IMPROVING THE SLUM CONDITIONS IN HYDERABAD AREA

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Abstract

The present study, part of a larger project, is an overview of the various studies on slums in India including those related to Hyderabad. Making a detailed analysis of the slums of Hyderabad the study reveals that Hyderabad, in line with all other such cities, had only a few slums in the beginning and improving the slum conditions in Hyderabad. There is increase in slum areas due to impact of globalization, increase in employment opportunities in urban areas and decreased employment opportunities in villages. The rural to urban migration has resulted in increase in slum areas and large increase of slum population.

Keywords: improving the slum conditions, globalization.

Introduction

The slums have been growing rapidly in recent years, and even historic Hyderabad, which is undergoing major economic and urban growth and physical expansion, is not immune. Slum dwellers account for 33.0 percent of the city's population. The slum population grew by almost two-and-a-half times as much, or 264.0 percent, between 2001 and 2011. Due to inadequate urban planning, these slums were permitted to sprout up on previously undeveloped territory. Slums, on the other hand, migrated closer to the heart of such highly populated residential districts, which is smack dab in the midst of the city Centre, as the surrounding regions got more densely inhabited. Most of the newer slums emerged in the west, northwest, north, and northeast, all of which are on the cusp of rapidly expanding residential and industrial hubs. Slums are often located in close proximity to water bodies, even encroaching on their dry beds. They may also be found in other low-lying areas that experience frequent floods. It may surprise you to hear that many of Hyderabad's slums are located quite near to affluent residential areas and business hubs that provide vital job opportunities for the slum's occupants. The existence of areas of poverty in the midst of wealth and grandeur is, therefore, not unexpected.

The challenge of modelling, monitoring and analyzing slums

As discussed above, slums continue to persist, although many attempts have been made to curb their growth over the past several decades. Some of the main reasons identified for their continued persistence include locational choice factors, rural-to-urban migration, poor urban governance and ill-designed policies. This section will argue that in order to investigate fully these various factors more holistically, two broad but interrelated challenges must first be addressed. The first issue relates to arriving at a consensus with respect to what is a slum. Once a definition has been derived, a set of measures can then be

formulated in order to quantify the various aspects that characterize slums. Based on these measures, it is then possible to define the types and characteristics of the data required analyzing and monitoring slums. This second issue is discussed.

CITY PROFILE

Hyderabad is the capital of Andhra Pradesh, which is the fifth largest state in India, both in area and population. The urban population of the state is 20.5 million out of total population of 75.72 million, as per the provisional population tables of Census 2001. The percentage of urban population to total population in Andhra Pradesh is 27.08 per cent as against the all India average of 27.78 per cent. The share of urban to total population has increased from 9.65 per cent to 27.08 per cent during the period 1901 to 2001. In absolute figures, it has risen from 1.83 millions in 1901 to 20.5 millions in 2001.

Hyderabad is one of the only two million-plus cities in Andhra Pradesh. It became a metropolis in 1951 and joined the rank of metros in 1991 with a growth rate of 67%, higher than any other metro in the country. Hyderabad is one of the fastest growing cities in the country. Its annual growth rate of 5.34% during the period of 1981-91 is the second largest growth rate in the last decade. The growth of population was more than 50 % during 1981-91 and 27% during 1991-2001. Much of the growth was seen in neighbouring areas of MCH. The growth patterns and trends of Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration (HUA) present some interesting insights. The MCH has gradually been accommodating lesser overall population growth. Much of the population growth has taken place in the neighbouring municipalities during 1981-91, but even they could not sustain the growth in the succeeding decade.

There has been an overall moderation in the growth rate of HUA and its constituent areas, which clearly indicates that much of the growth has shifted to the areas/jurisdictions outside the HUA, which constitute a part of the proposed larger Hyderabad Metropolitan Area (HMA).

Modelling

While there have many advances with respect the collection of data and mapping of slums, little attention has been paid to modelling their growth trajectories. Modelling of urban growth has received a large amount of attention in the developed world, but little has been done with respect to modelling the growth of slums in the less developed world. Previous models such as those developed by the Chicago School are based on rigid and outdated assumptions that do not fit today's rapidly changing slums. These models further do not take into account factors such as advancement in transportation, rural-to-urban migration and the transformation in the global economy, all of which impact the growth of slums. While newer models based on post-modern theory such as social area analysis have made remarkable strides in poverty detection and characterization, they still continue to assume a static system. More adaptive approaches are therefore needed to understand better how slums grow and evolve over time.

The Challenge of Slums: Beyond Housing

According to the United Nations, approximately 50 percent of the global urban population can be classified as slum dwellers individuals who suffer from inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and other infrastructure; poor structural quality of housing; overcrowding; or insecure residential status. In the least

developed countries, estimates of slum dwellers amount to approximately 78 percent of the urban population a presence so great that middle- to high-income communities are but enclaves amidst a backdrop of poverty. Lack of access to formal employment, credit, education, and proper health care further characterize the plight of slum dwellers. As Cities Alliance aptly observes, slums result from failed policies, bad governance, corruption, inappropriate regulation, dysfunctional land markets, unresponsive financial systems, and a fundamental lack of political will (2000). Thus, while inadequate housing certainly comprises a significant facet of the slum challenge, shelter remains but one component of a larger development problem.

