



The Grass Root Causes of Growing Retarded Residential Areas and Strategy Plan for Removal Slums in Saharanpur City

KEYWORDS

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Introduction

Slums are universally the sore spot of the city morphology. Slum population shares from 10% to as high as 60% of the total population in large urban centres of India. The term 'slum' connotes an extreme condition of blight in which the housing is so unfit as to constitute a menace to the health and moral of the community. Life in slums is found worst than in prisons. It is a fact that slums cannot be eradicated overnight. A sizable population lives in the slums due to complex socio-economic reasons. These unsystematically developed and generally neglected residential areas are overcrowded with ill repaired and unhygienic houses. Slums are partly a way of life of certain class people. These are usually characterized by high density, high occupancy ratio, poor environmental condition and lack of basic services and amenities. The civic life in slums is found miserable. The petty shopkeepers, dealers in food stuffs, private servants, job seekers, milkmen, washer men, hawkers, rickshaw and cart pullers and a host of others often lead life in these areas. The servant's quarters of the well-to-do persons are also turned into slums due to the lack of necessary amenities therein.

Objective of this study

- The objective of the research work is to study the factual conditions, realities and life style of slum dwellers in Saharanpur city.
- Another objective of this study is to frame out a future planning strategy for the improvement of life in urban areas and the people of Saharanpur city slum dwellers.

Methodology of study:-

The methodology of the study is as follows:

- The general data on the slums and slums dwellers will be collected from different sources.
- A detailed survey will be carried out about slums such as physical, socio-economic, and housing condition of slums dwellers of their factual life style.
- The current and future strategies for the improvement of life in slum under different schemes will be reviewed.
- Descriptive method to describe and interpret various facts will also be adopted.

Criteria for selection of Retarded residential areas (Slums) in Saharanpur:

Saharanpur city offers a large variety of slums owing to difference in physical and legal characteristics. The slums are identified in following categories.

- The two basic categories of slums are authorized and

un-authorized slums. They are of two types i.e. first which are very old and are on parental property and second which are made on authorized after giving Putta.

- Unauthorized slums are divided into two categories. First which are old development and second which are developed recently.
- The settlement should have heterogeneity in terms of religion, caste, language and profession.

Spatial Distribution of Slums:

The lower class residential areas are scattered in different parts of Saharanpur in the form of slums. There are 56 authorized and unauthorized slums in the city. On the basis of above criteria four slums are selected for the detailed study.

(a) i. Authorized (Putta Given) - Kori Majra

ii. Authorized (Parental Property) - Khata Kheri

(b) i. Unauthorized (Old Development) - Indira Basti

ii. Unauthorized (Parental Property) - Khan Alampura

Causes of their Development and Environmental Conditions

In Saharanpur city, the various commercial activities attracted the unemployed people of country side for the jobs and as these people want to live near their working place, various household industries like wood carving industry Chaaj market, shoe and chappal market Fish market Subji Mandi, Anaj Mandi, Kabari-Bazaar meet industry have given birth to slums. The important causes which contribute towards the creation of slums in Saharanpur city could be reviewed under the following main heads.

- Migration from rural areas.
- Rapid Industrialization and transportation
- Shortage of Housing
- Substandard of Housing

Environmental Characteristics of slums:

In Saharanpur, these slums have been developed in such degraded areas like near the Dhamola and Paonchoi Rivers and on the vacant places like near Paper Mill, Cigarette Factory Ragmar Mill etc.. The various types of pollution like water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, social pollution etc. all are found in a large quantity in these slums. In Jhoppar Patti area and Bhatta colony, the ashes of paper mill are thrown away on the vacant land. The waste ash and other waste material like lime are collected near these areas due to which the huge dune has

been developed within a radius 500mtr. This Dhamola and Paondhoi river carries the whole city dirt and sewerage water due to which it gives out a very polluted sight and badly affect environment and a group of shanty houses are developed near to it, is largely affected by this polluted water Environmental characteristics of slums are following.

- Unhealthy Environment:
- Problem of Civic Amenities:
- Problem of Over Congestion
- Diseases:

Characteristics of Selected Retarded residential areas (Slums) :

Due to suitable social conditions, the population of slums is highly dense. Because of rapid growth of population the area of the slum is increasing. Before independence the growth of population and industrialization was slow. But after independence the rapid industrialization, migration of rural population, attraction of city glamour, high living standard, and coming of refugees were the main causes to increase the slums as well their population. The growth of population is rapid, because of high birth rate, poverty and lack of literacy.

