



## An Analytical Study of Slum Growth in India

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**Abstract:** India is a developing country with limited resources; even then it has implemented several plans like Five Years Plan, Provision of Urban amenities to Rural Areas (PURA), Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojna etc. Still now, the problems of poverty, unemployment, ill-literacy, malnutrition, and non profitable agriculture etc. of the rural masses are not eradicating to the desired effect and all these are main causes of the slum growth in India. To stop the slum growth, all those causes of slum growth have to be eradicated with determination and diligence. The author has summarized the causes of slum growth in para no. clause (A) to (F) of para 04 of this paper.

**Main Points:** Mainly the Govt. supplied data have been used.

**01. Introduction:** Slum is present in all cities of the world. Although for India, ‘slum’ is a foreign word, but it is also widely used in Hindi, also. In general, slums are signs of poor families living in broken habitations, on sides of drains, on roadsides, on the side of railway tracks, in the messy surroundings behind large/ tall/ rich family buildings but in dirty zones, having temporary typed accommodating building structures. Many researchers have defined it differently. U. N. O. has stated while defining it as an area where a mob or herd resides under the same roof or has a temporary house-structures with no proper drinking water and without appropriate level of toilet Is called slum. Mr. Pronab Sen termed "A slum is 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" i.e. at least 20 temporary homes/ houses/ households of temporary nature with thick population are necessary and there must be no proper toilet and healthy provision of drinking water, then only it should be called a ‘slum’. Earlier, in Census 2011 of India, it was considered that the area should be declared as a slum by the state or local government and if that area is not declared slum then, there should be approximately 60-70 houses or house structure and it should be highly populated also and there should not be proper provision of drinking water and toilets. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, slum is said to be an area in which satisfactory family life is not possible and the area is physically and socially inferior having densely population in city. This definition also mentions a low level house structure including the availability of proper drinking water and proper toilets. As per Bihar State Slum policy a slum consists of poorly built congested tenements with no R.C.C. or R.B.C. roofs, in unhygienic environment with inadequate infrastructure lacking proper sanitation and drinking water facilities with thick population (may be more than one families in one house). In such a situation, the definition given by Mr. Pronab Sen committee is reasonable and consolidated and presently the Government of India recognizes this definition. It is noteworthy that due to lack of education a person could not be aware with losses and ill-effects due to unhygienic environments.



**02. Increase in Slum Population:** It is well known that India's population growth rate is so high that by 2025-30, it will become the country of highest population and will also leave China behind. India's population growth rate, rural population growth rate and urban population growth rate are not the same. It is clear from the Table that the urban population growth rate is much higher than the population growth rate of India. On the other hand, rural population growth rate is much lower than India's population growth rate. On a careful comparative study of the urban population and rural population of 1901 and 2011, it is clear that the rural population is not growing as fast as that of the urban population. The rural population, of course, is migrating to the cities and villages are changing into the cities, due to which the slums in cities are increasing rapidly and population in slums of cities are also increasing. It is also clear from the same table that the growth rate of urban part of the population of Bihar is very high and rural population is not increasing as fast as urban population. Clearly, the same situation is also in Bihar. It is clear from the said table that in 1901, 94.42% of the population Bihar lived in villages, whereas in post-independence rural population in 1951 the population has come down to 93.53% and in 2011 the number has further come down to 88.70%. On the other hand, in 1901, 5.58% of Bihar's population lived in cities whereas increased to 6.46% of the total population of Bihar. The census of 2011 shows that the urban population of Bihar increased by 11.3% of the

