

ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN URBAN SLUMS A CASE STUDY OF GANDHINAGAR SLUM AREA, BELGAVI CITY KARNATAKA, INDIA.

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Abstract

Slums are considered a problem area of urban development. slums are physically poor quality, substandard housing area, which pose danger of health and life of slum dwellers. The growth rate of slums in the study is very high. Today more than 20 percent of population in Mumbai, 16 percent in Calcutta, 33 percent in Chennai 10 percent in Bangalore and also 10 percent in Belagavi city (study region) lives in slums. A number of pull and push factors influence the origin and growth of slums in the study region. The paper attempts to analyze the quality of life and Environment in the study area and also bring out the deficiency in the amenities and various problems of slum dwellers. The total area of the city is 94.08 Sq.kms with the population of 4, 65,000 as per 2001 census. Belgaum city is divided into 58 wards in which there are 36 slums notified by Slum Clearance Board and Belgaum Municipal Corporation. Hence, The data has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. KSSCB and Belgaum Municipal Corporation. The collected data have been processed and presented in the form of maps, tables by applying GIS tools and some cartographic techniques. The study reveals that the problems observed in the slums are enormous, but major problems are their housing conditions, water supply, sanitation and electricity.

Key words: Urbanization, Urban Poverty, Quality of Life, Urban Environment.

Introduction

Today 3 billion people nearly half of the world's population lives in cities. One third of them are slum dwellers. Moreover, four out of ten inhabitants in the developing world are living in informal shelters. They experience manifold deprivations such as houses unfit for habitation but also lack of education, health and basic services. As such, slum improvement is not only a goal for a better quality of life but also provides a positive impact on the health burden and the economic development of a country. Slums in the world are the face of urban poverty in the new millennium (UN – HABITAT, 2003).

Developing countries like India presently suffer to the enormous growth of urbanization. And the urbanized area similarly carried the problem of slum. Presently, Indian Population is 1/6th of the world population. Accelerating urbanization is forcefully effecting the transformation of Indian society. Slightly more than 32 percent of the country's population is urbanized, but unfortunately 21.68 percent (61.8 million) of the urban population live in slum area.

As per Last NBO report total housing shortage was 19.4 million units. In urban are the shortage is 6.6 million unit and 90% of these shortage hits poor and LIG people. It's become a very common urban scenario that thousands of dwellings made of straw, mud, tin, and cardboard are squeezed into areas of a small city block. In these cramped dwellings, often only an arm-span in width, entire families live without running water, electricity. Few have beds; they sleep on scraps of cloth padding on the dirty floor. Rapid growth of industrialization creates enormous employment opportunity. It attracts the lower income peoples and the unskilled labors from the rural area. The high rate of migration from rural

area to the urban sector formulated slum area, because these men are unskilled labors to industries.(Biplab Das-2012)

Significance of the study

The rapid growth of slum areas in Indian cities is creating bottlenecks for urban planners as well as administrators in assuring the healthy living conditions in towns and cities. So without the development of these slums the development of urban centers is not possible Hence while planning for the improvement of environmental conditions of different slums, it is necessary to study the nature and problems of slums.

Growth of slums is a major problem which has plagued urban India today It's a major challenge to civic bodies and urban planners. The present study also bring out the environmental conditions and problems of slums dwellers at micro level will helps to government agencies mainly city corporation, **KSPCB** and **Karnataka State Slums Development Board(KSSDB)** to take necessary measures to improve the quality of life of slums dwellers in the study area. To sort out the urban problems , the micro level study of slums is necessary and if we need to have a clean cities in near future the studies of slums are not only important but demand for time also.

