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# **URBAN SLUM DWELLERS - A STUDY IN BANGALORE CITY**

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#### Abstract

It is estimated that by 2030, 40.6 % of the country's population will be living in urban areas (UN Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects). More than one-third of urban population in India lives in cities (i.e., settlements with population of more than 1,00,000) The number of such cities has increased from 1 in 1901 to 356 in 2001 and continues to rise (2001 census, Registrar General of India). The rapid growth of cities has widened the gap between the demand and supply of essential services and infrastructure, forcing people to live in crowded slums in unsanitary conditions, exposing themselves to pollution and natural calamities. According to Pranob Sen, Principal Advisor to the Planning Commission that the urban slum population in India, Asia's fourth largest economy and the world's second fastest growing one, is nearly one billion.

**Keywords:** World Urbanization Prospects, urban slums, slum inhabitants, financial capital, urbanization factor, poor slum dwellers

### Introduction

The country's financial capital, Mumbai houses the largest number of urban slumssome 6.5 million people live in them. The city is also home to Asia's largest slum, Dharavi. New Delhi, with 1.8 million people living in its slums, houses the second largest number of urban slums. Kolkata, with 1.49 million slum inhabitants, is a close third. An estimated 30 % of the population in 12 major cities of India live in slums. Maharashtra State has the highest number of slums in the country (32%), followed by West Bengal (15%), and Andhra Pradesh (15%).

For the development of any economy, urbanization factor is an important parameter, without which we cannot expect an all-round development of the nation. The positive effects of urbanization are industrialization, housing development, infrastructural facilities, construction of roads, railways, airways, educational centres, health centres and entertainment besides another important parameter is income of the urban family, which is really greater than the farm size income. At the same time the negative effects are mass movement of population from rural economy to urbanized centre in search of job, income and wish to live in the urban centre. As a result, many unskilled people are work both in formal and informal sector, once these groups enter the urban markets, they never go back to their village, this results in cropping many urban problems particularly providing a decent house with all kinds of facilities.

Many urban areas have been occupied by these group and these areas do not have basic facilities such as proper housing, sanitation, drinking water, street light and other facilities. In this context the present paper is based on the survey conducted in eight

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Bangalore slums namely, Bande slum, Rajagopal Nagar Slum, Economically Weaker Section Quarters, Chamundinagar Slum, Indira Gandhi Slum, Hombe Gowda Slum, Nayandahalli Slum, Indiranagar Slum. In each slum fifty random samples have been allotted to inquire to income, employment, living standard housing and other conditions of the urban poor in Bangalore city based slums. The total number of random samples are four hundred and carried out with the help of questionnaire and interview method in the study area.

### Objectives

- 1. To study the reasons for rapid growth of urban slums
- 2. To study the status of working and living conditions urban poor slum dwellers.

### Causes for the Rapid Growth of Urban Slums

Indian slums suffer from "Poor utilization of the reproductive child health services provided by the government, lack of awareness regarding birth spacing, and very low use of contraceptives" (SHRADDHA AND Bharathi, 2006). Urban migration of villagers who seek employment as daily wage skilled and unskilled labourers or domestic helps, end up residing in subhuman conditions in slums. Restructuring and dismantling of larger industries in big cities like Mills, forcing the large number of jobless work force into informal sector activities and thereby contribute to urban poverty. Poor sanitation and housing affect Health, Hygiene and Sanitation, Education and creates many social problems and Moral Apathy of slum dwellers. Improper and inadequate lighting ventilation, water supply, sanitation, housing and other necessary facilities of life, have adversely affected the health and socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers.

Constituency	No. of Slums	No. of Slums Declared	Undeclared	Huts	Popn.
Gandhinagar	24	13	11	1311	9679
Chikapete	10	7	3	1311	11194
Binnypete	15	13	11	1552	11988
Chamarajpete	30	22	8	5446	35155
Shanthinagar	10	8	11	551	4065
Basavanagudi	13	7	6	1464	8606
Yelahanka	25	14	11	3147	24893
Jayamahal	26	16	10	2259	17903
Malleshwaram	28	25	11	4447	34064
Bharathinagar	26	21	5	1533	12483
Shivajinagar	6	2	4	60	455
Jayanagar	50	25	11	7382	55557
Rajajinagar	19	10	11	1906	16412
Varthur	37	25	12	6743	35501
Uttarhalli	62	38	24	12226	91756
7CMC	155	0	155		
Total	542	246	296	51338	369711

Table 1 - List	of Slums in	Bangalore City
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Source: www.kscb.org.

