

Can Slum-Free India be Inclusive India?

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Background

- Indian growth rate has been phenomenal since 1990's - Averaging about 6% in last 30 years.
- 2015-16 - 7.6% & OECD projects 7.9% for 2017.
- Poverty has come down, service sector has expanded, electricity generation, fuel consumption and various other indicators show that the growth is real and happening.

- India is 31.5% urbanized - lowest among 10 largest economies. Mainly due to *neglect of urban development policies* in the past and *low rate of migration*.
- JNNURM was the first big policy intervention aimed at urban India.
- Urbanization rate has increased and urban population grew by about 3% between 2001-2011
- Urbanization comes with a mixed baggage -

Urbanization and Urban Slums

- One of the biggest problem has been urban slums.
- Slum population has increased significantly in the recent past.
- As per 2001 census - 62 million people live in urban slums. In 2011 slum population was 93 million. In big cities particularly Metros - around quarter of the population.
- As per Ministry of Urban Development - Indian needs about Rs 4 trillion to build 24 million dwellings to rehabilitate urban slum dwellers.
- Typical India slums lack basic amenities such running water, electricity, sewage system, etc.

Definition of the Slum

- A compact settlement of at least 20 households with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions.
 - GOI (2010), Report of slum/statistics commission.

Why do slums proliferate?

- Income Inequality
- Lack of economic growth
- Jobless growth
- In-migration
- Poverty
- Lack of affordable housing
- Excessive or obsolete regulation - For ex. Mumbai's land use law
- Limited employment centers

Government Intervention

- Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY)
 - Three-tiered approach
 - Improving existing slums
 - Relocation/upgradation/redevelopment
 - Preventing future slum formation
 - Regulation
 - Subsidized mortgages
 - Improving governance
 - Information base - data accuracy

Political economy of SRS

- Three important players -
 - Government, Slum Dwellers, Private Dwellers
 - In theory, it's win-win for all three parties, however, that's not always the case.

Limitations

- Usually not voluntary - dwellers are forced to sell or are forcefully evicted. In last few years, many inhuman evictions have taken place in Delhi and other cities.
- Slum dwellers are reluctant to move. In many cases, even they were moved, they came back slowly to the same or nearby place.
- Due to lack of education/limited skills/lack of entrepreneurial training - they may not be flexible to be employed every where.

Summary

- We need a bottoms up approach.
- Community participation in development.
- PPP
- Regulation
- Introduce physical planning - element of urban planning should be included in policies.

About the project

- Bihar - Urbanization rate is 10% - lowest in India
- First slum policy in 2011 for state of Bihar
- Looking at 4 largest cities- Patna, Gaya, Muzzafarpur, and Bhagalpur
- 200 household samples from each city and about 32 FGD's involving slum dwellers, policy makers, and Civil Society

Pilot

- A small pilot was conducted to test the questionnaire - 4 slums in Gaya.
- 3 out of 4 slums have no drinking water supply. 2 out of 4 - no electricity connection.
- On an average slums have about 85 households.
- All 4 slums are located near tourist destinations.
- Slum dwellers are not the beneficiary of any housing related government scheme. They are also not aware about the 2011 slum policy.

- Property rights are not clear. Slum dwellers in the oldest slum pay a nominal rent to local strongman.