

An Overview of Slum Conditions in India

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Abstract - India is one of the fastest developing countries with several metropolitan cities. Rapid urbanization and migration are the major reason for increasing the number of slums. Migration of population from rural areas to urban areas has increased enormously in India from the past two decades. This leads to the degradation of urban environmental quality and sustainable development especially in urban areas. People are facing a lot of problems living in urban areas as the conditions of the slum is miserable and unfit for living purpose. Slums are considered to be the major issue within many urban areas; particularly problems related to infrastructure, basic services, transportation, education, health and safety. Urban population and especially the slum dwellers face serious problems due to population pressure, deterioration in the physical environment such as infrastructure, social and economic deficiency. So, there is a huge need to find the solution for preventing the slum formation as well as to improve the living conditions through slum development strategies. Various Slums related schemes and programs are made by the government in order to help the slum dwellers so that they their living standards can be improved which leads towards the development of India.

Keywords: Developing country, Metropolitan cities, Rapid urbanization, Migration, Decades, Degradation, Sustainable development, Slum

1. INTRODUCTION

The term "slum" is often used to describe informal settlements within cities that have inadequate infrastructure and miserable living conditions. They are typically overcrowded, with many people crammed into very small living spaces. The people in slums live under the most deplorable conditions, with little access to effective social and health care services, water supply, sanitation facilities and many more are therefore vulnerable to epidemics and developmental challenges.

Their low socioeconomic status, low level of education and awareness, dilapidated physical structure, high fertility and mortality- all indicate that they need special attention in terms of public health, family planning and reproductive health programs. Rapid increase of slums has caused wide spread of environmental

degradation in the city. Today one of the major challenges that urban planners face globally is the proliferation of slums in urban areas. However, the prolific spread of slums has been a uncontrollable problem in urban areas. The main reasons for slum proliferation is fast and non inclusive patterns of Urbanization catalyzed by increasing migration from rural areas to urban areas.

1.1. Types of Slums (according to census)



Fig -1: A diagram showing various types of slums according to the census.

NOTIFIED SLUM - All notified areas in a town or city notified as "slums" by state, UT administration or local government under any act including a 'slum act'.

RECOGNIZED SLUM - All areas recognized as "slums" by state, UT administration or local government, housing and slum boards, but it may not be formally notified as slum under any act.

IDENTIFIED SLUMS - A compact area of at least 300 populations or about it should have 60-70 households. It is Poorly built congested tentments, with unhygienic conditions usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper services such as sanitary and drinking water facilities.

1.2. Causes of Slum Formation

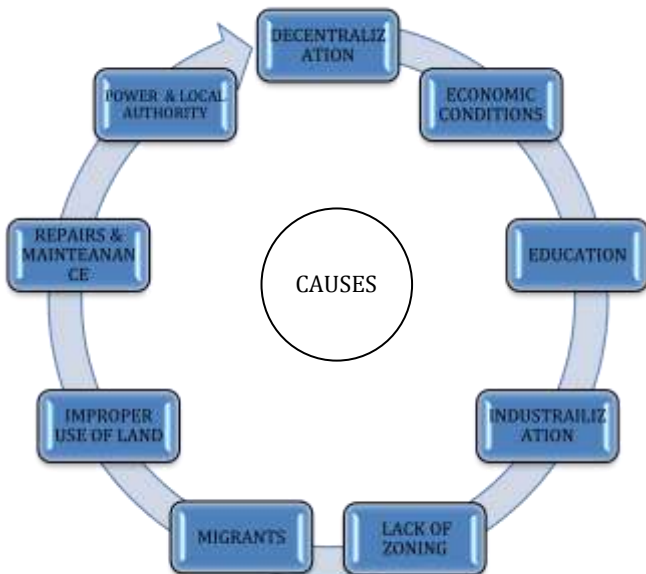


Fig -2: A diagram showing various causes of slum Formation.

DECENTRALIZATION - Rich and middle class individuals move out to the extended parts of the town or cities and thus, the urban poor people are left unattended in the overcrowded central area of the town.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS - (i) Poverty is the most important and universal characteristic of slums.
(ii) Unemployment & rapidly increasing of population may force the affected persons to stay in unhealthy conditions.

