

# URBAN POOR LIVING IN SLUMS: A CASE STUDY OF BANGALORE CITY, KARNATAKA, INDIA

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## **Abstract**

*The appearance of slums may be seen as a byproduct in the process of urbanization in a developing country like India. Cities are a part of the fundamental changes in the society leading to socio-economic development and modernization. The cities, irrespective of their size, provide possibilities of varied occupations and collective services, such as health, education, cultural, technological, commercial or industrial services and thus act as focal points of development opportunities. In spite of Raipur's prominent role in the economy of the region, urban population and especially the urban poor face serious problems due to population pressure, deterioration in the physical environment and quality of life. Eventually, the size and spread of slums in this area not only help us to identify that they are not anomalous and pathological phenomena on the urban setting but also a manifestation of urban poverty that is still predominant in the urban economy in India.*

*Keywords: slum, urbanization, development.*

## **Introduction**

The strategies and priorities for improving slums are evolving over time and new initiatives are adapted based on the experiences gained by implementing many schemes launched over previous plan periods.

The study will focus on how Government helps to enable poor urban residents to take advantage of economic opportunities by equipping them with education, skills, and good health. Government is now working on proper urban development plans together with all the major stakeholders.

The paper deals with issues like Human capital improvements, particularly requirement of basic facilities and living conditions of slums. To improve the lives of people who live in slums and informal settlements requires community empowerment, good local governance, dialogue among all stakeholders and political commitment from the State.

A slum is a compact area of overcrowded populations, poorly built congested dwelling condition, unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. Living conditions in slums have a direct impact on people's health. One of the major challenges that face urban planners globally is the proliferation of slums in urban areas and the host of health hazards that they bring along with their wake. However, the prolific spread of slums has been a rampant problem in urban areas worldwide.

The living conditions in slums are usually unhygienic and contrary to all norms of planned urban growth. Human development and improvement in the quality of life is the ultimate objective of all planning programmes leading to higher economic and social development. There exists a Very strong linkage between attaining economic prosperity and enriching the quality of life, which is reflected in the social indicators of health, longevity, literacy and environmental sustainability.

The people in slums live under the most deplorable conditions, with little access to effective social and health care services, potable water, sanitation facilities and are therefore more vulnerable to epidemics and developmental challenges.

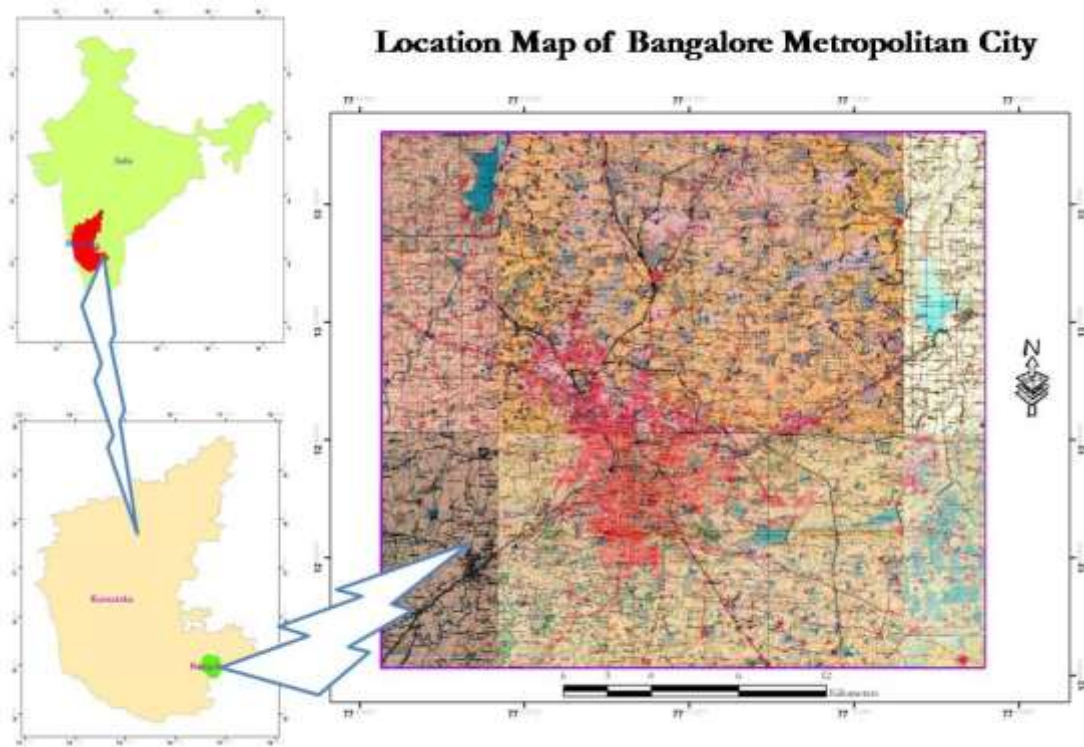


Figure 1. Location Map

Slum in Bangalore city mostly developed surrounding the city center, where more affluent citizens, who have moved to the city, have abandoned property taken over by the poor. Although the immediate environment deteriorates because of the crowding, pollution, wealthy, and middle-class families, including those who have fallen on hard times, hangs on to their properties.

