

- The slum is the complex product of many products as it is true of many other social phenomena but poverty is the foremost one.
- It is interplay of objective economic facts and subjective group standards.
- Low-income forces people to live in slums
- The characteristics of the slum has been presented under various subheadings like housing condition, overcrowding & congestion, poor sanitation & health, apathy & social isolation, deviant behaviour & the culture of the slum, that is, a way of life.
- The slums constitute the most important and persistent problem of urban life. They are the chief sources of crime and delinquency, of illness and death from diseases.
- Slums are of all shapes, types and forms.
- Mumbai has its packed multistoried chawls, New York- its Harlem and its East side, Chicago- its black belt, London's east end.
- Families in Bangkok crowd together in 'Pile villages' composed of poorly constructed wooden shacks, bamboo huts and straw hovels along the small lanes of Kolkata, Dacca and Lagos, which stream with the high humidity and stink from open drains.
- Even the most affluent nation in the world have slums.
- At least one fifth of urban population of U.S lives in poor or substandard housing.
- Like U.S, other capitalist nations of the world have slums.
- These nations have progressed on other fronts but the shelter problems have eluded solutions.
- Even in socialist countries where massive urban renewal programs have taken place and where private ownership of land does not exist, slums do exist.
- The developing or the underdeveloped countries, which have chosen the capitalist path of development, are often referred to as the Third World, where the trends of urbanization since the Second World War have been interesting, instructive and alarming.
- Steaks of contrasts/contradictions in all spheres of life characterize Third World.
- For instances, in Mumbai some of the worst slums in the world can be found the skyline is getting changed by skyscrapers of modern dimension, accommodating airline companies, five star hotels, officers of multinationals and the affluent few of the metropolis.
- The slum has become an inevitable and expanding feature of cities in developing countries

NATURE OF SLUMS

- An illegal occupation of land for housing.
- Areas of substandard housing conditions within a city.
- A slum is always an area.
- The term housing conditions refers to actual living conditions rather than mere physical appearance of the area
- The cave dwelling of prehistoric people, the dugouts etc. of pioneers are all substandard according to our notion, but they do not create slum conditions
- Slum word has a long and a negative connotation
- It is being apparently derived from "slumber" as slum were once thought by majority to be unknown, back streets presumed to be sleepy and quite.
- There is a disagreement over whether people make slums or slums make people.
- Are substandard housing conditions due to social standards behavior of certain groups or vice- versa?
- Lack of basic infrastructure, like drains, drinking water, electricity and location gives the slums a very ungainly picture.
- There are three main types of slums –
 - 1) The original slum : – from the very beginning, consisted of unsuitable buildings, these sections are beyond recovery and need to be razed. The example of this type is the Mexican slum in Wichita.
 - 2) Slums created by the departure of the middle class families to other sections and subsequent deterioration of the area – e.g. South End slum in Boston.
 - 3) Slum as a phenomenon of transition : – Once the area around a main business district has become blighted, physical and social deterioration spreads rapidly – Teams with accommodation for the destitute, home of prostitution, beggars, homeless men, habitual criminals, chronic alcoholics etc.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

- A study of ancient Roman ruins indicates the presence of slums in ancient times.
- In medieval times cities were so crowded that destitute people though small in number were kept out of the city.
- The Jewish ghetto was a unique type of medieval urban slum.
- Its uniqueness stems from an interesting and complex set of social, religious, political and economic factors that created a unified homogenous group which lived for centuries,

isolated from the rest of the society in slum like conditions.

