



Urbanization and Problem of Increasing Slums

VIVEK , NET-JRF, M.A. Sociology

Abstract:

Urbanization is a process in which people from rural areas migrate to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities. It is triggered by Industrialization as it leads to growth of industries. People from rural and far-flung areas come to urban centers of growth but due to high cost of living they tend to find accommodations or places which are either free or economical. Such areas lack basic amenities such as drinking water, sewage and sanitation. As a result, it leads to growth of slums. Normally, slums develop around the main centers of work or specifically large projects where people living in slums are employed or have previously been employed. It reduces or simply nullifies their travel cost. In this research paper, attempt is made to find out cause of increasing slums around growth centers and their persistence.

ISSN : 2348-5612 © URR



Keywords: Urbanization, Slums, Etc.

Introduction:

Industrial projects or centers of growth require manpower and it should be either cheap. The people who have migrated from rural areas to urban centers of growth in search of employment opportunities find it hard to sustain themselves away from working areas or construction sites and bear extra costs of commuting. They tend to find abandoned or vacant places nearby the construction site and manage the place for their living. The projects take years till completion stage is reached. By that time, the dwellers of nearby areas have encroached upon the nearby lands and established their life and patterns according to that place. They find it suitable to continue living there as it is near to the centers of growth where there are employment opportunities. Without basic amenities such as drinking water, sanitation, sewage, electricity, etc. these areas become recognized as slums. With no proper and effective rehabilitation and resettlement policies in place, these areas continue to thrive besides the industrial centers of growth. People living in these areas find jobs in the nearby industries and make their living. More and more people coming from rural areas in search of job opportunities find ready and cheap places to stay in the city. As a result slum population grows. Families grow and develop within these areas.



Review of Literature:

Kholi observes that (2010) “what the Indian state has done is to throw its weight behind the winners of the new economy, without compensating those who are left behind”. In the book “Rural Urban Migration and Rural Unemployment in India” G.V. Joshi and Norbert Lobo (Joshi & Lobo, 2003) have stated that human beings migrate because they are living beings with experiences and aspirations. There was no dispute regarding the fact that rural-to-urban migration is a component of population change. Its impact was felt in the region where both ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors operate with varying intensity.

Objectives: To find out the causes of increasing slums around growth centers and their persistence.

Methodology: An exploratory and descriptive research design shall be followed to carry out this study to analyze the problem of increasing slums due to Urbanization. The data will be collected with the help of secondary data collection techniques. Secondary data will be used in this research and is collected through published and unpublished sources which include books, journals, articles, reports and other sources like the internet, magazines, research publications and so on.

Reasons for growth of slums and their persistence

Growth of slums is triggered by need for employment opportunities and non-availability of better employment opportunities in rural areas which led to migration of people from rural areas to urban areas. Once migration takes place, need for cheaper places to reside and higher cost of living led to segregation of people in vacant lands nearby the workplaces. These areas are not fully developed and lack basic amenities. People erect temporary structures as dwelling units and start living there so as to avoid the extra burden of paying for commuting from far-flung or outer city areas to work centers. Even the management of the companies and industrial projects in which these people are employed do not pay heed to growing slums in nearby areas as long as they are getting cheap labor from them. The problem is further aggravated by lack of proper rehabilitation and resettlement policy that could be acceptable to the slum dwellers. People living in these slums for years have apprehensions when government wishes to shift them to better places. The requirement of paper-work, need to produce several documents to benefit from rehabilitation policy, conditions to be met and followed, etc. aggravate their apprehensions regarding the intentions of government. They find it hard to shift to newer places where there might not be employment opportunities nearby. This leads to persistence of slums.

Conclusion: There is growing need to effectively tackle the problem of slums in urban areas. Proper Rehabilitation and Resettlement policy needs to be put in place. Employment opportunities should be available at the new places where the slum dwellers are being resettled. The mega-projects could be launched in and around rural areas and necessary facilities need to be provided by the government so that migration of people from rural areas to cities could be



reduced to some extent. When people start getting employment opportunities in rural areas, they can stay at their homes and find it easy to commute from there to work places. Besides, the management of the industrial projects in which people living in slums are employed should be responsive towards their rehabilitation as they benefitted from the cheap labor they saved from the cost of commuting by the employees. Serious social implications abound due to emergence of slum areas in and around cities. Problems such as health deterioration, sanitation, education, crime, cultural conflicts arise. Timely and focused intervention is required at the initial stages of growth of slums.

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