INDUSTRIALIZATION - The slums is said to be the direct evil result from industry that within the early stages never took care of panning houses for laborers.

LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND LIVELIHOOD RESOURCES IN RURAL AREAS - In rural areas the employment level potential is very low and because of that it promotes migration of people from rural areas to metropolitan cities and towns in search of employment opportunities.

MIGRANTS - Squatter is a person who illegally occupies the land without title. The colonies of squatters may result into slums. Flow of migrants per day increases in metropolitan cities. About one-third of the population lives in ramshackle huts with no civic amenities.

LOW WAGES - Large number of our industrialized urban workers is unskilled laborers which are earning low wages. Many of them are employed on the temporary basis. They cannot afford to have proper houses, services and facilities. So, they are forced to live in slums.

IMPROPER USE OF LAND - If the land fit for any particular purpose, such as residential, commercial etc which is used for another purpose, then the slums may be formed.

POWERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY - If local authority does not have adequate powers to control the development of town, the slums may be formed.

LACK OF ZONING - If the town is not divided into suitable zones or the land use and development is allowed to place at random, the slums may be created.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE - Cheap houses made for collecting rents are not maintained properly, slum favoring conditions may develop.

IN EFFECTIVE LAND REFORMS - There is a age old practice of land owning & landless people which creates landless labors. The landless laborers are attracted by the wage labors in the Industrial Sector and thereby leave their traditional or family occupations and migrate towards the Industries and urban centers. Such migrants no doubt contribute alot to the growth of slum population in urban.

1.3. Characteristics of Slums

LACK OF BASIC SERVICES - Lack of basic services is one of the most important characteristics of slum definitions worldwide. Lack of access to improved sanitation facilities and improved water sources is the most important features; sometimes these are supplemented by absence of waste collection systems, electricity supply, street lighting and rainwater drainage, proper roadways and footpaths etc.

MORALS - Lack of education drags the inhabitants into social evils. Lack of attention to improve the living conditions. Slum may prove to be an area of crime and vice. In today's time education is one of the important factor which helps for the development of the individual as well as for the country.

SUBSTANDARD HOUSING OR ILLEGAL AND INADEQUATE BUILDING STRUCTURE - Many cities have building standards which sets the minimum requirements for residential buildings. In Slum areas high number of substandard housing structures are associated, often built with non-permanent materials unsuitable for housing given local conditions of climate and location. Factors contributing to a structure are being considered substandard, for example, earthen floors, mud-and-wattle walls or straw roofs and many more.

OVERCROWDING AND HIGH DENSITY - Overcrowding is associated with a low space per person, occupancy of high rates, cohabitation by different families and a high number of single-room units. Many slum dwelling units are overcrowded, with five to six persons sharing a one-room unit used for cooking, sleeping and living. Most of the slums lack sanitation, water supply and many other essential services.

INSECURE TENURE; IRREGULAR OR INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS - Lack of security of tenure is considered as a central characteristic of slums, and regard lack of any formal document entitling the occupant to occupy the land or structure as the primary evidence of illegality and slum occupation. Informal, unplanned or unauthorized settlements are often regarded as the term slums.

POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION - Income or economic conditions i.e., poverty is considered, with some exceptions, as a central characteristic of slum areas. Slums are areas of social exclusion that are often perceived to have high rates of crime and other measures of social dislocation. In some definitions, such areas which are associated with certain vulnerable groups of population, such as recent immigrants, internally displaced persons or minorities of ethnic groups.

MINIMUM SETTLEMENT SIZE - Many slum definitions also require some minimum settlement size which covers an area to be considered a slum, so that the slum constitutes a distinct precinct and is not a single dwelling.

UNHEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS AND HAZARDOUS LOCATIONS - Unhealthy living conditions is one of the major problem which results in the lack of basic services, with visible, open sewers, lack of pathways, uncontrolled dumping of waste, polluted environments, etc. Houses may be built on hazardous locations or land unsuitable for settlement. The layout of the settlement can

be hazardous because there is a lack of access ways and high densities of dilapidated physical structures.