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#### Status of Employment of the Slum Dwellers

The major aim of the agrarian families migrated to urban center are in search of a regular job and good income. When we questioned these respondents about their employment reveals that every one are employed either through some one or doing kind of business and self employment. The study clearly shows that the majority of the slum people are employed and hard workers (47.50 per cent), Nearly 28.25 per cent are self employed and 24.25 per cent are in petty business. Thus, the study clearly disclose that no one is unemployed and everyone is undertaking one or other kind of a job for their livelihood. But none of them found working for the organized sector. This is really interesting to know status of the slum dwellers in the city of Bangalore and the same has been presented in table 2.

Furthermore, with regard to their employment, a different category of work has been noticed. The prominent work engaged by these urban poor are in the building construction, carpentry, painting, blacksmith, embroidery, tailoring, scrap, pendal decoration, driving, vegetable and fast food business, flower business, maid and rag pickers. In most of the families both husband and wife works, most of the women are dominated in the category of housemaid (14.00 per cent), vegetable vending (16.25 per cent). Whereas, most of the men are engaged in construction filed (20.00 per cent), painting (10.25 per cent), driving (6.25 per cent) etc. In the case of vegetable vending, fast food business, tailoring both husband and wife work together. The same information has been presented in the table 3

Employment Status	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Employed	25 (50.00)	33 (66.00)	33 (66.00)	25 (50.00)	18 (36.00)	18 (36.00)	18 (36.00)	20 (40.00)	190 (47.50)
Unemployed	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Self-	10	17	14	15	22	18	12	05	113
employed	(20.00)	(34.00)	(28.00)	(30.00)	(44.00)	(36.00)	(24.00)	(10.00)	(28.25)
Business	15 (30.00)	00 00	03 (6.00)	10 (20.00)	10 (20.00)	14 (28.00)	20 (40.00)	25 (50.00)	97 (24.25)
Working for organized sector	00 00								
Total	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							

Source: Field Survey Data, June, 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

BS - Bande Slum, RS - Rajagopal Nagar Slum, EWS - Economically Weaker Section Quarters, CNS - Chamundinagar Slum, IGS - Indira Gandhi Slum, HGS - Hombe Gowda Slum, NHS - Nayanda halli Slum, ING - Indira Nagar Slum.

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Nature of the work	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Construction	08	05	13	13	07	13	13	08	80
Construction	(16.00)	(10.00)	(26.00)	(26.00)	(14.00)	(26.00)	(26.00)	(16.00)	(20.00)
Painting	03	08	05	05	03	07	05	05	41
Failting	(6.00)	(16.00)	(10.00)	(10.00)	(6.00)	(14.00)	(10.00)	(10.00)	(10.25)
Blacksmith	03	03	00	03	00	00	00	00	09
DIACKSIIIIIII	(6.00)	(6.00)	00	(6.00)	00	00	00	00	(2.25)
Embroidery	02	00	00	03	11	00	11	03	30
tailoring	(4.00)	00	00	(6.00)	(22.00)	00	(22.00)	(6.00)	(7.50)
Vege Table	13	05	05	03	08	05	13	13	65
Vendor	(26.00)	(10.00)	(10.00)	(6.00)	(16.00)	(10.00)	(26.00)	(26.00)	(16.25)
Flower	05	00	03	00	05	07	08	13	41
Business	(10.00)	00	(6.00)	00	(10.00)	(14.00)	(16.00)	(26.00)	(3.50)
Food	00	06	03	08	03	08	00	00	28
Business	00	(12.00)	(6.00)	(16.00)	(6.00)	(16.00)	00	00	(7.00)
Housemaid	10	13	13	05	10	05	00	00	56
nousemaiu	(20.00)	(26.00)	(26.00)	(10.00)	(20.00)	(10.00)	00	00	(14.00)
Driver	00	05	05	10	00	05	00	00	25
DIIVEI	00	(10.00)	(10.00)	(20.00)	00	(10.00)	00	00	(6.25)
Pendal	03	05	00	00	00	00	00	00	08
Decoration	(6.00)	(10.00)	00	00	00	00	00	00	(2.00)
Pag Dickors	03	00	00	00	03	00	00	00	06
Rag Pickers	(6.00)	00	00	00	(6.00)	00	00	00	(1.50)
Scrap	00	00	03	00	00	00	00	08	11
Scrap	00	00	(6.00)	00	00	00	00	(16.00)	(2.75)
Total	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400
iotai	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)

Table 3: Categorization of Work of the Respondents

**Source:** Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

## Status of the Income

Income is one of the prime factor which determine the level of living of the people. As we already observed the urban poor are belong to working class group, as these group are not skill oriented, working for unorganized sector which receives a meager amount of income out of which it is very difficult to manage the family with children and to meet all kind of expenditures. The study information shows that majority of these urban poor (44.00) are comes under daily income group (e.g., Vegetables vending, fast food, flower business and tailoring), similarly 33.25 per cent belong to weekly income group (e.g., People who are work for construction, mason, painter, carpenter etc) and only 22.75 per cent are belong to monthly income group e.g., housemaid, servants, car driver and working for small enterprises etc., (Table 4).

