ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF URBAN POOR THROUGH SLUM PERMANENT RECORD SYSTEM (SPRS)

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INTRODUCTION

India is one of the fast growing urban regions in Asia with regard to the economic growth and the urbanisation. India's urban population is second largest in the world after China. Urban areas are the engines of productivity and growth in the country. Indian cities contributes over 55% of the Indian GDP. This modernization and the urbanization have resulted in the radical socio-economic changes and give rise to new conflicts and tensions leading to the consequent increase of the new strata of population named “urban poor. The urban population in the country is second largest in the world after China contributing over 55% of the Indian cities. (India: Urban Poverty Report 2009, published by the United Nations Development Programme)

As per the standard definitions, we can conclude that the Poverty is a condition in which a person or community is deprived of, and or lacks the essentials for a minimum standard of well-being and life. these essentials may include material resources such as food, safe drinking water, and shelter etc and the social resources which includes lack of social resources which results in the limited access to information, education, health care, social status, political power, or the opportunity to develop meaningful connections with other people in society.

Due to the lack of desired livelihood and income sources in the rural areas motivates the rural population to the urban cities. Lack of education skill and opportunities place them in the cities in more vulnerable position. Here in the urban cities, competition on the city demands, poor social support systems, linguistic issues all these places these migrants in a more vulnerable situation than the native citizens. The lack of economic base forces them to settle them in the urban slums. So in the urban slums majority of the population are migrants and they facing more severity of poverty.

Thus it can be concluded that the urban poverty is more vulnerable than the rural poverty due to the multidimensional phenomenon. Urban poor live with many deprivations. Their challenges include:

- Limited or no access to the employment opportunities and income
- Inadequate housing & Infrastructure
- Unhealthy living environments
- Limited social protection mechanisms
Inadequate health and educational opportunities

Among the above, most important problem they face is the poor housing condition and it affect all other aspects of their life. In this context, the present article explores the Contribution of the Slum Permanent Record system to the existing homeless situation & poor social security measures available in India

HOMELESSNESS& HUMAN RIGHTS

Homlessness includes those who live in accommodation that does not reach certain standards as well as those with no accommodation at all. In developing countries it is considered as the situation “having no land / shelter, while in other developed countries, it is considered as “having in sub- standards housing” or “not having an acceptable housing provision”

It is also perceived as the result of the unaffordable housing, costing & social policy, forced evictions, improper support from local authorities. Homeless people show high rate of drug usage, alcohol, mental health issues, etc.

In developing countries, even no accurate data on poverty & homelessness. 2001 census details of the 13 million homeless people in India. With a 5-6 members depending on them .UN commission on Human rights, 2005 reports 63% slum dwellers in South Asia covering almost 100 million people living without shelter. Homelessness is the result of the lack of affordable housing, unemployment, socio economic changes, income support etc and it affects the total quality of life posing threat to survival itself of the individuals. Unemployment, mental illness, domestic violence, disaster etc associated with homelessness & they are even prone to limited access to health care, education, violence, abuse, reduced access to banking, psychological issues etc.

Following are the general threats associated with the situation of homelessness:

1. Poverty:- Homelessness and poverty are attached together. Poor people are not in a position to pay for housing, food, child care, health care, and education.

2. Drug Addiction:- Data indicates that alcohol and drug abuse are excessively high among the homeless inhabitants. People who are poor and addicted are obviously at augmented risk of homelessness.

3. War: - It causes unexpected homelessness. People who are in a good position suddenly loose their home due to battle among countries.

4. Overcrowding and harassment by landlords.

5. Unhealthy relationships between young people and their parents or guardians.

6. Unemployment
7. Divorce: - Anyone in a family whether mother, father or child can become homeless due to separation. Single parents with dependent children are mostly at risk of homelessness.

8. Natural disaster: - Cyclone, Tsunami and other calamities totally destroy the region. The homes are destroyed and families get dislocated.

United Nations Declarations of Human Rights 1948 perceives the Right to adequate housing as the basic right to survival. It states “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 25, par. 1)

The UN committee on Economic & Social Cultural Rights identifies seven elements of the housing as a human right. This involve the following:

- Legal security of tenure
- Accessibility to services, materials, facilities & infrastructure
- Affordability for services which also including housing & habitability,
- Accessibility to location which cannot be not far from civil services & livelihood

Accessibility to cultural adequacy right to access to land, natural resources, livelihood & basic services

SOCIAL SECURITY & HOMELESSNESS

Social security is the overall security guaranteed to a person in all circumstances which includes family, work place, public space, work atmosphere etc. Social security provisions contains the facility for basic needs which includes, good health, shelter and supportive infrastructure and the protection from various contingencies which includes illness disability, unemployment, etc and thus to facilitate the adequate standard of living. It can be understood as the programmes established by the national legislations or governance mechanism to provide security for the citizens against interruption or loss of earning power and for certain special expenditures arising from birth, marriage or death. Social security aims for the development of the entire family.