Bangalore city and leading forces of development-

❖ **City Population and Economic Changes**

- Urban population is increasing rapidly
- Urban population soon numerically dominant
- Urban economic activities driving national economics
- Havoc changes in communication systems

❖ **Global Economic Factors**

- Globalization
- Market liberalization
- Rapid technological change

- Localization

### ❖ Global Political Factors

- Decentralization
- Devolution
- Rise of Governance- moving beyond government
- Rise of municipal civic leadership

In Bangalore the following reasons of growth of slums can broadly be summarized namely- • Land encroachment

- Locational incompatibility
- Unplanned development
- Unauthorized construction
- Temporary/semi-permanent structures
- Absence / inadequacy of basic amenities.

## Objectives of Study

The following objectives have been framed for the present study.

1. To examine the demographic characteristics of slum dwellers.
2. To study the health and nutrition level of slum dwellers.
3. To explore the level of general awareness among the residents of slums.
4. To identify the problems and constraints of slum development
5. To know the living conditions and basic facilities available in the slum areas.

## Methodology

The city of Bangalore has been conveniently divided into four regions: the East, the West, the North and the South. In all there are 597 slums in the city; out of which 30 slums have been randomly selected based the concentration of Slum dwellers. For the purpose of the intensive socioeconomic survey, ten household have been sampled from each slum. Thus, an all 300 samples would be consulted for the collection of primary data.

Table 1. Slum Scenario of Bangalore City

Sl. No	Description	Figures
1	No of slums	542
2	No of Declared slums	246
3	No of Undeclared slums	296
4	No of Households	321296
5	Male	698291
6	Female	688292
7	SC	522999
8	ST	270743
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>138,65,83</b>

Source: Census Report of Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bangalore

Data in table shows that there are 542 slums in Bangalore city Among the 246 are notified and the remaining 296 are non-notified slums. The total number of households in all these slums is 321, 296. The total population in these slums is 138, 65,83. Among them 698291 (50.36%) are males. The remaining 49.64% are females. In total population SC population constitute 37.72% and ST population constitute 18.95%.

### General Information of Respondents Residing in Slums

Table 2. Distribution of Slums and their population by Land Ownership in Bangalore City

Sl. No	Type of Ownership	Total No of Slums	Total Population	% of Population
1	Private	250	397416	9.27
2	BDA	82	229769	5.36
3	Govt	118	32664008	76.14
4	BBMP	79	372400	8.69
5	Railways/Others	13	22990	0.54
<b>Total</b>		<b>542</b>	<b>4286583</b>	<b>100</b>

It is clear from table 2.7 that nearly 76.14 percent of slums in Bangalore city is under the ownership of government. About 9.27 are under the ownership of private individuals. The percentage slums under the ownership of BBMP are 8.69 percent and 5.36 percent of slums under the ownership of BDA. The ownership of less than 1 percent goes to railways and others.

It can be inferred from table 3 that the slums as well as slum population in Bangalore city is gradually increasing over the years. In 1971 the slums in Bangalore city is 195 and they increased to 542 by 2011. But the population of slums in the city increased ten times during the same period of time. The growth rate of slum population during 2001- 2011 decade is higher than other decades.

**Table:3 Growth of Slums and Slum population in Bangalore City during 1971-2011**

Sl.no	Year	No of slums	Growth rate	population	Growth
1	1971	195	-	3.15	
2	1981	276	40	3.48	10.47
3	1991	401	46.88	3.65	2.85
4	2001	480	19.7	9.78	167.94
5	2011	542	12.91	13.86	41.71

Sources: Census report of Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bangalore

For this purpose a sample of respondents was selected. In all there are 597 slums in the city; out of which 30 slums have been randomly selected based the concentration of Slum dwellers. For the purpose of the intensive socio-economic survey, ten household have been sampled from each slum. Thus, an all 300 samples would be consulted for the collection of primary data.

**Age of the Respondents:** It is evident from table 5.1 that nearly 56.66 percent of respondents are in the productive age groups of 26 to 50 years. Among them 23.33 percent are in the age group of 36 to 50 years. About 27 percent of the respondents have less than 25 years. The remaining 16.33 percent of respondents' age is 51 years or above 51 years of age.

**Social Category of Respondents:** A good number of sample slum dwellers belong to either Scheduled Caste category or minority community. As many as 41 percent of the sample respondents belongs to Scheduled Caste and 17.33 percent are minorities. Backward Class respondents constitute 16.67 percent and Scheduled Tribe constitutes 13.33 percent of total sample. The remaining 11.67 percent belong to non-reserved category.