With regard to their level of income (Table 5) nearly 58.75 per cent are in the income group of less than Rs.3000, 40.25 per cent are in the income group of Rs.3000-5000 and only four respondents revealed that their income is ranges between Rs.5000-8000 and no one is found in the category of Rs.8001 - Rs.10, 000 and more than Rs.10, 000. If this is

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the reality, then how these poor can afford to live in the sophisticated city like Bangalore with present rate of food inflation? Would it possible to survive? Whether the present policy and programmes are really promote these urban poor?

Parameter	Results	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Do you get income on daily basis	Yes	35 (70.00)	13 (26.00)	15 (30.00)	20 (40.00)	30 (60.00)	25 (50.00)	20 (40.00)	18 (36.00)	176 (44.00)
Weekly	Yes	03 (6.00)	24 (48.00)	20 (40.00)	20 (40.00)	10 (20.00)	15 (30.00)	18 (36.00)	23 (46.00)	133 (33.25)
Monthly	Yes	12 (24.00)	13 (26.00)	15 (30.00)	10 (20.00)	10 (20.00)	10 (20.00)	12 (24.00)	09 (18.00)	91 (22.75)
Total		50 (100. 00)	400 (100. 00)							

## Table 4 Status of the Income of respondents

**Source:** Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Income Parameter	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Less than	38	18	13	15	45	30	33	43	235
Rs.3000	(76.00)	(36.00)	(26.00)	(30.00)	(90.00)	(60.00)	(66.00)	(86.00)	(58.75)
Rs 3000-	12	32	37	35	05	20	13	07	161
5000	(24.00)	(64.00)	(74.00)	(70.00)	(10.00)	(40.00)	(26.00)	(14.00)	(40.25)
Rs 5000-	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	00	04
8000	00	00	00	00	00	00	(08.00)	00	(01.00)
Rs 8001-	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
10,000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
More than	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Rs.10,000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Total	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400
TULAI	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)

## Table 5 Income of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data.

## Housing Accommodation of the Urban Poor

Since the slum people unable to get a good job and assured income it was not possible for them to purchase assets like plot, building and site as a result with their group and co-habitants they try to identify vacant land, example, on the railway station side, or other unattended land, they try to put temporary shed for some time, if no one claims the land, then they permanently settle in those places. This is how they created a slum in the city and no one is purchased these assets. Almost all the respondents have agreed that they are staying in their own house. Further, they also stated that these huts and houses are the free allotment from the government (refer Table 6).

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#### Types and Category of the Housing Accommodation

The housing accommodation are very peculiar in the slum, if we look at the slum, in the Mumbai, they live in a very small place, and their accommodation is almost like a cupboard wrack, they sleep in such a condition, if rain water enter their houses, they cannot sleep in the lower wrack. It is very difficult to identify a concrete house in any slum. The new areas are made up in the thatched houses, but most of these houses are sheet and tile roof house. But now a days the policy of the government has been changed by upgrade the slum into a model house or model apartment so that these people could lead a decent life.

However, it is evident from the Table 7 that only 5 respondents in the Rajagopalnagar slum are living in the concrete house but majority, 72.75 per cent are living in the sheet house, 26.00 per cent reside in the tiles house and no one is living in either thatched house or government apartment. Further it has been observed here that those 10 respondents of the Rajagopalanagar slum and 08 respondents of the Indiranagar slum living in a single bed room house and no one is having double bed room house. Thus nearly 95.50 per cent of the respondents are living in the slum house with a common room.