When couched in the larger political and economic context, it becomes clear that improving slum conditions necessitates the effort of not only governments, but also community members, entrepreneurs, and slum dwellers themselves. The past 50-plus years of housing development in emerging markets has demonstrated the shortcomings of both the public and private sectors in providing affordable, scalable solutions to slum problems, especially solutions that truly target the demographic group in greatest need. This history is littered with public sector corruption, inefficiency, inflexibility and private sector greed, opportunism and self-interest. However, newer, innovative collaborations addressing these perceived inadequacies offer hope. Yet even these gross overgeneralizations of past shortcomings do not adequately capture the barriers to slum improvement.

Slum upgrading efforts, especially in attempts to bring projects to scale, typically hinge upon fundamental development issues: land tenure, financing mechanisms, existing land regulations, as well as political will and community participation. Successfully engaging the private sector, especially in the form of partnerships, depends upon the status and existence of these factors.

The emergence of network partnerships underscores a larger cultural paradigm shift, recognizing that neither the government nor the private sector in some instances even together adequately addresses social conditions. The multifaceted nature of communities, whether slums, suburbs, or cities, are much more nuanced than simply governance and finance, which the public and private sectors respectively represent. Integration of a third sector, comprised of NGOs, CBOS, and community representatives, introduces an element of humanity that can easily be overlooked by the strict instrumentality of the two conventional actors.

Network Partnerships in Slum Improvement Interventions

The following section highlights the case of Hyderabad, India. This specific case does not cover the multitude of slums and their variations, but it offers insight to how a network partnership can help address the challenging task of improving slum conditions. The emerged as a commercial stronghold during 19th century, and now possesses a diversified economy, ranging from textiles to telecommunications. Since its founding, the city has attracted many migrant workers from other areas of the Telangana State, where Hyderabad is located. The city's attractive economy for underpaid workers, consistent with the phenomenon of urbanization more generally, contributes to the high presence of slums. After all, slums are typically a

function of inadequate housing markets, when the formal sector cannot adequately meet housing demand, resulting in the creation of informal settlements.

India's new focus on economic liberalization and on decentralization has posed significant additional challenges to urban development in the country over the last decade. In particular, the country's thrust on decentralization under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act has led to a new emphasis on improved urban governance and management with a view to increasing cities' efficiency and reducing urban poverty. This is a major challenge for a country with some 433 million people living on less than US$1 a day, 36% of the total number of poor in the world. India also has some 20% of the world's out-of-school children. Out of the 290 million (28% of the population) that live in urban areas, 62 million live in slums. This represents over 21% of the urban population in India. These urban poor suffer disproportionately from adverse health impacts linked to lack of proper shelter and basic services, in particular sanitation. Conditions are particularly adverse in India's largest cities, as the top mega-cities in India (Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad) house 18% of the total slum population in the country. This emphasis on improved urban governance takes a new dimension, as the urban sector increasingly becomes an important driver of economic growth. Urban centers contribute more than 60% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which highlights their role in achieving national economic growth targets. In this context, urban infrastructure has a prominent role in the GOI's Tenth Five-Year Development Plan

(2002-07). It aims to improve urban infrastructure as critical to growth and poverty alleviation through decentralized urban local governments with strengthened capacity to deliver services. The GOI has estimated that the country needs to reach an economic growth rate of at least 8% in order to significantly reduce the incidence of poverty. For the first time, the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation (MUDPA) has designed a comprehensive Urban Development Strategy focusing on fiscal, financial, and institutional changes.

Table: Cost breakdown of the Hyderabad Slum Networking Program

COST COMPONENT	COST PER FAMILY (Rs)	ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR SHARE			
		AMC	Slum Dwellers	Arvind Mills	SAATH
Physical Development	6000	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%	0%
Physical Survey	30	100%	0%	0%	0%
Design & Consultancy	120	100%	0%	0%	0%
Community Development	1000	70%	0%	0%	3000%
Community Corpus	100		100%	0%	0%

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Table: Summary of infrastructure developed for the Hyderabad Slum

TYPE OF INFRASTRUCTURE	QUANTITY
Concrete Pathways	1 km
Sewerage	1.184 km
Main Water Supply Line	700 m
Connecting Water Supply Line	750 m
Electric Poles	18
Manholes	9
Inspection Chamgers	46
Gully Traps	181

Economic Opportunities Gained

Like socio-cultural opportunities and advantages in slum areas, there are many types of economic opportunities. They include financial assistance to start self-employment, no taxes or lower taxes, more social welfare schemes, etc. The information collected on the economic opportunities that are accessible and gained as stated by the women are disclosed as under.

Table: Economic Opportunities Gained

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Nil/ Lower Taxes	134	44.67
Free from Problems of Busy Areas	163	54.33
All Facilities at Lower Prices	86	28.67
Opportunities for Self employment	94	31.33
Advantages of More Welfare Schemes	126	42.00
Any Other	--	--
None	27	9.00
Total	300	100

Conclusion

The study reveals that Hyderabad had a lesser number of slums to start with and like all other cities of its kind. The slums have increased owing to incessant migration into the city. It has been in the post-reforms era that Hyderabad has witnessed a burgeoning number of slums. On the positive side, most of the programs studied appear to favor cash grants and loans to in-kind subsidies. This is a big improvement from the days when most developing countries (and even some developed countries) had large and expensive public housing programs. Cash grants increase consumption efficiency because they are more likely than in-kind grants to be valued at the cost of the subsidy.

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