31	7933061	372,999	4.7
Kerala	59	19	15934926	202,048	1.3
Assam	88	31	4398542	197,266	4.5
Pondicherry	6	6	852753	144,573	17
Tripura	16	15	961453	139,780	14.5
Nagaland	19	11	570966	82,324	14.4
Mizoram	23	1	571771	78,561	13.7
Himachal Pradesh	56	22	688552	61,312	8.9
Meghalaya	10	6	595450	57,418	9.6
Sikkim	8	7	153578	31,378	20.4
Goa	14	3	906814	26,247	2.9
Arunachal Pradesh	26	5	317369		4.9
Union Territories					
NCT Delhi*	3	22	16368899	1,785,390	10.9
Chandigarh	1	1	1026459	95,135	9.3
Andaman & Nicobar Is.	1	1	143488	14,172	9.9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	160595	0	0
Daman & Diu	2	0	182851	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	50332	0	0
Manipur	28	0	834154	0	0
INDIA	4041	2613	377106125	65494604	17.4

Ten larger states enumerated more than 100 slums towns including Tamil Nadu (507), Madhya Pradesh (303), Uttar Pradesh (293), Karnataka (206), Maharashtra (189), Andhra Pradesh (125), West Bengal (122), Rajasthan (107) and Gujarat (103). These larger nine states include 1955 slum towns which accommodate more than 81% of the total slum population. On the other hand 9 small states and union territories include Nagaland, Sikkim, Pondicherry, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar had reported only 47 slum towns which share only 0.6% of the total slum population. In absolute terms, Maharashtra accounted for 11.8 million slum population which is 18.1% of the total slum population of the country. It was followed by Andhra Pradesh (10.2 million), West Bengal (6.4 million) and Uttar Pradesh (6.2 million). Nine states namely; Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana had shown high percentage of slum population than the national average. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jammu

& Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim and West Bengal have recorded high slum concentration than urban concentration high incidence of slums in comparison to level of urbanization where remaining states have reverse situation. A common perception that the larger cities are marked by higher incident of slum than the smaller one is not validated by census data. The proportion of slums was reported 27.2% in the case of small towns in comparison to 24.3% percent in medium towns.

Urbanization, industrialization and higher productivity in the secondary/tertiary sector against primary sector makes cities and towns centers of economic growth and jobs. Cities act as beacons for the rural population as they represent a higher standard of living and offer opportunities to people not available in rural areas. This results in large scale migration from rural to urban areas. Negative consequences of urban pull results in upcoming of slums characterized by housing shortage and critical inadequacies in public utilities, overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, etc. [6].

Conclusion

Growing pace of urbanization and the lack of affordable housing have resulted in growth of slums in urban India. They are found in all the cities, large and small, old or new, unplanned or planned. The prevalence of slums varies radically across towns/cities of India. In 2011, 65.5 million or 22.5% population lived in slums which are distributed among 2613 towns/cities. The distribution of slum towns across the states and union territories is not uniform in India. Indian 9 larger states namely; Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Gujarat enumerated more than 81% slum population and 1955 slum town. On the other hand 9 small states/union territories include Nagaland, Sikkim, Pondicherry, Meghalaya Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar had reported only 47 slum towns, share only 0.6% of the total slum population. Thus, high positive correlation exist between urban and slum concentration in Indian states. The ever-increasing slum population is a continuous phenomenon in towns/cities, but providing good facilities at the rate of their growth will definitely benefit all the slum dwellers. Above

discussion which highlights the slum condition argue that there is an urgent need to tackle this situation for long term sustainable development as well as for city prosperity.

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