Parameter		BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Are you reside in the own house	Yes	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
ls it free allotment from Govt.	Yes	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							

Table 7 Housing Details of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Parameter	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Concrete	00	05	00	00	00	00	00	00	05
house	00	(10.00)	00	00	00	00	00	00	(1.25)
Sheet	33	27	50	40	36	30	45	30	291
house	(66.00)	(54.00)	(100.00)	(80.00)	(72.00)	(60.00)	(90.00)	(60.00)	(72.75)
Tiles	17	18	00	10	14	20	05	20	104
house	(34.00)	(36.00)	00	(20.00)	(28.00)	(40.00)	(10.00)	(40.00)	(26.00)
Thatched	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
house	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Govt.	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Apartment	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Total	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400
TOLAI	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)

# Table 8 Type of House of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data.

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# **Basic Facilities in the Slums**

There are two types of slums. One is approved by the slum clearance board and the second one is unauthorized hutment which has not been recognized. The first category avail various kinds of facilities, whereas the second category fail to get these benefits. Thus it is evident from the table 9 that these slums are lacks in proper roads, street lights, play ground, park, and sanitary connection. The respondents also opined that their houses are not in a proper layout. However, the respondents agreed to have connected in transportation, electricity facility and water connection.

Parameter		BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total	
Does your											
house is	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
in proper	163	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
layout											
	No	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
	NU	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
Proper Roads	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
	NI -	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
	No	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
Street light	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
	Na	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
	No	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
Play Ground	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
	Na	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
	No	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
Park	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
	No	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
	NO	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
Transport	Yes	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
Transport	162	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
	No	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
Electricity	Yes	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
Liectricity	163	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
	No	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
Water	Yes	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
Connection		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
	No	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
Sanitary	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
Total		50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	400	
TOLAI		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
	Iotal         (100.00) <t< td=""></t<>										

Table 9 General Information about the Areas of the Respondents

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

## Table 10 General Information about the Facilities in the Area

Parameter		BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Do you have school facilities	Yes	00 00								
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							

Primary Health Centre	Yes	00 00								
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Medical Centre	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Health Centre	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Maternity Home	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Private Hospital	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Private Clinic	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Medical Shop	Yes	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

### Water and Sanitation Facilities of the Urban Poor

As it has been discussed earlier the slums are neglected in providing basic facilities. The people are the most sufferers and lead a challenging life. It is evident from the table 10 that the respondents do not face a big problem with regard to the availability of the water in their area. They also reveal that they pay a minimum charge for the water consumption, besides they also states that convenient bore wells have been established in the convenient place

The only major draw back in the slum are lacking sanitation facilities, as the houses are not in a proper way it is very difficult even for governmental agency to provide proper sanitation lines to clear the waste water of the slum. In this regard no one is having inhouse toilet facility, however, public toilet facilities have been provided by free of cost as well as pay by use.

#### Urban Poor and Their Living Standards

Most of the urban poor are living below the poverty line, their level of income are very low, they unable to maintain themselves at a high standard of living, whatever small amount they earn, spend it on food expenditure, and they fail to save money. In order to assess their living standard, we requested them to furnish the information in respect of the

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consumer durables they have. It is evident from the table - 11 that almost all the respondents opined that they have colour television sets, nearly 96.25 per cent has audio/video sets, and 100 per cent agreed that they have telephone/ mobile connections. However, with regard to consumer durable like Refrigerator and Washing machines, no respondent have these durables. There are about 38.00 per cent having scooters, 52.25 per cent having mixer and grinder and 44.25 per cent having bicycles. Thus, the foregoing information clearly reveals that the living standard is at a moderate level and have few affordable consumption.

Parameter		BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Do you think water is a big problem	Yes	00 00								
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Do you pay water consume charges	Yes	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
	No	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Do you have convenient bore wells	Yes	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
	No	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Do you have proper sanitation facilities	Yes	00 00								
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Do you have in house toilet facilities	Yes	00 00	00 00							
	No	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							
Do you have public Toilet	Yes	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)							

Table 11 Water and Sanitation Facilities in the Area

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

## Conclusion

The survey on urban poor in eight prominent slums in Bangalore clearly reveals the present situation of life in the slum. The study shows that these people are working in

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unorganized sectors, self-employed, petty business who would able to earn Rs.100-200 per day which is very meager amount and unable to meet the daily needs for themselves and their dependents because the present rate of food inflation is greater. Majority of these people not only belong to low income group but also belong to lower community people in the society (Scheduled Caste and Other backward communities). Generation of regular employment opportunities will help to improve the level of capital base and potential for capital formation to enhance the level of provision for basic amenities. Sanitary services, particularly toilets, water supply and waste disposal facilities need urgent attention. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) should be well supported through adequate funding so that facilities for effective sanitary services can be enhanced. Progress in sanitation and housing contributors directly to broader the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 2010 for child mortality, universal education, poverty reduction. Thus it is not only the task of the Sate to improve the conditions of slum dwellers and the urban poor people but also the Non - Governmental Organization and other agencies must involve to improve the conditions of the poor.

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