



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Education**

**An Overview of Infrastructure in Slums of Jalandhar City**

**KEY WORDS:** Slum

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**ABSTRACT**

The present piece of research explores the growth of slums in Jalandhar city of Punjab. Paper discusses reasons for the proliferation of slums in Punjab in general and Jalandhar in specific. Migration of people from rural areas to the city for employment and better quality of life, poverty of migrants, poor planning mechanism to provide housing to the urban poor, arbitrary laws such as rent controls and exclusionary planning practices are responsible for the growth of slums. Due to these reasons the quality of life of slum dwellers is very poor on account of total absence or insufficient quantity of both physical and social infrastructure. Lack of access to water supply, sewerage system, paved roads, street lights along with absence of social infrastructure leaves the urban poor vulnerable to physical environment, social and economic circumstances. Status of provision of physical and social infrastructure in slums of Jalandhar is insufficient which forces quarter of the total citizens to live in poverty, dirt and squalor.

**1. Introduction**

A slum is a compact area of at least 300 populations or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. (COI, 2001) That portion of city where the quality of life is very poor because of dilapidated buildings, overcrowding, faulty design, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities or a combination of any of these factors is a slum. (S.K. Kulshrestha) UN –Habitat defines a slum household as a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following: durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions, sufficient living space which means not more than three people sharing the same room, easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts at an affordable price, access to adequate sanitation in the form of a private or public toilet shared by a reasonable number of people, security of tenure that prevents forced evictions.

**2. An overview of slums in Punjab**

Urban population in Punjab have reached over ten million in 2011, with two cities- Amritsar and Ludhiana figuring in the million plus cities. It is expected that Jalandhar will also have a million plus population by next a few years. Punjab has the highest per capita income in the country, despite that; one fourth of the urban population in the state resides in slums. The slum count is likely to be more if we follow the definition of slums as given by NSSO. While considering the criteria of UN-Habitat to delineate slums the number may be too big to imagine. So the number of slums is more than what the official data suggest as list of slums is not updated regularly by the Municipal Corporations in Punjab. Approximately 35-40% of the total urban population of Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana live in slums. Natural growth of the cities, influx of migrant population from villages and small urban settlements to large ones primarily for employment and better quality of life, inability of the government. to control prices of land and construction materials, lack of pro-poor housing policies and programmes, rent controls which discourage development of rental housing market and lack of political will are the main causes for the growth of slums in Punjab. Same reasons are largely responsible for the creation and sustenance of slums in Jalandhar as well.

**3. Slums in Jalandhar**

Jalandhar ranks high in rate of urbanisation and has the density of 598 persons per square km, as per the 1991 census. The reason for this is growing industrialization. However, Jalandhar which is acting as magnet for industrialization is also a center of growth of slums and pollution. The Jalandhar Master Plan 2031 states the following reasons for mushrooming up of slums. Presence of significant number and diverse industries operating in the city, which invite for influx of migrants from the surrounding towns/ villages to work in these industries, migration of poor people from other BIMARU states i.e. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar

Pardesh, in search of employment, high land values of both serviced and unserved land which throws the poor out of the formal housing market and pushes them on the margins of informal housing market, lack or absence of planned social housing, co-operative housing, lack of developed rental housing market which freezes vacant housing in the city, and pathetic inability of Municipal Corporation Jalandhar to shoulder the constitutional responsibility of carrying out the task of planning for the urban poor and weaker sections of the society to ensure social-economic justice.

Jalandhar has an urban population of 7, 14,077 persons comprising 1, 37,390 households. The slum population is 1, 77,557 persons comprising 34,820 households, which is 24.86% of the total urban population. Average size of the household in slum is 5.19 as compared to 5 in non-slum areas. There is dominance of male population in the slum areas. The sex ratio of population of slums is 703 females per 1000 males as most of the migrant male labourers live in slums.

While preparing the Master Plan of Jalandhar, a survey was conducted which is tabulated below. The table displays that approximately 25% of the city population i.e. approximately 1.8 lakh people lived in slums which is equal to 34,820 households. The survey highlights that water supply, paved pathways, and street lights are available in most of the slums in varied proportion. Most of the slums are located on private lands which makes the task of the Municipal Corporation Jalandhar a bit easy as most of the slum dwellers own their plots and Municipal Corporation Jalandhar needs to upgrade the existing infrastructure. Slums in Jalandhar are mainly located in unplanned areas. People living in unauthorized slums face relatively severe hardships as they face most of the deprivations. Many studies conclude that people living in slums especially unauthorised ones pay more to access to physical infrastructure such as electricity and water supply as compared to slum dwellers living in authorised slums.

