



INFORMAL SECTOR- RELATED POLICIES & ISSUES

KEYWORDS

informal sector, urban development, SRA policy

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ABSTRACT

The life of the informal sector is filled with hardships and difficulties due to various reasons in India. There is less social security for the informal sector workers & women are the main accuse in this sector. They have to face lots of problems & social insecurity than men. Most of the informal sector resides in slum dwellings. This is an attempt to look into difficulties of informal sectors, women in informal sectors slums, related policies & sustainability issues. Special efforts of this attempt are to highlight sustainability issues & related policies which can be incorporated in slum rehabilitation.

INTRODUCTION

Who are the parts of informal sectors?

Most of Indian cities the urban poor engaged in informal or unorganized sector for surviving.

Lac of job opportunities work in Informal sector is which include people engaged in activities like



Major Causes to Form informal Sectors

Lac of education & skill, less availability of jobs, financial insecurity are major causes to form informal sectors. Most of informal sector belongs to slum dwellings. Slums are good examples of showing inequity in our country. Informal sectors provide commodities in cheaper rates to low income & middle income groups which should be provided by government. Thus informal sectors share & support economy of country. It is government's duty to provide good shelter for stability, peace of mind to form healthy

atmosphere in society.



Women in the Informal Sector

Women workers has got significant role in the informal economy in India. The voice of women should be considered while making decisions and framing policies. Supporting women in informal sectors is like to support the poor households and children & they should be supported with special efforts. There should be a gender-sensitive policy approach considering the responsibilities of women and men in the informal economy (Chen, 2004).

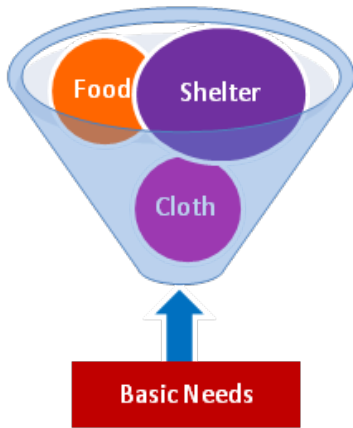
Problems Faced by the Women in Unorganized Sector

A large number of women are working in the informal sector. They face a number of problems also. In India, the patriarchal society imposes a lot of restrictions on women. This cause less freedom for women in the society and exploitation at the work place & home as well.Women face harassment, humiliation, and the pressures of the family responsibilities together. Street vendors usually face this problem. Ill behaved men used to harass them by passing rude comments. Also try to take advantage of their poverty & helplessness. So it is required to give special attention to women's social, psychological security in informal sector.

Relation of slums with informal sectors

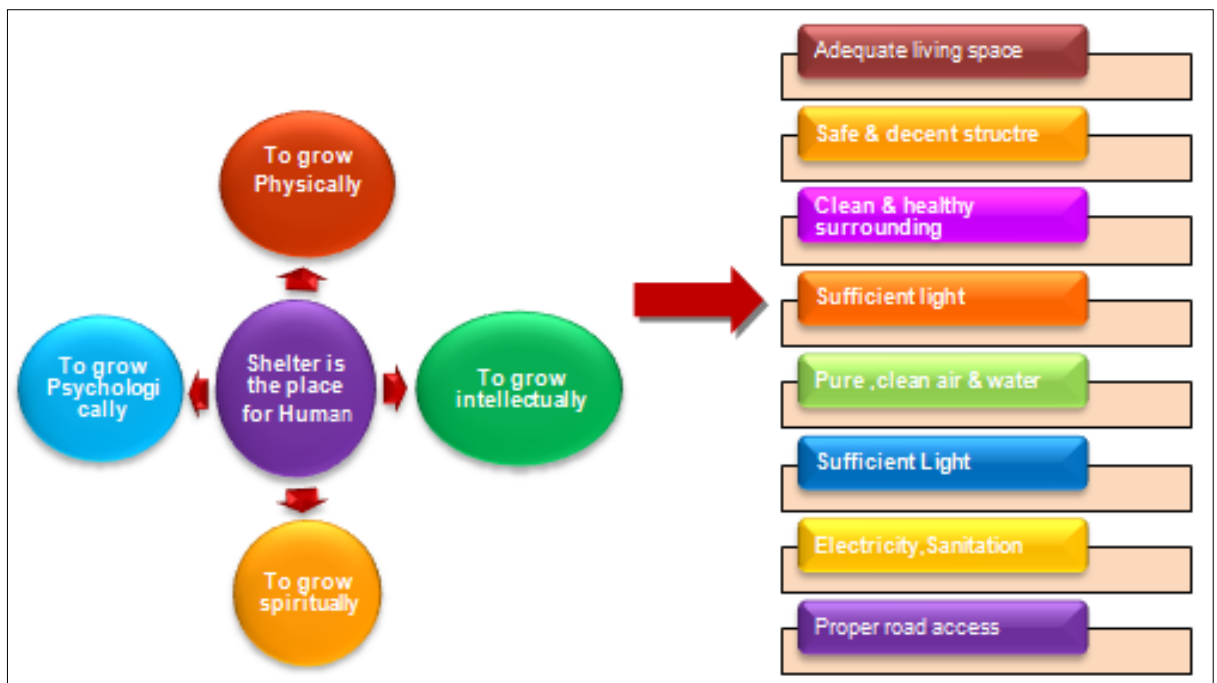
As mentioned earlier, people belong to informal sector activities don't have jobs & financial security. They can't afford to purchase or rent property so they acquire government owned vacant lands for shelter. Most of the people