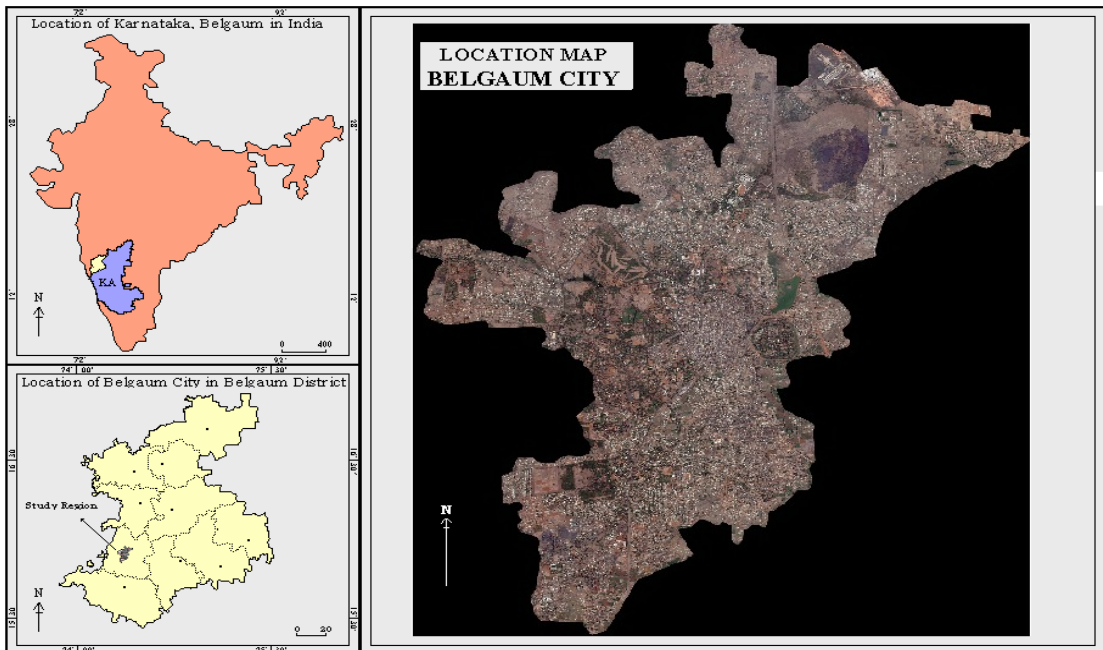


Figure 1. Study Area.

Back ground study area

Belagavi city is located in south western part of Belagavi district and extended between 15 - 15' north latitude to 74 -31' east longitude at an height of 710 mtrs above the mean sea level. The total geographical area of the city is about 94.08 sq.kms , Belagavi city is divided into 58 wards in which there are 36 slums notified by Slum Clearance Board and Belgaum Municipal Corporation. **Gandhi Nagar(study area)** biggest slum of Belagavi is situated in

Northern part of the city in the **Ward no. 52 with total population of 3245..** The slum is located in the site of railway line, NH4 and nearness to Belgaum central Bus stand.

Objectives

The aim of the present investigation is to analyze the Environment and quality of life in urban slums and also to suggest possible measure for the improvement of the quality of life of slum dwellers in the study region. The study has following objectives. To assess and evaluate the demographic pattern, quality of housing, water supply, electricity, Health, Education and sanitation conditions of slum dwellers in study area. To study various problem associated with slum dwellers in the city. And to suggest the planning for the improvement of environmental condition of Gandhinagar slum area.

Methodology

The parameters for demarcating the slums are water supply conditions, sanitation amenities and infrastructure and housing and environmental conditions. To study the Quality of life and environment of this slum area, a intensive survey was conducted through questionnaire which was covered about **432 households** in Gandhi Nagar Slum area of Belgaum Municipal Corporation limit. **20% of the households from this slum pocket were interviewed on the basis of stratified random sample technique.** This 20 percent is considered on the basis of information collected from the leaders or head of each house. The secondary sources of data related to population, existing amenities & government policies and Programmes have been collected from Slums Development Board Belgaum, Municipal Corporation and BUDA etc. In the present investigation necessary cartographic and GIS techniques have been employed for tabulation, analysis and mapping of analyzed data.

Spatial distribution of slums in Belagavi city

There are 32 declared, and 16 undeclared slums in Belgaum city according Municipal Cooperation records 2014. The total population of declared slum is 38395 persons. **Gandhi Nagar** is largest in population size and number of families than the other slum of in the city. Out of 56 slums only five slums i.e., Nazar Camp (2350 persons) Jadhav Nagar (2047 persons) Banjar Colony (1960 persons), and Kanabagi Ext (1290), Ambedkar Nagar (1160) have greater concentration of slum population. It is observed from the study that the slums ie Azad Nagar, Godshed Road, Beldar Chavani, Matang Colony Railway Bridge Angol etc have very low population concentration.

Religious composition

Table 1. Religion Composition of slums of Gandhinagar (Figures percentage)

	TOTAL POP	MUSLIMS	HINDUS	OTHERS
Male	54.1	35.28	16.62	2.2
Female	45.9	30.00	14.00	2
Total	100	65.27	30.62	4.2

Demographic profile of Gandhinagar slum

Economic well being of a region depends on the quality and number of inhabitants. The demographic factors not only influence the nature and quality of all factors of production but also determine the kinds of economic activity and development. The Muslims constitutes about 65.27 per cent. And Hindus 30.62 per cent and others 4.2 per cent of the total households surveyed in the slums. The populations in the Hindus caste 40% schedule castes, 22.55 scheduled tribes, 28.0 per other backward classes and 10% general category.

Age and sex composition

Table 2. Age and Sex Composition of GandhiNagar Slum Area-Belagavi-2015

SL NO	AGE GROUPS	TOTAL %
01	0- 05	11.67
02	6- 10	13.20
03	11- 20	26.00
04	21- 50	37.76
05	ABOVE 50	10.91
-	-	100%

The study reveals that about 11.67 per cent belongs to the age group of 0 -5 years, which comprises 6.17 per cent male and 5.50 per cent female. About 13.20 percent belong to the age group of 6-10 years and the percentage of population living in the age group of 11-20 years is about 26 percent. **The highest percentage is 37.76 belongs the age group of 21 to 50 years** and only 10.91 percent lie in the age group of about 51 years. Which indicates that about 11 per cent of the population surveyed households are dependent people.

