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Geographical Analysis of Slums: A Case Study of Venkateshwara Slum in Bangalore Metropolitan City

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Abstract

One in every people in the world will live in slums. Within 30 years unless government control unprecedented urban growth, according to a UN report. Urbanization and industrialization have led to increase slum population at rapid in India. Major cities of India like, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Mysore have experiences slums. In India, 350 million population lives in urban areas. Which constitute 30% of the population of India as per 2001 census. Generally slums are specific geographic areas that are physically and socially deteriorated, economically backward and house a floating and often marginalized people. Bangalore also has more number of slums that are spread in all the parts of the city.

Keywords: Geographical Analysis of slums

Introduction

Urbanization and industrialization have led to increase slums population at rapid rate in India. Major cities of India like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Mysore have experienced slums. Mumbai faces bitter experiences regarding slums as these are rapidly increasing in and around the city. In India, 350 million population lives in urban areas which constitute 30% of the population of India as per 2001 census. Generally slums are specific geographic areas that are physically and socially deteriorated, economically backward and house a floating and often marginalized people. Bangalore also has more number

of slums that are spread in all the parts of the city. Slums become obstacles to economical development of any region if they are not attended properly by government or private organization.

Location

Venkateshwara slum is one of the slum which is located besides the Mysore road, near the Bytarayanapura. The slum is located in Vijayanagara ward.

Slums The Global Scenario

The term slum has diverse connotations across different international context and even across different regions in a given country.

The term slum is derived from an old English word meaning “a poorly drained place” and was applied to the cheap rental housing that developed around the factories and close to the canals in the early industrial revolution in the UK. Since its first appearance during 1820 in London, Slum was also perceived as a refuge for marginal activities including crime, vice and drug abuse and a likely source for many epidemics.

Since it first appeared in 1820s the word slum has been used to identify poorest quality housing, most unsanitary conditions places for crime and drug abuse. Moreover, in developing countries, the word lacks the critical and original connotation and simply refers to lower quality or informal housing (UN-Habitat, 2003). The lack of precise definition of the concept slum contributes to the lack of effective and tailored policy response. Even though slums show some commonalities they have diverse characteristics and they are defined differently in different countries making international comparisons and global monitoring of intervention plans difficult.

Slums are becoming inevitable phenomenon of the urban fabric in the developing world. In the year 2001, it was estimated that one third of the world’s urban population or nearly 1.5 billion people, live in slum areas. Six percent of the urban populations in developed regions are slum dweller. Similarly, in developing regions and least developed countries, the figure goes up to forty three and seventy eight percent respectively. Slum areas are characterized by mainly poor quality housing, lack of access to safe water and sanitation, overcrowded living environment and insecure tenure states. Slums are formed because of a number of forces. Among these, rapid rural to urban migration, increasing urban poverty and income inequality and lack of affordable housing contribute to the creation and proliferation of slums.

The Karnataka slum clearance board denotes slum from a legal point of view i.e., people who have occupied land which they have no legal rights, while different state laws have adopted different definitions of the word slum.

Statement of the problem

Slums have grown in Bangalore city from its olden times but the magnitude of slums with issues have started when Bangalore has got its city status. Slums are more in number in intermediary and fringe of the city which has affected Bangalore city Image.

Source of Data

The primary data has been collected through questionnaire and interview method from slum dwellers of Bangalore city. The data has also been collected through GPS. Secondary data has been collected from the census of India.

• Spatial Data

- Toposheets published from survey of India

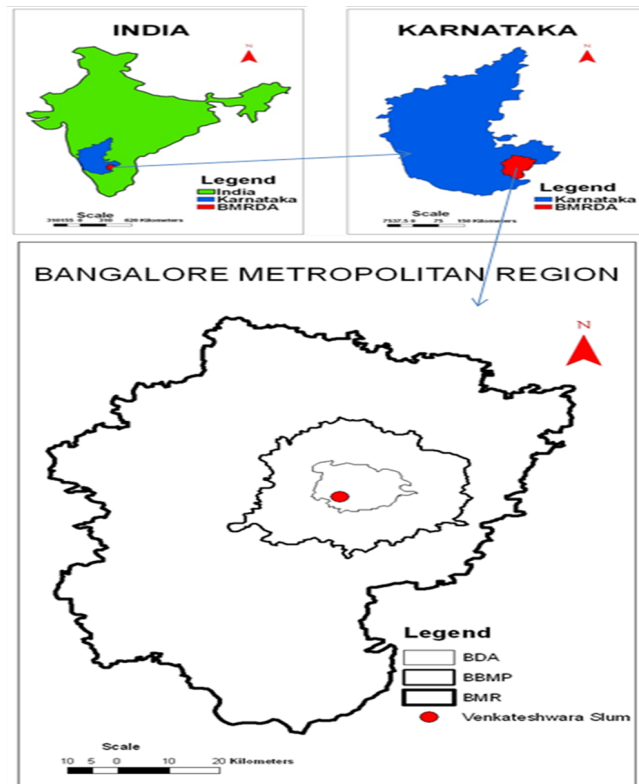


Fig. 1. Location

- GPS data for various geographical features.
- Field survey and personal observation.

• Non-Spatial Data

- Data have collected from BDA, BBMP, BMRDA etc.
- Websites of various departments.
- Census records.
- Leading news papers.
- Bangalore city guide, etc.

