

The United Nations defines a slum as a settlement in an urban area in which more than half the inhabitants live in inadequate housing and lack basic services. Specifically, such a habitation lacks one or more of the following conditions: durable housing, sufficient living area, access to improved water, access to sanitation and secure tenure. In India, where the contrast between urban and rural areas is stark, the term urbanization has been in use for a long time now, primarily referring to the transfer of people as well as poverty from villages to cities.

While the terms slums and squatter settlements have been used interchangeably, it is worthwhile to delve into the two terms technically. Squatter settlements are the most widely seen erections in cities which are uncontrolled, temporary and spontaneous. These are illegal constructions erected without the permission of the owner on an overnight basis. On the other hand, slums can be seen as permanent settlements, which become substandard over the course of time. Though this distinction is clear, in common parlance, the two terms exist in use synonymously. Migration is widely seen as one of the main reasons for the proliferation of slums. The migrants who establish themselves in the slums of a city then lead the way to their relatives and friends to come to the city.

Bangalore- the Case in Point

The total dilapidated houses in 2001 stand at a mere 31,731 which doesn't fit well with the number projected by the Karnataka Slum Clearance Board for the number of slum households in the city- 179,000 (as in 2003); presuming that the number of households and houses would approximate each other. The census data also doesn't explicate the number of slum houses that are contained within the number of dilapidated houses. To resettle and shelter these 179,000 households would be a Herculean task. The first step is to procure accurate data on the condition of houses in the city exclusively and then proceeding to estimate the production costs.

While the estimation presupposes that slum will continue to exist even after 2020, no effort to prioritize the existing slums for resettlement or development is seen in the effort. Further, the factor of migration has been conveniently forgotten. This is visible in the uniformity of the split-up. While the rate of migration into the city has been steady over time, the contraction of the city into its core is likely to push the existent and new squatter to the periphery, as we saw already. This marks the urgency for prioritization of the housing needs of the city.

As evident from the discussion on the projects implemented in the city, myriad efforts have been taken in the direction of slum rehabilitation. Yet we saw that the city's housing problem is far from being solved. Since we are looking at a top-down approach in the form of comprehensive housing policies, the city authorities need to bring certain paradigm shifts in their outlook.

New innovations for housing the urban poor should receive wider attention from the administration as well as academia. Two models are worth mentioning at this point. In Maharashtra in 1980s, a slum upgrading program was introduced which focussed on the slums of Mumbai (Desai, 1995). Leasehold tenure was granted to slums-dwellers on a nominal rent with monthly payments. Out of a total payment of premium, 10% was collected as down payment and the balance was recovered with 12% interest over 20 years. The innovation was that tenure was granted to co-operatives formed by a group of contiguous huts in manageable

numbers, instead of giving it to individuals. One way to address this issue is to involve voluntary organizations willing to step in to mediate this process of negotiations. Non-governmental organizations like AVAS and Maithri have already been working in this direction, but the count of such bodies is paltry.

How to care

This would be a tough job. Firstly, this calls for understanding the caste-class hierarchies, linguistic and religious polarities, economic inequalities existing within the slum. A look at the crime records and history of tensions within the slum can also help a policy maker in understanding the magnitude of intervention required. Secondly, the hazardous factors operating in the community should be suppressed and interdependence promoted by dint of suitable strategies.

One effective strategy would be to build community assets that the society members would have to look after together. This can also become a method of livelihood promotion. Employment opportunities that would utilize traditional skills of the residents can also help in bringing them together, especially the women.

Organizing self help groups of women has become a usual practice of poverty alleviation today. This strategy should be successfully replicated in slums as well. Women, if provided the space and opportunity can become active political participants which energy can be channelized in slum development programs.

These basic met, the residents would then shift the loci of their lives to other areas like attainment of education, health care and the overall quality of life. The push factor for upward social mobility would automatically set in. The human psychological notion of a house as the beginning of an enriched life should thus be exploited in our development efforts.

Furthermore, different communities have different traditional fashions of constructing houses. This may relate to the overall plan of the house or minute details of the internal structure. Incorporating this aspect into our housing plan would take our housing policy to a next level in preserving the cultural identity of a community. Creation of a wholesome living space is what we should aim for and not slum 'clearance'.

A housing policy should actually be read along with a policy for poverty alleviation. Conversely, a poverty alleviation strategy should also include housing assistance. An example for this is the Kudumbashree micro finance programme in Kerala which lends housing finance to women under a component scheme. The presupposition is that guaranteed land title and adequate infrastructure have been already provided for. Housing can also become an end-result of the provision of land tenure, employment and security. A natural demand for housing would emanate from within the community as a consequence making the housing market demand driven.

THE ARCHITECTURAL PROPOSAL AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE CONTEXT

The proposal aims to contribute much to rejuvenate this unhealthy and curable system that is the main cause for lethal diseases such as cholera, chikungunia, malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia and jaundice. The proposal has tried to integrate conventional methods of organic farming, energy harnessing methods such as rain-water harvesting, solar energy and wind harvest; and employment enhancement methods to bring about a better society that will eventually bring glory upon the entire system as a whole.

1. Housing:

Total No.of House Hold – 10,080 . In this Scheme No.of house taken 2016. Balance Unit cost is Rs. 1.07 Lakhs. Load bearing wall structure design is adopted comprising of a hall, Kitchen and Toilet. Total cost is **Rs.2157.12 Lakhs.**

2. Water Supply:

Borewell with motor and water supply arrangements are provided at a unit cost of **Rs. 3.60 Lakhs.** House service connection is to be provided at a unit cost of Rs. 6175.00 per housing unit. The total cost proposed is **Rs 6.24 Lakhs.**

3. Storm Water drain:

1 Total Length of storm water drain

Proposed :

CC drains of length 0. 550 Km with 4 Nos of Culverts have been proposed in this slums with a total cost of Rs.7.25 lakhs.

2 Brief of the specification Proposed

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CC using C.M 1:3:6 for side wall. Bed Concrete using PCC 1:5:10, Plastering and pointing has been proposed with C.M 1:3

3 Ultimate point of disposal

: Provision has been made to connect it to JANNAGRAHA.

4. Street Lighting :

8 Nos of Street light with pole in this slum have been proposed at an estimated cost of **Rs.1.80 Lakhs.**

5. Solid waste Management :

The slum dwellers will be motivated by the Community Development Organizations, NGOs Social service Organization etc., to source segregate the solid

wastes in to bio- degradable and non-degradable wastes and the garbage will be collected at door step using NGOs.

6. Parks and Open Spaces:

There is no sufficient open space available for providing park facilities for the identified slums. However, parking facilities are available in the adjacent area. Hence, no provision has been made in this project.

7. Community Toilets:

No Provision has been made in this project. Toilet facilities are already available in this area.

8. Community Facilities:

Community hall has been proposed in this slum with a total cost of Rs.200.00 Lakhs. The RCC building structure has been proposed.

9. Roads and Pavements:-

The existing B.T. surface is in damaged condition and lot of pot holes are causing very inconvenient to the public. Hence it is proposed improve the B.T. Road of **995 meters** an estimate cost is **Rs.11.00 Lakhs.**