Broadly, the characteristics of slums are divided into these three categories:

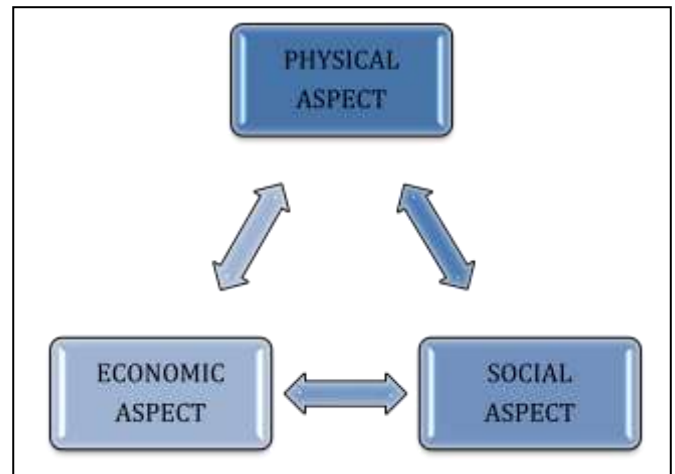


Fig -3: A diagram showing various characteristics of slum Formation.

1.4. Effects of Slums Formation

The living conditions of slum dwellers are so poor that the effects of slums formation is always be the adverse. Due to poverty, the surrounding of the slum is unhygienic because of which every year many slum dwellers died. There is a huge need to make the living conditions better for the urban poor. Government has made many schemes in order to help the needy people.

The various effects of slum formation are as follows:

ABSENCE OF AMENITIES - The Surrounding area of slums is lacking in essential amenities in required proportion because of over- crowding.

BAD EFFECTS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS - Women and small or teenager girls are not afforded time for education, as they are burdened with carrying water long distances and caring for sick family members. And, in slums with poor sanitation facilities, going to the toilet at night increases their risk of sexual assault.

HEALTH AND CHILD MORTALITY - Illness and disease spread like wildfire in slums; the persons residing in slums are easily attacked by various types of diseases. The condition of slums is such that it easily leads to unhealthy and unhygienic conditions.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION - Governments generally do not consider or ignore slum dwellers; they are excluded from voting, city development plans, and full protection under the law. Without the rights and voice slum dwellers have to constantly face political and social exclusion.

SURROUNDING LOCALITY - The working institutions such as library, schools, hospitals, etc are nearly located to the slums, which is seriously affected.

UNDESIRABLE SPOTS - The slums are such on a city plan forms undesirable spots and in a sense, disturbs the appearance of a city plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION - Slums cause environmental pollution as there is lack of basic services such as lack of drainage, sanitation etc

WORKING CONDITIONS - It is im possible to work peacefully in slums because the whole area is full of noise, traffic congestion, smoke, dust and darkness. The environment is getting effected due to unhygienic conditions of the slums as they create a lot of pollution in the city. In short the slum spoils the quality of life and the healthy environment of the city as a whole.

2. URBANISATION IN INDIA

Urbanization refers to the increasing number of population that lives in cities and towns. It predominantly results in the physical growth of urban areas, which can be vertical or horizontal. Urbanization is a population shift from rural to urban areas, and the ways in which society wants to adapts for development. In India, there has been huge increase in urban population. The total urban population of India got almost doubled by 1988. By 1991, the urban population was 217.6 million and by March 2001, it had reached 286.11 million marks. The percentage of urban population of the total population of India stands at 27.8%. According to the census 1991 census it was 25.7% and as per census 2011, the urban population of India is 377.11 million which comprises 31.16% of the total population. It is estimated that by 2025 more than 50% of India's population will live in metropolitan cities and towns. In today's time India is of socio economic reform, globalization and liberalization. The number of cities and towns enormous increased from 5,161 in 2001 to 7,936 in 2011. The number of towns has increased by 2775 since the last Census. The number of

metropolitan cities has grown up from 35 in 2001 to 53 in 2011, accounting for 43% of India's urban population