Significance of the Study

Bangalore city is the crucial instrument in Karnataka’s engagement with the regional economy; yet the pitfalls of its rapid growth of slums are observable. Failure to ensure clearance of slums will harm the very assets which have forged the city’s achievement. As the city situates among the belt of tourist and cultural heritage face the burden of an increasing number of slums number and their population. The planning of the city can take into account the findings from this research.

Objectives

- To know the geographical condition of the slum.
- To evaluate the role of government in rehabilitation.

Methodology

The present study is both analytical and descriptive in nature. It involves both micro and macro approaches. It is macro while dealing with issues like population, poverty and pollution. It is micro approach while dealing with urban poor slum dwellers covering socio-economic issues of development based on the survey conducted.

In the present study data collected through sample which is constitute 50 households in Venkateshwara slum.

Topography

The central, northern and eastern portions of the Bangalore Metropolitan Region are characterized by an open countryside consisting of vast stretches of undulating plains. The uplands are often bare or covered with low scrub jungles and the low lands are dotted with series of irrigation tanks. It represents an uplifted peneplain at an elevation of 900 meters. The surface has been dissected on the western and southern parts of the study unit giving rise to a broken and rugged topography. In the west, the terrain is rugged and broken and is composed of a succession of hills and valleys intersected by rocks and rapid streams with sandy beds. In the south, the hills get closer. The lands are covered with denser vegetation and the general level declines as one moves south towards the Cauvery. A range of hills from Kanakapura in the south to Nijagal in the north formed of coarse grained granite is a prominent topographic features.

Drainage

The drainage of Bangalore Metropolitan Region radiates from high grounds in radial pattern. The Bangalore city has three important valleys are those of Hebal, Vrishabhavathi and Koramangala or Challaghatta and Naravanaholla. The Bangalore Metropolitan Region have been covered by four river basins like Arkavati, Kanva, Vrishabhavathi, Dakshina pinakini.

Soil

The central part of Bangalore is covered by loamy skeletal soil sandy soil in combination. Towards south the soil is more coarse loamy and coarse loamy silt. Toward the southernmost it is more sandy skeletal. Pokey land is found in the south, south east and east. Towards east, hilly ranges are present. More of clayey and clayey loamy soil is found here. Clayey soil is found in a scattered pattern in central and northern part of Bangalore. Fine loamy and coarse soil is found towards the north east. Bangalore soil is favourable for agriculture except the few rugged terrains in the east and south east.

Climate

The climate of the study area is salubrious and very agreeable. It is free from extremes. The climate of the Bangalore Metropolitan Region is classed as the seasonally dry tropical savanna climate, with four main seasons.

- Cold weather season (December to February).
- The hot weather season (March to May).
- The south west monsoon season (June to September).
- The north east monsoon season (October to November).

The cold weather season is a period of generally fine cool weather with mainly clear blue skies. It is a period of little or no rainfall. The hot weather season is a dry month with low humidity. April and may are the months of considerable thunderstorm activity. The south west monsoon season is a moist, cloudy and rainy period. It is also a period of fairly strong and steady winds, blowing from the south west to west. The north east monsoon from October is also a moist rainy period but with slightly less clouding. Wind are weaker and blow from east-north east to north east. The change in wind direction from west-south west to east-north east between September and early October is very characteristic.

Slums in BMR have their own peculiarities. They certainly differed from each other in terms of location, size of population and background. But they also held something in common.

The slum dwellers should be seen not just as the beneficiaries, but as the primary stakeholders. Public policies would thereby have to accept human beings as the focal point of development and reconsider their current thrust on the physical built environment.

- Prepare slum action plan for implementing=g slum up gradation programmes at each slum level.
- Rehabitate the low lying slums in the city prone for inundation to an alternate environment friendly site.
- Launch rehabilitation programme such as providing effective low cost dwelling house with tiled/sheet roofs made available in easy payable installments on long term bases.
- Upgradation of social infrastructure service such as provision of independent sanitation facility connected to underground drainage system attached to each house in the slum essential to avoid environmental pollution and improve health conditions.
- Educate or conduct awareness program to both women and men to control the solid waste dumping into open drains.
- Public taps to every lane in the slum through exclusive water connections with timely and regular water supply needs to be provided.

- Up gradation of institutional facilities such as primary health units with low cost treatment to the urban poor and primary education as they form the broader measures of well being.
- Physical infrastructure up gradation such as sufficient street lighting facility and good roads in slums.
- All the storm water drains to be de silted and maintained properly.
- Provision of job training education for youth in providing knowledge and skills in tailoring, embroidery, computer, mechanical driving, electrical and electronic repairs and welding.
- Provision of adequate training and skill upgradation for women in the areas of tailoring, food processing, basket making, typing and computer education. Increase outlay on urban poverty alleviation programmes under five year plans.
- Increase in the provisions of the percentage of grant under Bhagya Jyothi scheme to urban slum households.

Conclusion

Slums are common features of any developing city in third world countries. Slums are often viewed as a viewed as a view of life, slums dwellers can be economically valuable citizens, as they contribute to the city's overall growth by accepting low wages and rendering essential services to the urban community without making any special demand on the scare financial resources of the urban local bides.

Slums in Bangalore city have their own peculiarities. They certainly differed from each other in terms of location, size of population and background. But they also held something in common. All of them represented a culture of poverty and were noticeable for their lack of civic amenities.

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