Occupational pattern of Gandhinagar slum area

It is observed from the survey that a majority of the households are engaged in low-income occupations such as daily wages, rickshaw pulling, household industry, construction, wooden works furniture making and begging. About 30.16 per cent people are daily wagers. 6.10 per cent construction workers, 22.00 Rickshaw pullers, 2.07 per cent transport and communication 8.0 per cent wooden and furniture makers, 6.08 per cent industrial labors, 5.23% Hamalis and 20.31 per cent other workers. (Table No. 3)

Table 3. Occupational Structure of slum dwellers in Belgaum city.

Occupation	Percentage of households
Daily wagers	30.16%
Construction	6.10%
Rickshaw pullers	22.00%
Transport & Communication	2.07%
Wooden and Furniture	8.00%
Industrial Labors	6.08%
Hamalis	5.28%
Others	20.31%
Total	100.00%

Source: (Computed by researcher)

Environment and quality of life

Housing situation

The basic frame of environment in which man lives in his house, housing condition not only reflects the material status of population but also the rate at which improvement or deterioration of general quality of life takes place.

If we compare the housing conditions of this slum area with either areas it can be considered as worst standard because about 40.18 per cent of houses are made up of roof with locally available materials like, grasses, mud etc, and about 20.38 per cent houses are thatched, rest of houses are asbestos or miscellaneous materials. The structure of wall and floor are generally of almost mud and in general the conditions of houses are not suitable for habitation.

Water supply and electricity

Slum areas are very poor in terms of water and electricity supply In this regard the situation of in this slum area is not satisfactory. Spatial distribution of these facilities may at best be put as haphazard. Due to low income a majority of the population cannot afford to these facilities.

About 75per cent of the slum people getting their drinking water from municipality tap and about 12 percent of the slum dwellers do not have electricity supply, they are using kerosene and oil, wood as a fuel.

Sewerage and sanitation

The sewerage and sanitation facilities one of the vital element of the quality of the environment are very unsatisfactory. Stagnant pools of water and flooding of low lying slum areas by rain water are a common sight. Sewerage and sanitary conditions are extremely poor. The living conditions in this slums area is unhygienic and inadequate.

Amenities and infrastructure

Amenities and infrastructural facilities constitute an important part of the environment. These facilities in this slum areas is very poor both in quality and quantity. About 38.32per cent the slum dwellers do not have separate kitchen, About 42.00 percent people do not have separate bathroom , 21 percent people do not have latrine facility and 68 percent people do not have separate room to entertain their guest. Quality and size of the roads are not good in slum areas. 95 per cent of the total households in slum areas do not have telephone facilities, but 85 percent people use mobile phones.

Suggestions for development of Gandhinagar slum area

The success of ensuring a healthy living in slums lies with the improvement by providing adequate facilities. The problems of one slum differ from another. From the observation made in the present survey a few broad recommendations are outlined which may help in the improvement of the micro environment in Gandhinagar slum area of Belagavi Municipal Corporation area. The slum dwellers should be allowed to stay in the respective pockets without any programme of rehabilitation unless and otherwise the situation compels. Further the people living here may be given the chance of having ownership of rights of the land they are occupying. **The provision of housing of the economically weaker section is to be taken under the minimum need programme.**

The existing system of tap water supply is to be augmented to meet the minimum requirement. The water supply system in the slums, is needed to be treated with integration of city supply system. To meet the immediate requirements deep tube wells be installed in suitable locations.

The slums should be provided with drainage facilities i.e. integration with the master plan drainage system of the city. All Kaccha drains should be made pucca. **During rainy season conditions of water logging is serious and that deteriorates the environment, which needs a permanent pumping system.**

It is very much necessary to extend the facilities of cleaning the slums daily and to dispose of the garbage. It is desirable to provide Garbage pockets in different sites of the slums which can dispose of waste at least twice in a week.

Public toilets should be provided at suitable sites. The community organizers should take special care to convince the people the implication of unhealthy environment and insist on them to follow the practice of using toilets.

This slum pocket should be supplied with electrical connections to all houses under govt scheme. street lights which are not functioning, properly they should be replaced immediately with new ones.

About 50 percent of this slum area is approached by earthen roads. These roads are to be provided with at least moron roads and the major roads should be provided with black top road.

In order to increase the standard of living of the slum dwellers the expansion of educational facilities are very necessary. Pre-primary education for children in the age group of 3-6 should be encouraged. Special care should be taken to discourage the dropouts among the children.

Improvement of health condition of the slum people is essential hence preventive measures are to be taken to arrest the incidence of common diseases in the slums than going for curative measures. Immunization programmes should be organized to arrest specific disease like T.B. polio, etc. Additional dispensaries and health center are required to be established at various centrally located areas. Health education programme is required to be conducted in slum so as to make the inhabitants understand the implications.

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