



Urban Poverty in India

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ABSTRACT

The urban population of the country turn up at such a high rate due to, migration of population to urban areas, inclusion of new areas under urban, and due to natural increase in urban population. Economic development and urbanization are closely connected. In India, cities contribute over 55 % to country's GDP and urbanization has been recognized as an important component of economic growth. The Country has witnessed around 8% growth in GDP in the last couple of years and has planned to achieve a target of over 9% growth by the end of 11th plan period. India's urban population is also increasing at a faster rate than its total population. With India becoming increasingly globalized and urban, there is also an increase in the number of poor people and expansion of urban poverty.

Keywords : Economic development, Poverty, Urbanization, Urban Population

INTRODUCTION:

The urban population of the country turn up at such a high rate due to, migration of population to urban areas, inclusion of new areas under urban, and due to natural increase in urban population. Economic development and urbanization are closely connected. In India, cities contribute over 55 % to country's GDP and urbanization has been recognized as an important component of economic growth. The Country has witnessed around 8% growth in GDP in the last couple of years and has planned to achieve a target of over 9% growth by the end of 11th plan period. India's urban population is also increasing at a faster rate than its total population. With India becoming increasingly globalized and urban, there is also an increase in the number of poor people.

In the table No 1 reveals that in 1951, total population was 36.11 crores and urban population 6.24 crores (17.3%) but in 2011 estimated census total population is 121.02 and urban population is 37.71 crores (31.16). As increase in urban population from 1951 to 2011, we can see increase in total number of cities and towns.

Note: The 1981 census could not be held in Assam. The population figures have been worked out by interpolation

The 1991 census was not held in Jammu & Kashmir. The population figures includes the population for J&K as projected by the standing committee of experts on population projection (October, 1989)

Source: 1991, 2001 and 2011 census of India

URBAN POVERTY IN INDIA:

The expansion of urban poverty poses the problems of housing and shelter, health, sanitation water, education, social security and livelihoods along with special needs of vulnerable groups like women, children and aged people. Poor people live in slums which are overcrowded, often polluted and lack basic civic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation and health facilities. With the growing poverty and slums, Indian cities have been grappling with the challenges of making the cities sustainable. The sustainability of urban development in India is seen in the context of shelter and slums, Basic urban services, Financing urban development and Governance and Planning. India has entered the Eleventh Plan period with an impressive record of economic growth. However, the incidence of decline of urban poverty has not accelerated with GDP growth. The statistics reveals that a slow but constant Urbanization of Poverty between 1983 and 2004-05, the incidence of poverty in India's urban population fell from 42.3 percent to 25.8 percent. This rate of decline in urban areas was broadly in line with the drop in the incidence of poverty from 46.5 percent to 28.1 percent recorded in rural areas during the same period. Similarly, as was also seen in rural areas, there is no evidence that the reduction of urban poverty accelerated between 1993-94 and 2004-05, compared to the preceding decade. Urban poverty fell seven percentage points between 1993-94 and 2004-05, a decline of 21 percent over the period. Between 1983 and 1993-94, urban poverty had fallen 9.5 points, a decline of 22 percent. The rate of poverty decline in urban areas thus remained roughly constant over the two

Table 1: Growth trend of urban population in India

Year	Total on (including Assam & J&K)		Urban Population (including Assam & J&K)			Total No. of Cities & Towns (excluding J&K from 1951 to 1981 & Assam for 1981)
	Total Population (in Crores)	Decadal Growth (%)	Urban Population (in crores)	Decadal Growth (%)	Urban Population (%)	
1951	36.11		6.24		17.3	3035
1961	43.92	21.6	7.89	26.4	18.0	2651
1971	54.81	24.8	10.91	38.3	19.9	3081
1981	68.33	24.7	15.95	46.2	23.3	3891
1991	84.63	23.9	21.76	36.4	25.7	4615
2001	102.86	21.5	28.61	31.5	27.8	5161
2011	121.02	17.6	37.71	31.8	31.16	7935

decades. Considering other summary measures of poverty, such as the poverty gap and the squared poverty gap, the overall picture on poverty trends remains unchanged. More striking, however, is that by 2004–05 these more distribution-sensitive measures of poverty suggest that urban poverty had come to exceed rural poverty. The poverty gap measure for 2004–05 takes a value of 5.9 for urban India, versus 5.5 in rural areas. Similarly the squared poverty gap measure takes a value of 2.0 in urban areas relative to 1.6 in rural.

The food aspect of poverty reduction is clearly relevant because Tendulkar was criticized for delinking poverty from calories. And, indeed, per capita calorie intake fell and, the population consuming less than the calorie norm rose between 2004–05 and 2009–10, despite the significant fall in measured consumption poverty. Perhaps even more interesting is that the poverty estimates for 2009–10 using the earlier Lakdawala method (24.2% rural and 23.5% urban with free meals included and 26.1% rural and 24% urban excluding free meals) show a much smaller reduction from the corresponding 2004–05 estimates (28.3% rural and 25.7% urban). This happened almost entirely because food prices rose much more than non-food prices and the Lakdawala food weights from 1973 are much higher than the Tendulkar weights based on present consumption patterns (EPW:2012). The number of people living below poverty is estimated at 217 million in rural areas and 52 million in urban areas in 2011–12 against 326 million and 81 million respectively in 2004–05 (The Hindu, Business Line:2013).

URBAN POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES:

Urban poverty will become a major challenge for policymakers in our country as the urban population in the country is growing, so is urban poverty. Therefore, a need has arisen to develop new poverty reduction tools and approaches to attack the multi-dimensional issues of urban poverty. For this, policymakers at the national and local levels should have a good understanding of the nature of urban poverty as well as accurate data on various issues relating to it, in order to

develop programme & policies to manage urban poverty in a systematic manner. India Urban Poverty Report using human development framework provides a good insight on various issues of urban poverty such as basic services to urban poor, migration, urban economy and livelihoods, micro finance for urban poor, education and health, unorganized sector and livelihoods.

To reduce the urban poverty in India Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) playing important role, 3,63,794 people benefitted by this scheme. The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched by the Government of India on 1 December 1997 to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed by encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. This scheme subsumed the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes and was also revamped with effect from April 2009 to include the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP), Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP), Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEPUP), Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP), and Urban Community Development Network (UCDN). The annual budgetary provision for the SJSRY for the year 2011–12 is 813.00 crore and 676.80 crore has been released by 16 February 2012. A total of 3,63,794 beneficiaries have been assisted in the year 2011–12.

CONCLUSION:

Urban poverty will become a key aspect for policymakers in our country as the urban population in the country is growing, so is urban poverty. Therefore, a need has arisen to develop new poverty reduction tools and approaches to hit the multi-dimensional issues of urban poverty. For this, policymakers at the national and local levels should have a good understanding of the nature of urban poverty as well as clear-cut data on various issues relating to it, in order to develop programme & policies to manage urban poverty in a systematic manner.

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