



SLUMS AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES - A STUDY OF BELAGAVI CITY IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT This article aims to study the concept of slums and urban poverty in implementation poverty alleviation programmes. In spite of Belagavi's prominent in the economy of the region, urban population and especially the urban poor face serious problems due to population pressure. Hence, this paper tries to ascertain the approach of previous housing programmes VAMBAY and IHSDP and the present ongoing programme Rajeev Awas Yojana(RAY) introduced and implemented for the urban slum dwellers.

KEYWORDS : Slums, Urban poverty, RAY

Introduction

The developing countries like India presently suffer from the enormous growth of urbanization, and similarly the urbanized India carried the problem of urban poverty. Urban poverty is the poverty of the residents of urban area living with lack of basic amenities for several decades, and it manifests in the form of inadequate provision of housing and shelter with all basic amenities. Due to increase in urban poor population the capacity of the cities and towns to assimilate them by providing access to land and basic amenities etc, are limited, and hence these people are attracted by the urban areas that are outside the governance of urban local body. As these areas did not fall within the purview of municipal laws, they are suffering from overcrowding, faulty arrangement of design building, narrowness of streets, sanitation facilities, lack of road connectivity, electricity, drinking water supply and so on. Therefore, the areas with these characters are said to be the slums in urban India. Thus the urbanized India similarly carried the problem of slums.

The word "slum" is often used to describe informal settlements within cities that have inadequate housing and miserable living conditions. They are often overcrowded, with many people crammed into very small living spaces. Slums are not a new phenomenon. They have been a part of the history of almost all cities, particularly during the phase of urbanization and industrialization. Slums are generally the only type of settlement affordable and accessible to the poor in cities, where competition for land and profits is intense. The main reason for slum proliferation is rapid and non inclusive patterns of Urbanization catalyzed by increasing rural migration to urban areas (Slums in India, A Statistical Compendium-2015). Since, slums are affordable and easily accessible to the poor living below poverty line in the city, most of urban poor living below poverty line is settled in urban slums. Hence, the urban poverty can be said as the poverty of urban slum dwellers.

Objectives

1. To examine the nature and extent of notified slums in the city
2. To see the policy initiatives by the Government.

Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary data published by the Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) Belagavi, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India.

Slums in the city – an existing Scenario

The living conditions in slums represent the pathetic conditions of urban poor. Individuals and communities living in slums face serious challenges in their efforts to survive. Severe inadequacies in access to water, sanitation, shelter, health and education has deprived slum dwellers of some of the most basic amenities. With the increase of population of the city, housing needs grew, which could not be met out by the formal housing market. Migrate population, which could not avail the facilities of suitable housing and lack of monetary support were forced to satisfy their needs by occupying vacant lands and due to poor economic conditions who can neither pay rent for proper housing

nor can afford to buy a house, has resulted in formation of slums and more number of squatter settlements.

Belgaum City has a total number of 51 slums, wherein 39 are notified and 12 are non-notified slums. Of these notified slums, 24 slums are built on lands under private, and 5 of them are on the lands belonging to the government, whereas 2 slums are on Government/Private lands. Besides, 3 slums are on the land owned by KSDB, 4 slums are built on the lands under Urban Local Body, whereas 1 slum area is falling under Gavtan of Majagon village within municipal area of the city. The total population of notified slum in the city as per census 2001 was 29,194 with 5,653 households. Of these 14,889 are male and 14,305 are female. These slums have 25.93% SCs, 2.27% STs and 71.79% others. However, a draft of plan of action prepared for implementation of RAY programme in the year 2010, reveals that, of 51 slums in the city 62% of slums are built on lands under Private, over 70% of the slums have been into existence for more than 30 years in the city. Around 4% slums are located along the major road network; 8% along railway lines and 4% along the nallahs and water bodies, thereby vulnerable to disasters/flooding.

Policy Initiatives by the Government

The Government of India in order to improve the standard of living of these slum dwellers implemented VAMBAY and IHSDP housing programmes with a view ameliorating the condition of urban slum dwellers living below poverty line that do not possess adequate shelter and also with the primary objective to facilitate the construction and up gradation of the dwelling units. Since these programmes suffered from narrowly sectoral and fragmented approach, the new scheme RAY is introduced and is in implementation process.

The main focus of RAY scheme is an integrated approach aimed at bringing within the formal system those who are forced to live in extra-formal spaces and in denial of right to services and amenities available to those with legal title to city spaces, and at correcting the deficiencies of the formal system of urban development and town planning that have failed to create conditions of inclusiveness and equity so that henceforth new urban families whether by way of migration or natural growth of population have recourse to housing with municipal services and are not forced to create encroachments and slums and live extralegal lives in conditions of deprivation of rights and amenities. RAY scheme provides the support to enable states to redevelop all existing slums in a holistic and integrated way and to create new affordable housing stock.

The choice of cities for this RAY programme is left to the respective states according to their aspirations and financial and resources arrangements in consultation with the Centre. However priority is required to be accorded by all states to town with large number of people living in slums so that the goal of RAY to achieve the status of Slum-free State/Country is attained in the shortest time span. The states are given with sufficient flexibility to decide the pace of implementation and modules for arranging land, resources, housing, and partnership with the incentive of central support. While doing so

the approach of “Whole City”, “All Slums”, is required to be adopted, rather than a piecemeal, isolated approach, to ensure that all slums within a city whether notified or non-notified, in small clusters or large on any land are covered.

This RAY program has been implemented all over India in selected cities based on the plan of action reports submitted during preparatory stage. Among the cities selected, states are required to include all the mission cities of JNNURM so as to complete the process begun preferably cities with more than 3 lakh population as per 2001 census. However priority should be accorded by all states to towns with larger number of people living in slums so as to achieve the goal of RAY.

The Karnataka state is implementing this programme based on the requirement in the identified slum areas and undertaken construction work of Dwelling Units either by relocation or slum or in situ development i.e. upgradation of existing DUs or through construction of new buildings in G+3 model. The KSDB Belagavi so far selected in all 7 slums areas for implementation of this programme for construction work of 1044 dwelling units. Since this programme is till 2022 the states may select some more cities and urban slums to bring under this programme in future. In the meantime, the new scheme called Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Housing For All (Urban) (PMAY-HFA) 2016 has been introduced, subsuming the existing programme RAY, because the objective of PMAY-HFA is the housing for all including slum dwellers in urban India by 2022. Thus the RAY programme is discontinued as a submission of JNNURM from 1st April 2017, and continued to be a submission of PMAY-HFA and is in progress till 2022 (Govt. of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Annual Report 2016-17).

Conclusion

The housing programmes VAMBAY and IHSDP though had sectoral and fragmented approach they have played their vital role in improving the standard of living of the slum dwellers with certain limitation. Accordingly, the scheme RAY is designed to achieve the goal of slum free city in India so that every urban slum dweller is benefited. The projects for construction of G+3 model houses under RAY itself shows that, the scheme intended to provide houses for all within the available land.

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