Table 1 Population size of slums in Saharanpur city -2011

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Persons	No. of Slums	Total person	%
(i)	Highly Populated	4500->	08	48500	33.22
(ii)	Moderately Populated	3001-4500	14	48400	33.15
(iii)	Low Populated	1501-3000	17	33410	22.88
(iv)	Very Low Populated	01-1500	17	15650	10.72
	Total		56	145960	100

Four slums out of 56 do belong to highly populated category. These slums are

Table 2 Households in the slums

Sl. No.	Name of slum	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	No. of Persons per House
i.	Kori Majra	127	1160	9.13
ii.	Khata Kheri	397	8000	20.15
iii.	Khan Alampura	203	3500	17.24
iv.	Indira Basti	140	1800	12.85
	Total	867	14460	16.67

Sex Composition:

The sex ratio of the slum population is one of the most striking features. It also exhibits the variation in its distribution of the concerned area. There the number of females per thousand males has always been lower. There are selected slums are

Table 3 Sex Composition of population in Slums

Sl. No.	Name of Slum	Total Person	Males	Fe-males	Female/000 males
(i)	Kori Majra	316	168	148	880
(ii)	Khata Kheri	2239	1185	1054	889
(iii)	Khan Alam-pura	980	518	462	891
(iv)	Indira Basti	530	282	248	879

Age Composition:

In these four slums, the percentage of children, young person and old persons in the population of these slums is observed. The table 5 shows that the data of age composition.

Table 4 Age Composition of population percentage in slums

Age Group	Kori Majra %	Khata Kheri %	Khan Alam-pura %	Indira Basti %
0-6	15.18	17.77	18.97	22.07
6-15	17.72	19.51	17.04	20.10
15-30	24.68	22.06	20.71	22.64
30-45	21.83	21.43	24.18	16.40
45-60	14.24	13.5	13.26	12.83
60- >	6.32	5.62	5.81	5.09
Total	100	100	100	100

Literacy:

Literacy is one of the most important aspects of the composition of population. It is obvious that in a community with high literacy, there are less chances of commission of crimes and more chances for the progress of the area which are socially and economically backward.

Table 5 No. of literates and their percentage in slums

Slum	Males			Females			Total Population		
	No.	Lit.	%	No.	Lit.	%	No.	Lit.	%
Kori Majra	168	132	78.57	148	77	52.02	316	209	66.13
Khata Kheri	1185	497	41.94	1054	237	22.48	2239	734	32.78
Khan Alampura	518	182	35.13	462	109	23.59	980	291	29.69
Indira Basti	282	107	37.94	248	62	25.00	530	169	31.88

Economic Structure of Slums

The economic characteristics of population influence its demographic attributes, like quality behavior and thinking of people. An analysis of the livelihood pattern of an area upholds its diverse economic, demographic and cultural attributes and provides background knowledge of formulating plans for its social and economical structure.

Table 6 Distribution of workers in selected slums

Sl. No.	Name of Slums	No. of Workers	Percentage
i.	Kori Majra	244	16.44
ii.	Khata Kheri	695	46.83
iii.	Khan Alampura	400	26.95
iv.	Indira Basti	145	9.77
	Total	1484	100.00

Caste and Religion:

The distribution of the people according to their religion and caste has also got its own importance. The tendency of the people to reside in the area occupied by the person of their own group is generally based on caste, religion and community. The following table shows the distribution of population in four slums as per their caste and religion..

Table 7 Caste/Religion structure of slum's population

Caste/ Religion	Kori Majra		Khata Kheri		Khan Alampura		Indira Basti	
	No. of person	%	No. of person	%	No. of person	%	No. of person	%
Muslim	04	1.27	1872	83.61	543	55.40	97	18.35
Hindu (General)	28	8.86	107	4.77	139	14.18	76	14.33
Hindu (SC/ST)	284	89.87	260	11.62	298	30.42	387	73.02
Total	316	100	2239	100	980	100	530	100

Working Population By Age and Sex:

Out of a total population of 4065, 36.50% or 1484 persons are engaged in gainful activities and the remaining 2581 persons 63.50% are dependents. It is an evidence of this assumption that these slums have more working hands, mainly males. As regards the number of male workers, the age groups of 22 to 60 years have 77.8 percent of total workers. These age groups have also the domination in female workers. These are 465 females in number, and thus are nearly 80% total female workers. In real sense, both of these age groups enable the persons to get jobs in various activities. Either these are males or females. In slums, child labour also plays an important role. In most of the families, they are the helping hands, and are economic assets. They are engaged in scrap and waste paper collection, pot clearing services. Sometimes they assist the females' workers of their families.

Occupational Structure of Workers:

The study of economic composition of slums working population remains incomplete without its reference to the occupational composition of a population. The working population in slums has been put into three sub groups' i.e.

- Primary workers including, labourers, servants, cultivators, agricultural labourers, Kabari, washer man Milkman, Rickshaw and cart puller and other primary activities.
- Secondary Workers are household and industrial workers.
- All other workers have been defined as tertiary workers, as they have the dominance of trade, transport, commerce, communication and miscellaneous services workers.

Income Pattern:

Out of total no of sample population only 36.5% are engaged in gainful economic activities. It is observed that maximum percentage of households i.e. 55% are in income group of Rs. 1001-1500/- p.m. The next income group of Rs. 501-1000/- p.m. has included 30% of total persons.

Expenditure Pattern:

It is observed that all the households spend most of their income on food, clothing and medicines. Nearly 85.0% households spend their maximum amount on housing and conveyance. 90% on recreation and 40% spend money at their native places. Moreover 70-80% of their income is spent on food, 10-12% on the clothing and medicine, 6-10% on the housing and conveyance 2-4% in recreation and only 2-4% of their income is sent home.