**Table 1: Survey of Slums of Jalandhar city (Year 2007)**

Sr. No.	Description	Number
1.	Total No. of Slums	97
2.	Authorized	73
3.	Un-authorized	25
4.	Total Population	177557
5.	Approx. Households	34820
6.	Water supply	44+6 Partial
7.	Sewer	42+5 Partial
8.	Storm Water Drainage	Nil
9.	Public/Baths	1
10.	Toilets	1
11.	Existing Lanes Paved/Roads	43+14 Partial
12.	Street Lights	42+23 Partial
13.	Community centers	9
14.	Crèches	24

15.	Dispensaries	28
16.	Non-formal Education Centers	Nil
17.	Primary Schools	40
18.	Parks	10
19.	Established	22

**Source: Master Plan Jalandhar, 2013**

Though people themselves have built permanent houses on the basis of self-help housing yet Municipal Corporation Jalandhar could not provide basic civic amenities at acceptable standards. 48% of the slums do not have access to water supply. In 55% of the slums there is no provision of sewerage system and there is absence of storm water drains in the slums in totality. Only 60% have provision of street lights. This paucity of basic human needs ends in forcing people to live in unhygienic poor conditions. So, slums of Jalandhar lack full coverage of physical infrastructure quantitatively which speaks volumes of the financial, administrative and planning capabilities of the MC Jalandhar.

The status of social infrastructure is also lacking in the slums in Jalandhar as merely 9% of the slums have community centers whereas only 38% of the slums have primary schools leading to lower levels of literacy amongst slum dwellers. 30% of the slums have a dispensary making the slum dwellers vulnerable to health hazards.

It is also noted that in a large number of slums in Jalandhar, people have built permanent houses with their own initiative. However the infrastructural facilities are to be provided at an acceptable standard. Approximately 25% of the slums are listed as 'unauthorized'. Some of these may have to be relocated at alternative sites or re-planned at the same sites.

**Existing Civic facilities in Slums of Jalandhar**

**Table 2: Existing Civic facilities in Slums**

Sr. No.	Facilities	% of slums
1.	Water supply	52% of slums
2.	Sewerage	45% of slums
3.	Paved roads	60% of slums
4.	Street lights	66% of slums
5.	Storm water drains	Nil
6.	Community centers	9% of slums
7.	Primary schools	38% of slums
8.	Dispensary	30% of slums

**Source: Master Plan Jalandhar (2031)**

**4. Conclusions**

Jalandhar is one of the most urbanised cities of Punjab and slums coupled with poverty are major challenges to the policy makers, economy planners and city planners. Slums are concentrated mostly in those parts of the city where extreme poverty rules and where there is dearth of adequate livelihood options. A constant stream of migration continues and necessitates squatting in the form of encroachment on public and private land by the urban poor. It is an easy option for the slum dwellers to squat and encroach as he is thrown out of the housing market due to high land speculation even after working for years in the city. As formal housing market does not provide affordable housing options therefore the poor resorts to informal affordable options obviously in the un-serviced, unplanned areas of the city which forces the poor to live in unhygienic poor conditions. Therefore firstly proper survey of the urban poor and slums must be carried out by the urban local body to have a strong base for decision making. Master plan must be strictly implemented to ensure that its objectives of including the poor are met with. Municipal Corporation Jalandhar must ensure the slum development and poverty alleviation by strengthening its resource base and capacity building. A strong institutional mechanism is required for improving planning and local governance in the city. This will also help in protecting the interest of underprivileged sections. Most of the deficiencies in implementation of up gradation of slums' programmes in Punjab in general and Jalandhar in particular are due to weak functional and fiscal base of municipalities. The improvement of slums

though is joint responsibility of Government of India as well as state governments yet it cannot be done without efficient working of the MC Jalandhar. But unfortunately they have been unable to play the effective role in up gradation of slums due to variety of reasons as stated above.

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