

Slum Eradication : A Practical Approach

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Abstract: - All over the world, all the areas of cities/ towns having down trodden persons living in substandard conditions of housing are called slums. The areas are unhygienic affecting the inhabitants and polluting the surroundings. Slums are found in every country. Every country wants to eradicate its slums. The approaches for slum-eradication differs from country to country depending upon situations and conditions. India should adopt such practical approach, which is suitable to it and should not copy the approaches of the developed countries. In practical approach, India should compel the slum dwellers to send their wards to have education at least up to Class-X standard and also should lay down some conditions up on slum dwellers before providing them some financial helps (land/ flat) as stated in paragraph no. 05 of this paper.

Keywords: Mainly census reports and GOI data have been taken into consideration. It has been tried to keep the length of the paper small.

I. INTRODUCTION

On entering big cities, dazzling is seen, but only slightly away from the main central site of that city like on railway edges, on government vacant lands, on disputed sites, behind skyscrapers, streets and sidewalks, slums and low-level crowded residents are found. But no provision of proper drinking water, proper toilets and proper drainage of dirty water etc. are found at those places. Their houses are normally made of plastic sheets, broken tin (rusted or broken iron) sheets, mud with broken brick-bats, bamboos, grasses or wood etc. Said houses are of temporary natures, but are thickly populated like 05 to 06 person per room of 07 to 09 sq. m. Sometimes more than one family resides in one room, also. Slum dwellers are mainly factory workers or either domestic workers. Their presence are necessary for development of cities.

2. DEFINITION OF SLUM:

A slum is commonly taken as dirty, unhygienic, discarded, bad areas having high density of population with large numbers of very unsystematic and very low standard houses with inadequate amenities of basic needs for physical and social health.

The **United Nation** has defined the “slum” in UN-HABITAT as “A slum is a contiguous settlement, where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services. A slum is often not recognized and addressed by public authorities as an integral or equal part of the city”.

In India, to study the definition of ‘slum’ and to estimate urban slum population, a committee headed by Mr. Pranob Sen was setup by GOI on 19.11.2010 as its Principal advisor.

The committee submitted its report on 30.08.2011; which defined the ‘slum’ as “a compact settlement of at least 20 households with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions”. Presently, it is adopted in India.

Education is not included in any of the above definitions but in India, the slum dwellers are poorly educated. In developed countries the slum dwellers may be educated. But, Indian slum-dwellers still now, believe that sending their wards to school curtails their family-earnings.

2. Slum Growth in India: As per census reports, the total slum population of India was 524 lakhs approx in year 2001 and 655 lakhs approx in 2011 i.e. in ten years, the growth is 25%. On the other hand, the total population of India was 10287 lakhs approx in 2001 and 12102 lakhs approx in 2011 i.e the growth in said ten years is 17.64%. It clearly tells that population growth rate in slums is 1.42 times more than the population growth rate of the total population of India, which is alarming. **It is well accepted by all that lack of proper education also causes population growth.**

3. PROCESSES OF ERADICATION OF SLUMS:

Normally, following processes are adopted to eradicate the slums:

A. By stopping the migration of rural peoples to urban areas by uplifting the villages making sustainable in itself with proper infrastructure including hospitals, schools and large opportunities of employment, because poverty creates slums. The agriculture in India is practically non-profitable and it compels the rural persons to migrate to cities/ towns. No-doubt it is the best and everlasting method but it is not

successful unless and until the country is actually developed in all senses. India is adopting this method since long but could not achieve success although **this method should be kept on going.**

B. By forceful eviction of the slum people from slum areas, without any alternative. This method should be rarely adopted.

C. By providing land or flats far from city/ town at low rates but this process was disliked by the slum-dwellers because they has to come city/ town in search of works. This method may be adopted with certain changes.

4. EFFECTIVE ERADICATION OF SLUMS:

There is no country in the world, where slum is not found. In the developing countries like India, the problem of slum is very different from the problems in advanced countries like America. **In India, the slum dwellers are mainly not educated and they do not know the hazardous results of unhygienic conditions and as well as the importance of education in life even to get good jobs.** India should formulate the slum eradication policies keeping in view of said elements.

Swami Vivekananda, the great thinker of the world, said in one of his addresses that **"So long as the millions live in hunger, I hold every person a traitor who, having been educated at their expense has not the least heed to them."** i.e. educated persons must take proper attention towards poor. It may be noted that every educated person has been educated at the expense of the citizens of the nation including the poor persons. In other words, Swami Vivekananda stated that education has important role in eradication of poverty and slum.

There are three basic requirements of human beings:- Food, clothing and housing. **Education is not placed in the said basic needs. But without education, one cannot fulfill said basic three needs. Education gives safety from cheaters and capacity to understand duties and power of citizens.** Presently, slum dwellers are taken as vote-banks. To come in the category of developed countries, India has to improve its educational structure within slum dwellers for their mental progress, cultural development and elimination their poverty. Education cannot be isolated from health, for proper results. Good education may give good earnings. It gives proper understanding of good hygienic situations and good culture giving rise good health condition, also. Similarly, good health gives opportunity of good education. As such education and health both are necessary. India provides free medicines and free treatment in normal ailments i.e. to keep good normal health. But in slum areas only primary schools are found and normally, no high school is found and there are no compulsion on slum dwellers and

students so that a student must take education at least up to class- X standard, particularly in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Government primary schools do not have proper infrastructures, also.

5. CONCLUSION:

A practical approach to eradicate the slums must be adopted. The eradication of slums may be done by providing small areas of land or flats far away from cities/ towns (but the area must have good communication facilities to reach the cities/ towns), at very low rates or nominal monthly rates/ rents as well as by providing flats in the city/ town areas in multi-storied buildings at very high rates. **The slum dwellers may be provided financial helps by concerned factories/ Government but they must choose either of the aforesaid two options otherwise they should be forced leave the slum areas. There should be compulsion to all slum dwellers to send their wards to have school educations at least up to class-X standard, failing which a reasonable fine along with vacation of the area provided, be strictly imposed. Government must provide proper infrastructure to its all schools.**