Table 1 - India: Total, Rural & Urban Population (In Million) & Level of Urbanization (In Percentage): 1901-2011 (In millions)

| Year | Total Population | Rural Population | Percentage Rural | Number of UAs/Towns | Urban Population | %age Urban |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1901 | 238.4 | 212.6 | 89.2 | 1,917 | 25.8 | 10.8 |
| 1911 | 252.1 | 226.2 | 89.7 | 1,909 | 25.9 | 10.3 |
| 1921 | 251.3 | 223.2 | 88.8 | 2,047 | 28.1 | 11.2 |
| 1931 | 278.9 | 245.5 | 88.0 | 2,219 | 33.4 | 12.0 |
| 1941 | 318.6 | 274.5 | 86.2 | 2,424 | 44.1 | 13.9 |
| 1951 | 361.1 | 298.7 | 82.7 | 3,059 | 62.4 | 17.3 |
| 1961 | 439.2 | 360.3 | 82.0 | 2,699 | 78.9 | 18.0 |
| 1971 | 548.2 | 439.1 | 80.1 | 3,126 | 109.1 | 19.9 |
| 1981 ^(a) | 683.3 | 523.8 | 76.7 | 3,949 | 159.5 | 23.3 |
| 1991* | 846.3 | 628.7 | 74.3 | 4,615 | 217.6 | 25.7 |
| 2001 | 1028.6 | 742.5 | 72.2 | 5,161 | 286.1 | 27.8 |
| 2011 | 1210.8 | 833.7 | 68.84 | 7,936 | 377.1 | 31.16 |

Source: Primary Census Abstract-2011, Registrar General of India

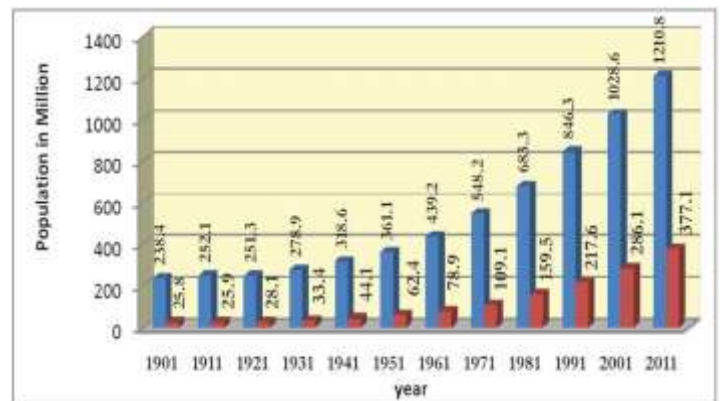


Figure 4 - Trends in Total Population & Urban Population Growth: 1901-2011(In millions)

Source: Primary Census Abstract-2011, Registrar General of India.

Figure 1, shows the trends in the growth of urban population versus total population over the same period.

India's urban population is increasing rapidly than its total population. The current phase of urbanization will further accelerate due to the fast increasing number of towns. In 1901 the urban population is 25.8 million and reaches up to 377.1 million populations in 2011. Every year urbanization rate is increasing very rapidly which needs to be controlled in a proper manner. India is a country which is under the developing form and in order to make it called as developed country urbanization plays a major role in it.

The level or degree of urbanization or the percentage share of urban population to total population stood at 10.3 per cent in 1911. In 1951 about 17.3 per cent of the population lived in cities and towns. The figure steadily increased to 23.3 per cent in 1981, 25.7 per cent in 1991 and reached 27.8 per cent in 2001. In census 2011 the level of urbanization was 31.16 per cent.

Table 2 - Decadal Growth in population in India

| Year | Total Population | Urban Population | Decadal Change in Total Population (%) |
|-------|------------------|------------------|--|
| 1901 | 238.4 | 23.8 | - |
| 1911 | 252.1 | 23.9 | 5.7 |
| 1921 | 251.3 | 28.1 | -0.3 |
| 1931 | 278.9 | 33.4 | 11.0 |
| 1941 | 318.8 | 44.1 | 14.2 |
| 1951 | 361.1 | 62.4 | 13.3 |
| 1961 | 439.2 | 78.9 | 21.6 |
| 1971 | 548.2 | 109.1 | 24.8 |
| 1981 | 683.3 | 159.3 | 24.6 |
| 1991* | 846.3 | 217.6 | 23.9 |
| 2001 | 1028.6 | 286.1 | 21.5 |
| 2011 | 1210.8 | 377.1 | 17.7 |

Source: Primary Census Abstract-2011, Registrar General of India.