Indebtedness:

They borrow the money from the private money lenders. The main causes of their indebtedness are illness occasion of marriage of their wards, repair work of their houses, to purchase any big item. It is also observed that their bad

habits like drug addiction have brought them under heavy indebtedness. The high rate of interest on the borrowed money never keeps them free from this financial burden.

Slum-Clearance and Their Eradication Some Measures:

It is often told that the cities are the aesthetic theatre of the economic, social and cultural activities of mankind. It is essential to create a healthy and spacious stage well served with necessary amenities for the activities of progressive mankind. The rapidly increasing pace of blight and slum area is creating a major challenge to the conscious and civic thinkers. The object today is to face the challenge created by slums and blighted area which are continuously undermining the foundations of civic living by the increase of crime, nuisance, unhealthy atmosphere and degenerated morals. The ultimate objective of Urban planning is to make a healthy physical atmosphere for the future generations to come. The following major steps may be suggested for slum clearance and urban renewal.

a. City Development Plan Policies:

In Saharanpur development plan four pronged approach is proposed for prevention, improvement, clearance and rehabilitation of slums:-

- Modification in building by laws, formation of zoning regulations and strict enforcement of the same.
- Development of land specifically for economically weaker section in advance so that at least house sites and services within reasonable cost are made available to the poor migrants.
- Environmental improvement and provision of services and amenities so as to improve living conditions of slum areas.
- Clearance of slums and rehabilitation of the same at new sites.

b. Priorities for Improvement in Existing Housing:

All the households, who denied to shift from existing sites, disclosed their priorities for improvement of Jhuggies settlements as below:

- At Jhuggi level, the household of unauthorized slums desired space expansion as first priority, then material improvement and structural improvement as last priority. Whereas the households of authorized slums wanted material improvement as first priority, structural improvement. As second and their last priority was for space expansion.
- For improvements at settlement level, unauthorized slum dwellers wanted water supply as the first priority, approach roads as the last priority. The sequence in which they wanted to improve their settlements were water taps, drainage, waste disposal and then the approach roads. Whereas in the authorized slums they wanted approach roads first and gave last priority for waste disposal. The sequence in which they wanted to improve their settlements were approach roads, private water taps, drainage and

then waste disposal.

c. Strategy Plan for improvement in slums:

The planning strategy for improvement of life in urban slums must include the following elements.

- Recognizing the problem in wider context and establishing the realistic goals and objectives.
- Securing political commitments at every level.
- Making financial resources available.
- Taking care of necessary institutional measures.
- Handling technological and structural problems.
- Selecting and developing appropriate techniques.

d. Policies for Improving the Existing Slums:

- Policy of affordability: Policy of improving shelters and shelter infra structure should be carried out under minimum need programme in stages with priority of slum dwellers to those items which they can economically afford in the frame work of their life style.
- Policy of identifying the slum settlement for improvement: To utilize funds and resources optimally under the policy priority should be given to those settlements for selection where living conditions are worst. Once slums are selected for improvement time bound action programme should be initiated.
- Policy for providing technical knowledge to slum dwellers: Under this policy provisions should be made for improvement of their shelter and infrastructure with minimum cost and maximum efficiency.
- Policy of introducing low cost technology with community participation: Under this policy provision should be made for self help and innovative technologies for improving shelter and shelter infrastructure of slum dwellers.
- Policy of the optimum use of land, shelter and infrastructure in combination with access to work: Under this policy stress should be given on education and social facilities for overall improvement of life of the slum dwellers.
- Policy of socio-economic upliftment of slum dwellers: Under this policy all slum dwellers should be considered for continuation of housing security.

- Policy of improving slums in rural urban environment: As most of the slum dwellers are from rural areas, programmes for improving their life must have rural-urban orientation.
- Policy of providing training to slum dwellers for urban living: Under this policy for socio-economic upliftment of slum dwellers at community level, awareness for pollution free environment is essential.
- Policy of subsidy: Under this policy rate of interest should be minimum and for longer return period.
- Policy of interest free loans to employees from employers: Under this policy employees should be entitled for having interest free loans to improve their shelters and shelter infrastructure.
- Policy of evolving standard for slum improvement: This policy will reduce the burden on public funds and resources and help the slum dwellers for their intimate involvement in their shelter construction and improvement.
- Policy for planning and development of area: This policy will also help the slum dwellers in improving their shelters and shelter infrastructure by using local and scrap materials.

Conclusions:

Slums are inevitable in the context of urban development which is essential for the overall socio economic development of the country. Hence, the concept of removing the slums, especially when funds and resources are limited, should go way. We should have now the concept of improving slums only.

The experience of polices and action programmes, so far implemented, indicate that if they are successful at one place, need not necessary be successful at other places. It means that there is no universal strategy of policy framework and action programmes which can be applied even where to solve the problem of slum dwellers. The problem rather requires deep studies at local level and strategy treatment accordingly.

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