Table 4. Age Wise Distribution of Respondents

S.No	Age	No.of.Respondents	Percentage
1	Below25	81	27.00
2	26-35	70	23.33
3	36-50	100	33.33
4	51 and above	49	16.33
Total		300	100.00

Source: Field Data

Table 5. Caste Wise Distribution of Respondents

S.No	Social Category	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Others	35	11.67
2	Backward class	50	16.67
3	SC	123	41.00
4	ST	40	13.33
5	Minorities	52	17.33
Total		300	100.0

Source: Field Data

**Religion of Sample Respondents:** Majority of sample respondents are the followers of Hindu religion. Nearly 81.67 percent of sample respondents are Hindus. About 9 percent of the respondents are Muslims and 8.33 percent are Christians. The remaining 1 percent are the followers of Jainism, Sikhism etc.

Table 6. Type of House of Sample Respondents

S.No	Type of House	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Pucca	90	30.00
2	Semi Pucca	17	5.67
3	Kuccha	83	27.67
4	Thatched Huts	110	36.67
Total		300	100.00

Source: Field Data

**Type of House:** Type of house in which sample slum respondents living is given in table 5.19. Large number of slum dwellers is living in unsafe dwellings. Only 30 percent of respondents are living in safe dwellings i.e pucca houses. About 36.67 percent of respondents are living in thatched houses and 27.67 percent of respondents are living in Kuccha houses. The remaining 5.67 percent are taking shelter under semi-pucca houses.

Table:7 Number of Rooms in Sample Households

S.No	No of Rooms	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Single room	221	73.67
2	Two rooms	73	24.33
3	Three rooms	5	1.67
4	More than 3 rooms	1	0.33
Total		300	100.0

**Number of Rooms:** The number of rooms in sample households is presented in table 5.21. The data makes it clear that in large number of slum households only one room is there. In 73.67 percent of sample households have single room only. In 24.33 percent of sample households, there are 2 rooms. Nearly 1.67 percent households have three rooms. Only one household out of 300 sample households is having more than three rooms. During field survey it is learnt that this household members purchased a neighboring house from their relatives recently.

**Basic Facilities in Sample Households:** The basic facilities like electric connection, sanitary latrine and the help of government in providing them is presented in table 5.34. About 106.7 percent sample slum households were electrified and the remaining households were not electrified. Among the electrified houses 93.3 percent have taken government help and the remaining electrified by the owners of the house. About 56 percent of sample households have sanitary latrine. Among the 54.8 percent households which have sanitary latrines have taken government help and the remaining have not taken the help of government.

**Table 8. Basic facilities in the Dwellings Sample Slum Dwelling**

S.No	Electric Connection	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	268	89.33
2	No	32	10.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Govt. Assistance For Electrification</b>			
S.No	Govt. Assistance	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	250	93.3
2	No	18	6.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>268</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sanitary Latrine</b>			
S.No	Responses	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	168	56.00
2	No	91	44.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>295</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Govt. Assistance For construction of Sanitary Latrine</b>			
S.No	Govt. Assistance	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	92	54.8
2	No	76	45.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>168</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 9. Source of Drinking water of Sample Respondent Households**

S.No	Responses	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Public Tap	296	98.67
2	Own Tap	3	1.00
3	Manual Hand Pumps	1	0.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data

**Type of Latrine:** The type of lavatory using by non- sanitary latrine households is given in table 5.35. The data makes it clear that 47.25 percent of non- sanitary latrine households

utilizing public latrine and 20.88 percent utilizing Rit latrine. The remaining 31.87 percent going to open places for lavatory.

**Source of Drinking Water:** The source of drinking water for sample respondent households is presented in table 5.36. As many as 98.67 percent of sample households are depending on public tap for drinking water. Only 1 percent of households have tap connection in the house. Nearly 0.33 percent of households using manual and pump as the source of drinking water.

Table 10. Source of Fuel for cooking in Sample Households

S.No	Source of cooking	No.of. Respondents	Percentage
1	Firewood	49	16.33
2	Kerosine	221	73.67
3	LPG	30	10.00
4	Others	0	0.00
Total		300	100.0

**Cooking Fuel:** The source of cooking fuel in sample respondent households is given in table 5.44. As many as 73.67 percent of sample households are depending on kerosene for cooking. Nearly 16.33 percent households are depending on firewood for cooking. Only 10 percent of the households utilizing liquefied petroleum Gas (LPG) for cooking.

## Conclusion

The rapid growth of urban population poses serious challenges in terms of provision of basic minimum services. Slums are an outcome of an imbalance in urban growth resulting from overconcentration of economic resources in Bangalore city. The study is particularly confined to 30 slums of Bangalore city. The slum dwellers talk Kannada, Tamil and Telugu. The researcher collected data at random. Thirty questionnaires were administered in each sample slum. Nearly 90 percent of slum households are electrified and 56 percent have sanitary latrines. Large number of households has taken the help of government in electrifying their houses as well as in the construction of sanitary latrines. The major source of drinking water for slum dwellers is Public-tap. Only 1 percent of households have tap connection. Plastic cans are the major water storing utensils.

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