Table 2, shows the decadal growth rate from 1911 to 2011 which rises from 5.7% to 17.7%.

3. GROWTH TREND OF SLUM POPULATION IN INDIA (CENSUS 2001 & CENSUS 2011)

CENSUS 2001:

A total of 52.37 million Slum population living in 10.1 million households have been enumerated in slums of 1743 cities/towns spread across 31 States and Union Territories in the 2001 Census of India. The non-slum population was 233.81 million. The slum population constitutes 18.3 percent of the total urban population of all the States and Union Territories; 81.7 percent of the urban population was non-slum population in 2001.

CENSUS 2011:

A total of 65.49 million slum population living in 13.9 million households have been enumerated in slums of 2613 cities/towns spread across 31 States and Union Territories in the 2011 Census of India. The non-slum population was 311.61 million. The slum population constitutes 17.4 percent of the total urban population of all the States and Union Territories; 82.6 percent of the urban population was non-slum population in 2011

Table 3: Slum and Urban population with Absolute change, Decadal Growth and Slum Percentage (All towns - In Millions)

| Indicator | Absolute | | Absolute change 2001-11 | Decadal Growth 2001-11 | Slum Percentage | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | 2001 | 2011 | | | 2001 | 2011 |
| Slum | | | | | | |
| Persons | 5,23,71,589 | 6,54,94,604 | 1,31,23,015 | 25.1 | 18.3 | 17.4 |
| Males | 2,77,59,224 | 3,39,68,203 | 62,08,979 | 22.4 | 18.4 | 17.4 |
| Females | 2,46,12,365 | 3,15,26,401 | 69,14,036 | 28.1 | 18.2 | 17.4 |
| Sex ratio | 887 | 928 | 41 | | | |
| Urban (all towns) | | | | | | |
| Persons | 28,61,19,689 | 37,71,06,125 | 9,09,86,436 | 31.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Males | 15,05,54,098 | 19,54,89,200 | 4,49,35,102 | 29.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Females | 13,55,65,591 | 18,16,16,925 | 4,60,51,334 | 34.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Sex ratio | 900 | 929 | 29 | | | |

Source: Primary Census Abstract for slum, 2011 Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

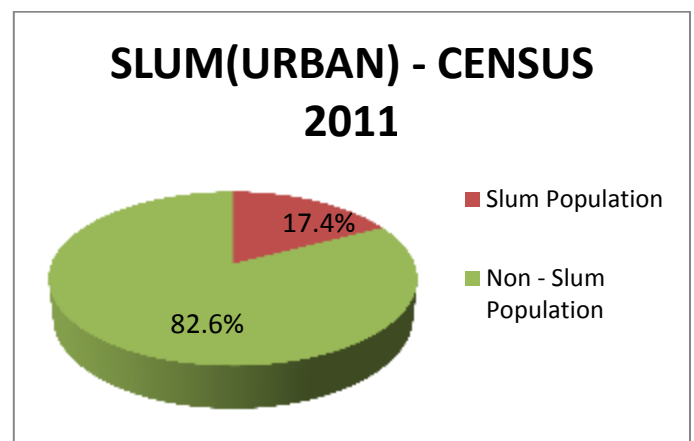
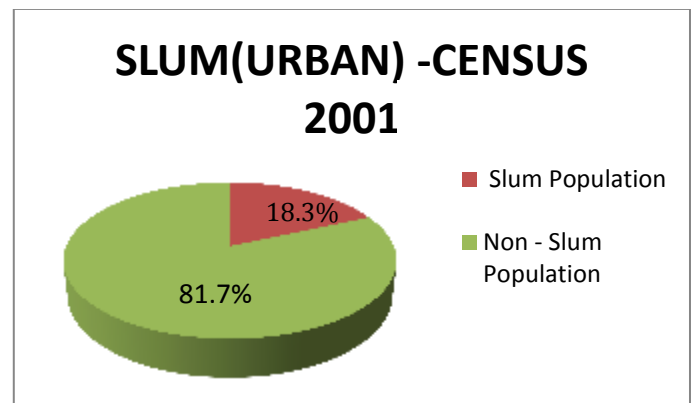


Figure 5- Slum and Non- Slum Population in India (Census 2001 & 2011)

Source: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India
 Figure 5, shows the Slum and Non-Slum population of India. According to both the census i.e; census 2001 and census 2011, the slum population rises from 17.4% to 18.3%. So, there is a rise of 0.9% in the slum population which accounts 1,31,23,015 Million.

4. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES RELATED TO SLUMS DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN POORS IN INDIA

4.1 JNNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission)

Launched - 3rd December, 2005

Duration - 7 years from 2005-06. JNNURM has been extended up to March, 2015 for completion of projects sanctioned up to March, 2012.

Sub Missions - Assisting State Governments in providing housing and basic services to urban poor/ slum dwellers in 65 select cities under the Sub Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other cities and towns.

The Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) which aimed at integrated development of slums through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to providing utilities to the urban poor.

Under BSUP, project cost is shared in the ratio of 50:50 for cities with population more than 1million (as per Census 2001), 80:20 for other smaller Mission Cities and 90:10 for North Eastern and Special category States. Entire cost of construction of Dwelling Units (DUs) and associated infrastructure was shared as per the above mentioned sharing pattern without any limitation. Under IHSDP, project cost is shared in the ratio of 80:20 for remaining smaller cities and 90:10 for North Eastern and Special Category States. Cost ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh per DU including cost of infrastructure was applicable for projects taken up under IHSDP Scheme.

Components - JNNURM were mandated to pursue 3 key pro-poor reforms, namely

(a) Earmarking of 25% of municipal budget for the urban poor for provision of basic services including affordable housing to the urban poor

(b) implementation of 7- Point Charter, namely provision of land tenure, affordable housing, water, sanitation, education, health and social security to the poor in a time-bound manner ensuring convergence with other programmes

(c) Reservation of 25% of developed land in all housing projects, public or private, critical for slum improvement.

4.2 RAY (RAJIV AWAS YOJANA)

Launched in two phases - (i) Pilot phase - June 2011
(ii) Implementation phase - launched on 3.9.2013 for 2013-2022.

Target - 2022

Vision - Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) envisages a "Slum Free India" with inclusive and equitable cities in which benefits should be divided in a rightful manner with every individual which includes access to basic civic infrastructure, social amenities, services and decent shelter.

Mission - Encourage States/Union Territories (UTs) to tackle the adverse situation slums in a definitive manner, by focusing on the following:

1. Bringing all existing slums, notified or non-notified (including recognized and identified) within the formal system and enabling them to avail the basic amenities that is available for the rest of the city/UA;

2. Redressing the failures of the formal system that lie behind the creation of slums by planning for affordable formal housing system for the urban poor and initiating the crucial policy changes required for facilitating them.

Objectives -

Improving the quality and provisioning of housing, basic civic infrastructure and social amenities in intervened slums.

1. Enabling reforms to address some of the causes leading to creation of slums.

2. Institutionalizing mechanisms for preventing the formation of slums which includes the creation of affordable housing stock.

RAY is to be implemented in a mission mode and will provide financial support to States/UTs/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/Central Government Agencies, hereafter called implementing agencies, for providing affordable housing and improvement of basic civic infrastructure and social amenities and services in each selected slums. Rental and transit housing will be accepted under RAY. The Government has also approved the scheme of Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) as part of Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) on 03.9.2013 to increase affordable housing stock, as part of the preventive strategy. The support from the Central is provided at the rate of Rs. 75,000 per Low Income Group (LIG)/ Economically

Weaker Sections (EWS). The size of the Dwelling Units (DUs) is 21 to 40 sqm. Various affordable housing projects are taken under partnerships including private partnership. A project size of minimum 250 dwelling units is eligible for funding under the scheme. The DUs in the project can be a mix of EWS/LIG-A/LIG-B/Higher Categories/ Commercial of which at least 60 percent of the FAR/ FSI is used for dwelling units of carpet area of not more than 60 sq.m.

4.3. PMAY (Pradhan Mantra Awas Yojana) - Housing for All by 2022

Launched: 2015

Target: 2022

Vision: To make the affordable housing for people from every section of society, specially for EWS and LIG group of people.

Implemented Cities: 305 Metropolitan cities and towns across nine states in India.

