



## Analysis of Housing Condition of West Bengal Based on 2011 Census Data

### KEYWORDS

Urbanization, Migration, Slum

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**ABSTRACT** *Rapid and non inclusive patterns of urbanization catalyzed by increasing rural migration to urban areas causes the proliferation of slums. The aim of the present paper is to highlight the housing condition of slum households in West Bengal based on 2011 Census data. The study is based on secondary source of data collected from Housing Stock, Amenities and assets in Slum, Census 2011. The study reveals that most of the slum households in West Bengal is permanent in nature. Maximum slum households have concrete roof and floor. Burnt brick is the predominant material of wall of slum households. Slum household are mostly used for residential purpose and almost 50% households are in good condition. Maximum slum households are owned and near about 50% slum households have one dwelling room. Therefore, Central and West Bengal Government are trying to provide affordable housing to slum dwellers for the upgradation of their quality of life. So, they have framed different policies and also programmes like IHSDP under JNNNURM, Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana (RAY), Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana etc for the slum dwellers.*

### INTRODUCTION:

The phenomenon of increased urbanization in India is facing one of its foremost challenges of economic opportunity and growth. The centre of poverty is gradually shifting towards the urban centers and this situation is further worsened by already high population densities, poor infrastructure and a general lack of effective housing policy. Rapid and non inclusive patterns of urbanization catalyzed by increasing rural migration to urban areas causes proliferations of slums. Census of India have defined slums as a compact area of atleast 300 population or about 60-70 households on poorly built congested tenements in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitation and drinking water facilities. According to Smith (1973), "The housing is one of the three basic needs of human beings, but it is still beyond the access of the disadvantaged section of the society." According to Census, "Household is usually a group of persons who normally live together and take their meals from a common kitchen unless the exigencies of work prevent any of them from doing so. Each person should be treated as a separated household." In India availability of proper and healthy housing condition of slum dwellers is a great problem due to poverty, unemployment, low income, costly land and building materials etc. A total of 13749424 households have been enumerated in slums of 2543 statutory towns in India.

### OBJECTIVES:

The main thrust of the present study is to analyze the housing conditions of slum households in West Bengal based on 2011 Census data.

### DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

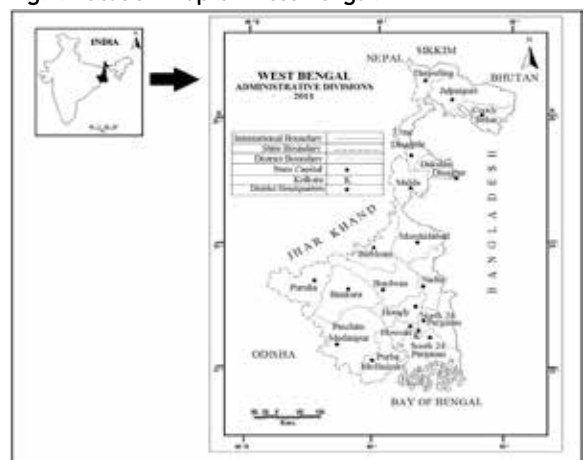
The study is based on secondary source of data collected from Housing Stock, Amenities and Assets in Slum-Census 2011. With the help of simple percentage calculation the analysis has been done. Maps and diagrams are given where it is required.

### THE STUDY AREA:

West Bengal is a state of East India and is the nation's fourth

most populous state, with over 91 million inhabitants. It is bordered by the countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim and Assam. Together with the neighboring nation of Bangladesh and parts of the state Tripura, it makes up the Ethno-linguistic region of Bengal. According to 2011 Census, there are 19 districts in West Bengal. The total population of West Bengal according to 2011 Census is 91,347,736 (7.55%). The growth rate of West Bengal from (2001-2011) is 13.99%. The sex ratio is 947. The population density is 1029/sq.km. The literacy rate is 77.08%. Out of total population, percentage of rural and urban population is 68.11% and 31.89% respectively according to 2011 Census. A total of 1393319 slum households are recorded in slums of 122 towns with 6418594 slum population in West Bengal.

**Fig.1: Location map of West Bengal.**



### ANALYSIS OF HOUSING CONDITIONS OF WEST BENGAL SLUM HOUSEHOLDS' FROM CENSUS 2011:

#### From the analysis following facts are observed:

There are 1393319 slum households in West Bengal. Out of which 78.97% are permanent in nature, 17.70% are semi permanent, 2.75% are temporary in nature and rest 0.58% are unclassifiable.