Table

Year of Census	Total Population of India (in ten lakhs)	Percentage growth in population of India in 10 years	Urban population of India (in 10 lakhs)	Percentage Growth in Urban population of India in 10 years	Rural population of India (in 10 lakhs)	Percentage Growth in Rural population of India in 10 years	TOTAL Population of Bihar (in ten lakhs)	Rural Population of Bihar in percentage of Total population of Bihar	Urban Population of Bihar in percentage of Total population of Bihar
1901	238.4	-	25.8	-	212.6	-	21.5	94.42	5.58
1911	252.1	5.7	25.9	0.38	226.2	6.4	21.9	94.06	5.94
1921	251.3	(-) 0.3	28.1	8.5	223.2	(-)1.3	21.6	94.44	5.56
1931	278.9	11.0	33.4	18.9	245.5	9.9	23.7	94.09	5.91
1941	318.6	14.2	44.1	33.0	274.5	11.8	26.6	88.35	11.65
1951	361.1	13.3	62.4	44.5	298.7	8.8	29.4	93.53	6.46
1961	439.2	21.6	78.9	26.4	360.3	20.6	34.8	92.81	7.47
1971	548.2	24.8	109.1	38.3	439.1	21.9	42.1	90.50	9.50
1981	683.3	24.6	159.5	46.2	523.8	19.3	52.3	90.25	9.75
1991	846.3	23.9	217.6	36.4	628.7	20.0	64.5	86.20	13.95
2001	1028.6	21.5	286.1	31.5	742.5	18.1	83.0	89.52	10.48
2011	1210.8	17.7	377.1	31.7	833.7	12.3	103.8	88.70	11.30

total population of Bihar. The slum population of India has increased by about 25 to 27 percent within 10 years of 2001 to 2011, whereas the slum population of Bihar has increased by about 40 percent within the same period of 10 years. The rural population of Bihar, of



course, is migrating to the cities and the villages are converting into the cities. It is clear that the villages and villagers are not getting proper development, due to which the villagers are migrating to the cities and the slum population of Bihar is increasing rapidly. As per U. N. O. it is estimated that by 2025, more than 50 percent of the population of countries (nations) will live in the slum of the cities. This has created serious problems for urban planners, policy-makers and urban affairs managers, as well.

**03. Type of Slums:** Government of India has considered two types of slums: Notified slum and Un-notified slums. A notified slum is a slum whose notification has been issued by the government or quasi-government institutions. Based on this, the 2011 census of India was done. In the course of research, this researcher- author has found that the un-notified slums also have a very large population.

**04. Attempts to solve the slum problem:** After 1947, India undertook many schemes to improve social and economic life and also achieved development to a certain extent; But still now the poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, malnutrition have not been eradicated and it has become a major concern for administrators, policy-makers and planners. Presently the slum population is about 27 to 30 percent of the population of India but their population density is very high and they have been living on land for only 05-06 percent of the urban land area for many years. Due to migration of rural masses to the cities, their population density is increasing day by day and new slums are also being built. Prior to 2001, the population of slums was not counted separately in the census. It was kept in the population of the poor. So the slum is analyzed in detail after the 2001 census. The slum population is increasing due to following reasons:

(A) There is no effective agricultural improvement and the farming has become practically unprofitable.

(B) The rural population has no proper hospitals, schools, electricity, drinking water, sanitary and road facilities etc.

(C) In towns, metro cities, mega cities and industrial towns the rural poor people easily get domestic works, whereas in the villages they have to remain hungry or to take loan or to beg, due to non profitable farming. To engage said rural people as household workers, the urban people encourage them to come to town.

(D) To run the industries at less salary payments, the industrialists attract the poor rural peoples to engage them but they do not provide them proper housing facilities in desired quantities.

(E) In the absence of adequate shelter, the economically weaker migrant rural population occupies the vacant/ unclaimed lands in dirty areas of the cities and live there in congestion, ultimately giving rise the slums as they do not take shelter on rent due to their less wages.

(F) Due to ill-literacy and due to lack of technical education, the migrant poor rural people do not earn sufficiently even in towns to live in hygienic conditions and also do not know the ill-effects unhygienic conditions, so they easily decide to live in slums.

**05. Conclusion:** India is not developed, but is a developing nation and has limited resources. Even then, it brought many schemes for poverty eradication like Five Year Plans, Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA), Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana etc. etc. However, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, malnutrition remained a major concern for policy makers and social planners. Long-term planning requires constant and sustained efforts to achieve its objectives. Only after proper up-gradation of villages, the migration will tend to stop. The



process of planning has to be intensified to meet the rural human need. The possibility to stop or reduce the formation of slum can only be thought after eradicating the causes forming the slums as stated in clause (a) to (f) of para 04 above. To stop the slum growth, all those causes of slum growth have to be eradicated with determination and diligence.

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