- This situation deteriorated with increasing urbanization in Europe and U.S.
- The origin of the British slums during the nineteenth century as explained by Lewis Mumford is related to the industrial modern city & the factory system.
- Frederick Engels in his study of slum conditions in Manchester in 1844, the first manufacturing city of the world stated that the recent origin of slums belong to the industrial epoch.
- So, after the industrial revolution, the poor were needed to work in urban factories. It was then the modern slum began to grow.
- The low wages permitted no decent quarters & rapidly increasing industry multiplied the number of urban masses.
- Housing has to be provided & the tenements of the working class were made of poor material, rooms were small and low, baths were omitted, toilet facilities & water outlets had to be shared by several people.
- In U.S, the process of urbanization was quicker than in Europe, and low paid workers immigrated in masses.
- Big slums were essential phenomena of a few large cities.
- The invention of automobile the subsequent exodus from more centrally located residences, added to the deterioration of once satisfactory areas.
- Two World Wars, during which building activities were sharply curtailed, added to the slum problem.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SLUMS

- Inadequate housing, deficient facilities, overcrowding and congestions
- Sociologically, it is a way of life, a subculture with a set of norms and values, which is reflected in poor sanitation & health practices, deviant behavior & attributes of apathy and social isolations.
- People who live in slums are isolated from the general power structure and are regarded as inferiors
- William. F. Whyte (1943) in his well known sociological study, Street Corner Society situated in Boston's north end, stressed upon the importance of overcrowding as a criterion for measuring slum conditions.
- Some slum areas like in Delhi, have 40,00,000 people per square mile.
- Poor facilities & community services : – Shortage of water, electricity and sanitary facility, shabbiness and dilapidation, schools are of poor quality and other public facilities are often insufficient.
- A high incidence of deviant behavior : – crime, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, drunkenness,

drug usage, mental disorder, suicide, ill legitimacy and family maladjustments

- Due to the lack of money and power often slum dwellers are prove to be pressurized by the goons of upper classes to commit crime.
- It is a vicious cycle for the sum dwellers.
- Slums differ widely with respect to the social organization of their Inhabitant
- There are slums in which the inhabitants are strangers to one another, there are family slums in which there is a wide acquaintance between the inhabitants.
- Slums inhabited by immigrant groups may have a firm social organization.
- Culture might be defined as system of symbols or meanings for the normative conduct of standards, having three distinct properties : –It is transmittable, it is learned and it is shared.
- The slum has a culture of its own and this culture is the way of life.
- This way of life is passed from generation to generation with its own rationale, structure and defense mechanism, which provides the means to continue in spite of difficulties and deprivation.
- It is the habits, customs and behavior pattern people have learned which shapes their behavior.
- Apathy & Social Isolation : – Every residential area within the modern city tends to be socially isolated from others, partly by choice and partly by location.
- Due to stigmatisation, there is a societal reaction to slum dwellers.
- The non-slum dweller often associates the physical appearance & difficult living conditions of the slums with belief in the "Natural inferiority"
- It has consequences in the social isolation, exclusion, from power and participation in urban society of slum dwellers.
- The slum dwellers often lack an effective means of communication with the outside world.
- According to William. F. Whyte (1943), slums provided an organized and familiar environment for those who lived in it.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SLUM

- To provide housing for the lowest income groups and migrants in the city.
- It serve as places where group living & association on the basis of villages, regions, tribes or ethnic or racial groups may develop.
- Whyte (1943) found an organized way of life in slums, which offered satisfaction to its residents
- The slums also perform a function as a type of "School" to educate newcomers to the city.
- It gives them a place to become oriented upon arrival, to find first jobs and to learn the ways of city life.
- It is offering a place of residence to those who prefer to live an anonymous life.

- Which includes migratory workers, criminals, chronic alcoholic and workers in illegal enterprises.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF INDIAN SLUMS