from informal sector stay in slum area.



'The Right to Shelter 'as Fundamental Right [Article 19(1) (e)]

Shelter does not mean only roof over one's head. The Supreme Court has mentioned the right to shelter in various cases. Court differentiated between animal like existence & decent human existence & brought out need for respectable life. Shelter for human being is not only protection of his life but also the place where he will grow mentally, intellectually & spiritually. Therefore it includes adequate living space, safe & decent structure, clean & healthy surroundings sufficient light, clean, pure air & water, Basic facility like electricity, sanitation, proper roads (easy access) is also essentialities. All these things should be considered as fundamental rights of human beings.



To form healthy, developed, happy & positive energized society, proper shelter is very crucial factor. It protects physically, psychologically to human being .Another factor is women & children in informal sector. Proper shelter can help to give them social security.

- Women facing threat of domestic violation
- Social insecurity
- Pollution
- Fraud & announcement in the name of poor
- Psychological impact of constant threat of social & financial insecurity.

Related Issues

- Lack of education
- Lack of jobs tending to illegal activities
- Constant threat of eviction
- Financial insecurity
- Lack of awareness about government policies, facilities
- Lack of awareness about their fundamental rights
- Lack of basic infrastructure like sanitation, water, electricity etc
- Lack of awareness about hygiene
- Scare from citizens opposing slums
- Money lending & bribing
- Monopoly of control land by real estate developers & politicians.
- Child labor

Slum Development Policies in India

History

The Central Government and Slum Policy

Five year plan has always showed concern about housing needs & slum. The Planning Commission set up a task force to review policies related to urban poor in 1983. Slums were recognized as a product of urban poverty, social injustice by it. It emphasized on linking improvement program with security of tenure, social development programs and house improvement loans with certain cost recovery. Slum removal programs in India have evolved from evictions and demolition of slums to providing for their housing needs though a more realistic and demand driven approach.

In 1998, the National Habitat and Housing Policy has been brought for slum improvement insisting that land/ shelter rights provided to the poor/slum dwellers should be non transferable.

The 74th amendment in 1992 was seen as important legislation to decentralized urban poverty programs.

Previous policy of no slum cities which included forceful resettlement of slum residents was unsuccessful. Since a holistic approach started towards slum up gradation and issues such as priority to basic infrastructure (drinking water and sanitation). Own legislations had been formed on state level and frame their policies on these issues. Programs related to slum removal at the central level had been foreseen with partnership of the states and local bodies.

Under the 10th five year Plan, the National Slum Development Program (NSDP) in 1996 focused on these issues and the Valimiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY in 2001) was launched soon after to tackle sanitation issues.

In 2001, a draft National Slum Policy was also framed. It was called for integration of slum settlements and the communities residing within them into the urban areas. To provide tenure regularization through legislations and programs, and slum improvements with private sector participation.

In 2005, both VAMBAY and NSDP were subsumed under the newly launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The duration of it is seven years. Cost share by Union government and implementation is borne by the Centre, state and local government though in varying amounts, depending on the population of the cities.

Along with this, the centre also launched the Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana (RAY) in 2009. It includes up gradation of slums, construction of houses & provision of property rights to slum dwellers.

Now many states have provision of reservation for EWS (economical weaker section) in housing projects.