97.15% slum households are used for residence purpose and rest 2.85% are used for residence cum other use. Out of total slum households in West Bengal, 50.60% are good, 42.14% are livable and 7.26% are in dilapidated condition.

There are three types of ownership status of slum households in West Bengal where 69.85% are owned, 25.35% are rented and 4.80% are in other forms. The table no-1 shows that in this state, slum households have number of dwelling rooms. 48.66% households have one dwelling room, 29.42% have two dwelling rooms. 10.80%, 4.66%, 1.28%, 1.70% and 3.48% households have three, four, five, six or above and non exclusive dwelling room facility respectively.

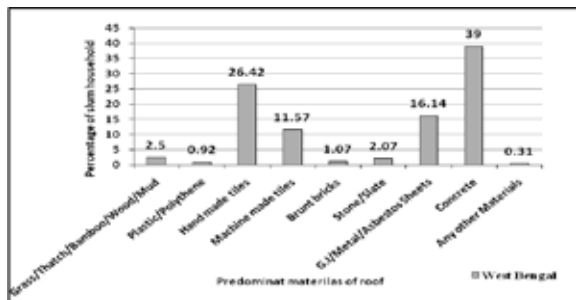
**Table-1 Percentage share of slum households having number of dwelling rooms.**

State	Distribution of Slum households having number of dwelling rooms						
	Non-exclusive rooms	One room	Two rooms	Three rooms	Four rooms	Five rooms	Six rooms
West Bengal	3.48	48.66	29.42	10.8	4.66	1.28	1.7

**Source: Housing Stock, Amenities and Assets in Slum, Census 2011.**

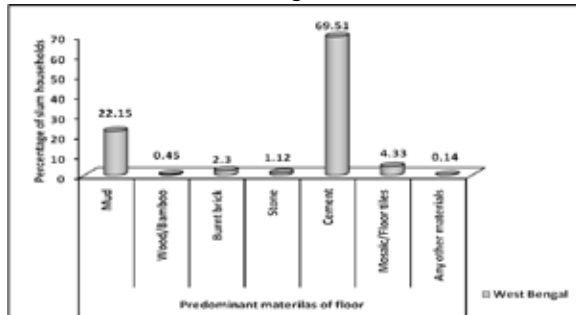
From the figure no-2, we can see that 39% households have concrete roof, 26.42% households' roofs are built by handmade tiles. Grass Plastic, brick etc are also used as roof building materials.

**Fig.2: Distribution of slum households by predominant materials of roof, West Bengal (2011).**



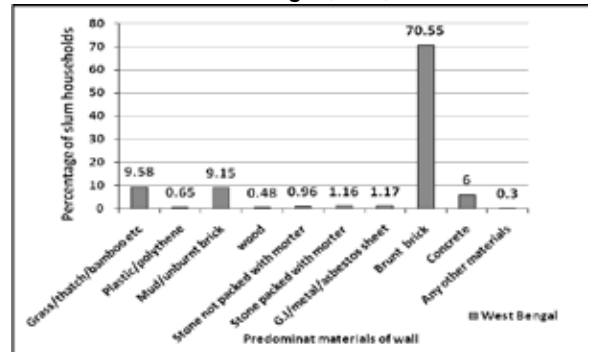
The figure no-3 shows that cement is the predominant material to build the floor of slum households (69.51%). 22.15% slum households have mud floor. Stone, wood or bamboo, burnt brick, floor tiles etc are also used as the predominant materials of floor respectively

**Fig.3: Distribution of slum households by predominant materials of floor, West Bengal (2011).**



The figure no-4 shows that burnt brick was mostly used to built walls in 70.55% of slum households. Grass, thatch, bamboo, mud, wood, stone, asbestos, and cement etc are also used for the construction for the wall.

**Fig.4: Distribution of slum households by predominant materials of wall, West Bengal (2011).**



**CONCLUSION:**

Houselessness or poor quality housing condition in slum areas is a growing major problem both in India as well as West Bengal due to poverty, unemployment, low income, costly land and building materials etc. Therefore, Central and West Bengal Government are trying to provide affordable housing to the slum dwellers for the upgradation of their quality of life. So, they have framed different policies and programmes like ISHDP under JNNURM, RAY, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana etc for the slum dwellers.

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