- The predominantly rural & agricultural nature of Indian society can no longer be called "A nation of villages".
- Four fifths of India's population presently resides in its half million villages. Today several cities of India are huge metropolitan areas and these cities have become centers of modern technology and the hope of future progress.
- The cities of India have played an important role in breaking away from tradition-bound social practices
- Political and social reform movements have largely originated in the cities and have then spread out.
- The urbanization in India has been in the continuous growth of slum population, as most internal migration has been concentrated in the slums
- Although India is a large heterogeneous country who's diversity often makes generalization difficult.
- Slum conditions can still be characterized in general terms.
- The Indian slum, however, is far more complex than the mere aggregate of these appalling physical condition; it is a way of life.
- Rates of diseases, chronic illness and infant mortality remain high and there is little knowledge of health and sanitation, nutrition or childcare.
- Illiteracy is exceedingly high and cultural and recreation activities are almost entirely lacking except those provided by such commercial enterprises as the cinema and gambling.
- Most slum dwellers are apathetic & suffer a great sense of futility.
- They have little community pride or even consensus, and they often blame the local authorities for their plight.
- They have become antagonistic towards them, seldom co-operating with municipal personnel in efforts to improve their immediate areas or the city as a whole.
- A. R. Desai & S. Devadas Pillai (1990), in their work "Slums & urbanization" draw their attention to another significant feature of development postulates adopted by state, which has vitally affected the pattern of urbanization & type of urban living that is being created in the country.
- Our Constitution has no the right to property & not the right to work or right to adequate housing, education and employment.
- The Constitution also proclaims certain freedom and rights to citizens viz. right to move throughout the country, right to life & security and freedom to search for earning and prerequisites needed for that search within legal limits but at the same time Constitution does not ensure the right o have resources for securing livelihood, source of earning,

of adequate facilities for stay and other things essential, for mobile jobs for citizens to ensure a better purchasing power to live adequately.

- A small class of property owners is developing at the top, while at the lower levels vast growing section of property less citizens fending for their income for selling their skills and labour is emerging at an exponential rate.
- This pattern of class differentiation, income & asset concentration on the one hand & pauperization of a considerable section of the population driven to unemployment & underemployed state forced to resort to begging, garbage gathering and various types of legally non permitted are means of petty trades.
- This class configuration, emerging as a direct result of government policies is creating a weird strange pattern of urbanization and urban living
- There exists an urban sector of rich with posh localities, residential areas glittering shopping malls, luxurious hotels, high style recreation centers as well as sophisticated educational and official complexes for a small minority of wealthy citizens
- The urban areas it generates a majority of urban poor living in slums and involves a constant job hunting and income finding activities lacking adequate purchasing power.

APPROACHES TO THE SLUM PROBLEMS

- Some experts advocates the policy of slum clearance while others believe in providing welfare services to slum dwellers.
- Still others stress providing greater economic opportunity for slum dwellers.
- All however have serious limitations as solutions either alone or together to the slum dwellers.
- The traditional welfarist approaches advocate the policy of destroying the slums, tearing it down physically and redevelopment with subsidized housing
- It is believed that providing welfare services to slum dwellers is the best way to bring about changes in slum areas and to solve the slum problems
- This traditional approach to slum problems through clearance and redevelopment with subsidized housing has been criticized in its application to the developing countries.
- As the cities in underdeveloped nations raise their standard the poor people from rural areas flock to the city slums.
- The subsidized housing project will make cities more attractive and the number of poor rural people arriving in cities will become difficult to handle.
- So the only way to reduce urban slum areas is to raise rural living standard to those of a city.
- Slum clearance however is not exclusively a matter of replacing standardizing housing with new planned slums.

- Proper orientation of residents to a better & organized way of life & to the maintenance of the entire neighborhood it is essential, & this orientation requires the system of education & motivation of all the people, men and women, and children to the fundamental of personal hygiene, home management and environment sanitation.
- It needs more adequate wages, guaranteed minimum income, in-discriminatory employment policies, accessible and inexpensive credit, programme to train and retain youths and adults, more effective training for certain occupation and improve social security and public assistance.
- Gita Dewan Verma (2000) in her work "slumming India" argues that the real problem is not the pervasive urban squalor that offends us, but rather the moral and intellectual bankruptcy that sustains it
- For the urban poor minimal 'landless' options – outreach services instead of Hospitals, street education instead of proper schools, slum upgrading in the place of housing-all have become very fashionable
- It is impossible that an IIM built on an excessive 200 acres of land or a new fangled cyber park or any of the plush farmhouses larger than the ceiling limits will be dynamited to make room for T.B. sanatorium or a municipal school or a low income housing project and if and when our welfare state happens to change its mind about what is needed for urban welfare and to stop urban slumming.
- The state should make planned development a fundamental need of urbanites, calling for a high degree of responsibility on the part of those in charge of urban governance
- In such a setup solution like clearing a few slums or building a few tenements for the poor will take the existing social setup for granted.
- Urban renewal programmes based on this assumption are far from the real answer.
- Urban community development offers a new developmental approach to some of the problems of urban areas in general and of the slums in particular.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME INVOLVES