History of Slum Policy in the city of Mumbai

Till 1970: Demolition of Slums by treating them as illegal squatters. Slums reappeared. Demolitions termed inhuman by citizenry.

Until the 1970s, the Government of Maharashtra and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai followed a policy to unilaterally demolish slums and clear land of encroachments. However, this strategy did not work because people simply re-built their huts after some time at the same location or, if there was too much harassment, at another unoccupied location nearby. Moreover, land-owning agencies were just not equipped to police their lands and their lower officials often connived with middlemen to allow encroachments.

Even when the state government did try to resettle the poor, they were unsuccessful. Resettlement proceeded erratically according to the whims and fancies of local municipal officials and the poor were completely excluded from any decision-making. As a result, more often than not, because they had been forcibly relocated without concern for their social and economic networks, the poor returned to their original locations or to nearby ones.

From 1970 to 1980: Slum improvement works taken up. Census of slum was carried out & I cards were issued.

In the 1970s, however legislation and policy changed. Slums began to be viewed as housing solutions and the state began to provide water, sanitation, electricity and other amenities in these areas. Furthermore, the state started to recognize that when slums were demolished, some form of resettlement was needed.

In 1976 a census of huts on public lands was conducted and photo passes issued to all those found eligible according as to whether they could establish that they were living in the slum at the time of census. This was the first time that slum dwellers were given any form of security. However, none of these programs ever involved the poor in any stage of planning or implementation.

From 1980 to 1990: Land occupied by slums was given on lease to slum dwellers. Soft loans were extended to slum dwellers to take up slum up gradation works. Scheme could be implemented only on non reserved govt. land.

In the middle-eighties, the World Bank funded Bombay Urban Development Project (BUDP) came into being with two programs -- the Slum Up gradation Program (SUP) and the Low Income Group Shelter

Program (LISP). The SUP consisted of giving a thirty-year renewable lease of land to cooperative societies of slum dwellers (where the lands were not needed for public purposes), providing civic amenities on a cost-recovery basis and giving loans to upgrade people's houses. Under the LISP, the state provided subsidized land to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIG) to build their own homes in accordance with a type design. Although 85,000 families benefited from both these programs, conditions on the ground did not change significantly. The most progressive feature of SUP was the introduction of the concept of land tenure but its most retrogressive feature was that it left existing inequalities in size of holding untouched. The most positive aspect of LISP was that there was a shift in the role of the state from provider to facilitator but its most negative aspect was that it probably did not reach the really poor.

Both programs also suffered from an absence of genuine community participation. And again, the SUP could not be implemented on central government or private land.

From 1990 Till to date: New concept was evolved. The underlying land of the slums was treated as resource. Incentive FSI for constructing tenements for sale in open market was allowed. The profit generated from the sale of these tenements was to be used for cross-subsidizing the free houses to the slum dwellers. Special autonomous authority Slum Rehabilitation Authority established.

The nineties saw the state formulating two major programs for slum dwellers. The first was known as the Slum Redevelopment Scheme. This program aimed to provide enough incentives such as increasing the Floor Space Index (FSI) allowed in slum areas and the ability to transfer development rights to other areas of the city for private developers and builders to redevelop slums. The theory was that by selling the extra space in the open market, tenements for slum dwellers would be cross-subsidized and made affordable to them. But the program did not take off in any significant manner and when a new govern-

ment came to power in Maharashtra in 1995, one of its main election promises was to provide 800,000 free houses for 40,00,000 slum dwellers in the city of Mumbai. This eventually formed the basis for the current slum redevelopment policy of the city.

Issues Addressed through these policies

- Protected structure to live.
- Distribution of photo ID Election card/ ration card
- Tenure rights-ownership of dwelling units/lands
- Slum up gradation with basic infrastructures like water, electricity, sanitation etc
- Education
- Medical, health insurance, maternity benefit, pension schemes, family planning etc
- Employment opportunities within area
- Finance subsidy for informal business
- Legalization of informal activities by providing license
- Provide & promote supporting environment for earning livelihood to the street vendors.
- Health care facilities
- Advocacy for awareness programs like Right to Shelter, Right to education, Education for women, Rights of women, Hygienic living conditions, Healthcare etc.

Issue not addressed in slum policies

Green policy/Sustainable concern

Nowadays sustainability is major concern & people are getting aware of that. Government also trying to incorporate green policies with or without incentives for industries, housing sectors, real estate sectors etc. But in slum up gradation & rehabilitation program it is ignored as a policy. It is essential to include green policies in slum rehabilitation or upgradation. Many NGOs are already following it but it is not included as a policy.