Focus: To make housing affordable for eligible weaker sections (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) and eradicate slums

Initiatives: Construction of affordable housing for the slum dwellers under the In-situ redevelopment scheme and also provide loans at subsidized rates for the economically weaker sections.

The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA), in the mode of Mission mode for providing the provision of Housing for All by 2022 which named PMAY.

The Mission aims to address the requirements of the affordable housing of urban poor including slum dwellers through following programme verticals:

Rehabilitation of slums for Slum Dwellers with the participation of private developers using land as a resource.

Although there are four verticals in PMAY scheme but for the slum dwellers only the first vertical is there i.e;

In Situ Slum Redevelopment

This vertical will be implemented with a concept of "Land as a resource" with private sector participation for providing affordable houses to eligible slum dwellers.

There are various eligibility criteria's. Slums, whether on Central Government land/State Government land/ULB land, Private Land, should be taken up for "in-situ" redevelopment for providing houses to all eligible slum dwellers.

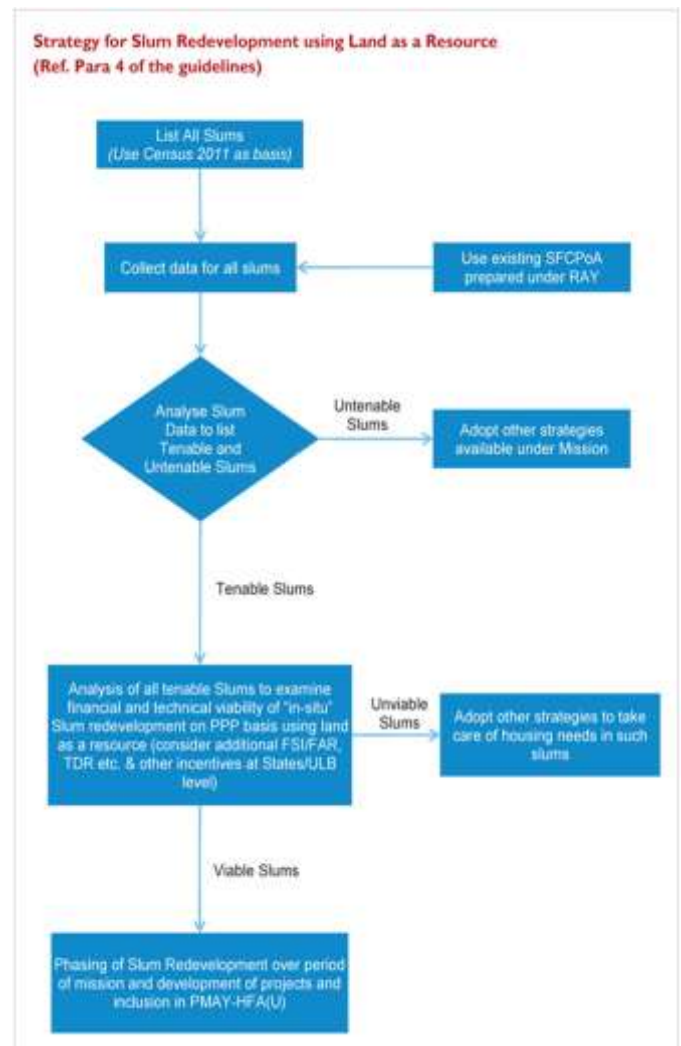


Figure 6 - Strategy for slum redevelopment using land as a resource

Slum rehabilitation gives Rs. 1 lakh per house, on an average, for all houses built for the slum dwellers those are eligible in all such projects. In-Situ Redevelopment of slums using land as a resource, with the help of participation of private sector. This mission aims on griping the potential of land under slum areas and providing formal urban establishments to slum dwellers.

5. CONCLUSION

As we are discussing every year the slum population is increasing due to high rate of urbanisation and migration from rural to metropolitan cities and towns . now its high time to find some alternatives to controlled and manage the increasing population in India. There is a huge demand and need of making healthy and appropriate living conditions to live for the slum dwellers. Various Slum Development schemes are launched by the government in order to help the slum dwellers .The aim of the slum development schemes is to provide infrastructure, services and amenities in order to make the living conditions healthy and comfortable for slum dwellers.

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