- The development of effective community feeling within an urban context & the development of self-help and citizens participation, of individual initiative in seeking community integration & change.
- Creation of a sense of social cohesion on a neighborhood basis & strengthening of group interrelationship.
- Encouragement & stimulation of self-help, through the initiative of the individuals in the community.
- Stimulation by outside agencies where initiative for self-help is lacking.

- Reliance upon persuasion rather than upon compulsion to produce change through the efforts of people.
- Identification and development of local leadership.
- Development of civic consciousness and acceptance of civic responsibilities.
- Use of professional and technical assistance to support the efforts of the people involved.
- Coordination of city services to meet neighborhood needs and problems.
- Provisions of training in democratic procedures that may results in decentralization of some govt. functions.

DELHI PILOT PROJECT

- In 1958 Delhi pilot project in urban community development was launched with grants totaling \$170,539 from Ford foundation to the Delhi municipal corporation.
- The Delhi pilot project represented both in philosophy and planning, a unique attempt to produce change in urban areas.
- In its overall objective of developing a programme, organizing communities, enlisting self-help, identifying and training local leadership and working out techniques of change, the Delhi pilot project appears to have been reasonably successful
- Along with administrative problems, keeping momentum of urban community development project & citizen's self- help organizations is a real challenge.
- The Marxist and Socialist approach points out that, the nationalization of urban land & its removal from the orbit of market operation is necessary (A.R. Desai & S. Devidas)
- Abolition of private profit seeking agencies for constructional activities is another essential step for the solution of the urban problems especially slums.
- Only public assurance and provision of work to every able-bodied worker can provide the vast majority of non-propertied classes the purchasing power so necessary for survival.

DHARAVI SLUM : A CASE STUDY

- Asia's largest slum, Dharavi, lies on prime property right in the middle of India's financial capital, Mumbai.
- It is one of the largest slums in the world – home to over 1 million people spread over 557 acres of land — one of the most densely populated areas in the world.
- It originated in 1882 during the British colonial era and is one of the multi-religious, multi-ethnic and diverse settlement.
- The slum provides an economical accommodation for workers & labourers having hometown outside Mumbai.
- It has a large number of thriving small-scale industries that produce embroidered garments, export quality leather goods, pottery and plastic.

- It is situated between two main railway lines Western and Central.
- The hustle and bustle of the slum would take you in a world of its own which is unbelievable and mesmerizing at the same time.
- Kalpana Sharma (2000) in her famous case study "Rediscovering Dharavi – A Mumbai Slum" challenges the conventional notion of a slum.
- According to her Dharavi is much more than a cold statistic. What make it special are the extraordinary people who live there, many of whom have defied fate and an unhelpful state to prosper through a mix of back breaking work, some luck and a great deal of ingenuity
- Even without aid from government, people have successfully replaced thatch and bamboo with brick and mortar.
- However they cannot do anything about the infrastructure that has to be provided by the state.
- The process and manner in which slums are reorganized or redeveloped have to be done in consultation with the people involved.
- NGO organization working with urban poor have long urged that women in particular must be involved in the planning and design to redevelop slum settlers
- Places like Dharavi flourish because people find work.
- They attract people because they embody the spirit of enterprise and survival in the face of tremendous obstacles.
- Architect, Engineers and urban planners think of structures but do not address the life of people.
- Livelihood and shelter has to be seen as one rather than separate entities, which is lacking in recent redevelopment project declared by govt of state.
- If economic growth, full employment or lowering of discrimination towards job applicants should raise the real income of the majority of those living in the slums housing qualities would tend to improve.



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