Improve unhygienic conditions in sustainable manner

From ages we have history to form civilizations near natural resources like water bodies, rivers etc. on same basis we found slums also near water bodies like ponds, lakes, and storm water drains or land near railway lines etc which are ignored by government authorities most of the time. The main reason to locate near storm water drain or ponds is to fulfill their water requirement. As they don't get basic facilities like water, sanitation etc, they use these ignored recourses for sanitation purpose.

CASE STUDY

Slum networking of Indore city

Client: Indore Development Authority

Planner: Himanshu Parikh

Indore Slum Networking in Maharashtra



Reason to choose this project for case study

Slum networking is a good example of up gradation of slums in sustainable way. Slum rehabilitation/up gradation concept is not new but this project has increased opportunities of dwellers by providing network. This type of thought never came up, Connectivity of slums with storm water drains & nalas has been seen in a very different angle & perspectives. By acknowledging this network slums have given meaningful status. Nature's tool have been used to upgrade & beautify dweller's environment.

While improving conditions environmental issues are keenly studied, most of the sustainability factors like climatic performance, material technology, locally available labors & materials are

INTRODUCTION

Indore Development Authority came up with up gradation of slums. Later it was implemented as slum networking. The project was on PPP basis. Land owner was city development authority; financial partner was overseas development administration, UK. Monitoring was done by same company. NGO's were involved for advocacy, awareness programs.

- Total Area of project: 8000,000 Sqm & Riverfront areas
- Benefitting 450,000 slum dwellers
- Cost of project: 601 Million

SOURCES OF FUNDS



OBJECTIVES

- Improving sanitation & environment
- Upgrading the city's drainage system by using the network of slum settlements as a starting point.
- Linkage between city's old sewerage (only 5%) with the new piped sanitation system with proper solid waste management.
- Channeling the clean, treated water into nearby rivers.
- Providing improved road network & footpath within slum & linkage with city road system.
- Providing a clear, piped water supply for drinking & household use.
- Installing street lighting & landscaping along the revitalized riverfront

PERFORMANCE

These achievement in infrastructure resulted in improved houses & environment within the slums. Housing is organized & clean. People & children are healthy; the community is becoming aware of health, education & culture. Area is motivated to raise its socio economic output. Well ventilated dwelling units, plantation raised climatic performance of the area. Narrow streets kept houses cool & as they don't allow to pass vehicles kept area carbon free. Locally available materials, local workmanships were used.

Riverbank protection provided by stone pitch, earth binding plants, floral groundcovers & creepers. Maintenance was given to NGO's



Before improvement slums suffered from inadequate

Basic amenities, unhygienic conditions, unplanned layouts

Poor accessibility, dilapidated housing.



Physical improvements carried out like improved roads &

Footpaths, providing storm water drainage, sanitation &

Sewerage system, water supply, solid waste management.

Steps to be taken for successful implementation of policies

- Provide basic sanitation facilities like proper drainage system, toilets, drinking water etc
- Creating awareness about hygienic conditions & cleanliness.
- Cleaning up nala/storm water drain or water body nearby
- If slums are near water bodies , Nala/ drain, buffer

green can be developed as ecological corridor, nursery on profit sharing basis. E.g. Compost produce by organic waste can be used for plantation. Gas produce can be used for domestic purpose & maintaining ecological corridor, nursery will give employment opportunities to them. It will also help to reduce Co2 emission.

- Making them aware about preserving, maintaining water resources & benefits.
- Reducing Contamination water
- Reducing Waste
- Installing recycling units on co-operative basis. Separate recycling stations can be provide for metal scrap, papers, plastic, organic waste etc with government subsidy. Supplying recycled materials will produce income to slum Dwellers
- Reducing Co2 emission by plantation & green practices.
- Supporting informal businesses & provoke them to use green practices in it.
- (E.g. Use of organic colors instead of chemicals in dying, potteries etc)
- Creating awareness about sustainable issues
- Rain water harvesting in sustainable manner
- Use of solar energy & Bio gas
- Construction of dwelling units with locally available or recycled materials.
- Housing construction using grass, bamboo, wood, mud should be promoted by using latest technologies incorporated.
- If developer is providing dwelling units for slum dwellers green rating should be compulsory or some incentives like extra FAR, TDR or tax exemption should have provide to promote green practices.

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