As per the ILO convention No.102 on minimum standards of social security, the social security measures involves medical care and benefits for sickness, unemployment, old age, employment injury, maternity, invalidity and survival benefits. The purpose of any social security measure is to give individuals and families the confidence of attaining a quality life. The contingencies of social security as delineated by ILO are medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit and survivors benefit etc Indian constitution also guarantees the right of equality, the right to life and the right of social protection etc for the citizens. Article 41 of the Indian Constitution speaks of state's responsibility to provide public assistance to the citizens of this country. This gives
housing also a dimension of the social security. But in practise limited assurance or safety for housing exists, especially among the urban population.

As a member of the United Nations, India has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).etc. so the right to have social security & housing rights is Considered as a human right in India

**SLUM PERMANNENT RECORD SYSTEM**

Even when we have the security measures, proper developemnt alternatives are not reaching the needy beneficiaries. Those who are benefited get benefits again and again and the needy ones are not getting consideration. This is because of the lack of the comprehensive approach towards poverty. The poverty profile changes by time and place. For reaching the real beneficiaries, we need an effective monitoring system and authentic data base. This calls for the development of strategies and policies on various socio economic indicators relevant to the life of the poor. Data’s plays the major role in the policy and the strategy formulation of the slum up gradations with the different parameters including health, infrastructure, education, social security, security for tenure etc. In the urban economy, the policies shall be based on these indicators. So the profile of the people depicting the vulnerability in accordance with the indicators is needed.

In this context, what we need is a holistic approach. It needs the government as well as the civil society actors to lead. Collaboration among the key players for the financial resource management is needed. The policies should target this change. What we need is an Inclusive policy promoting the paid employment, self esteem, local level decision etc supportive housing reintegration strategies should be developed with the interagency coordination

Visualising this, SPRS focus on the social security provisions which comprises of the security for tenure, security for women & children, educational & health security etc. Achieving this purpose, Slum Permanent Record System (SPRS) is formed with a vision of slum free cities SPRS provides the collective upgradable details of the grass root beneficiaries / stake holders through IT enabled development package to the various development institutions, researchers and the government institutions and to provide the communities the collective information of the government and non government incentives as well as the outreach services. The database lays as the base reference or a tool in which lead to the formulation of the slum policies and strategies. The policies generally include the housing and infrastructure policy, educational policy, health policy, employment policy etc in the cities as per the city specific needs.

**OBJECTIVES**

Major objectives of the SPRS include:

- formation of a collective data bank enabling the understanding the life of the urban poor based on the qualitative & quantitative compilation of the socio economic characteristics
• documentation of the best practices concerned with the urban poor enabling the policy and strategy & policy formulation

• Act as persistent data bank.

ACTIVITIES COVERED

A city poverty assessment is a tool for acquiring up-to-date information on a city's poverty and social development. Constructing a poverty profile at the city level will provide a snapshot showing who is poor, where they live in the city, their access to services, their living standards, and so forth, thereby contributing to the targeting of poverty measures. For the better understanding, we are taking Guwahati as a case study.

IDENTIFICATION OF SLUM

Our activity in any new place starts with the identification of a slum as per the city specific characteristics. For this the definition of a slum is critical. A slum can be defined on the basis of the social-economic level of the population that live in an area. The characteristics of a slum include: crime, unemployment, suicide rate, low level education, low level income and low quality housing. It can be defined as an area which has poor housing, often characterized by multi-occupancy and overcrowding. Schools are poor, items sold in local shops etc.

As per Census of India, 2001, the slum areas broadly constitute of:

1. All specified areas notified as 'Slum' by State/Local Government and UT Administration under any Act;

2. All areas recognized as 'Slum' by State/Local Government and UT Administration which may have not been formally notified as slum under any Act;

3. A compact area of at least 300 populations or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities.

Based on these standard criteria, we define slums as per the city features. As in Guwahati where majority of the population are residing on hill side with scattered housing due to the unavailability of plain land, we define slum as a “Minimum 60 nos of temporary base material housing without infrastructure to be covered in Slum or urban poor where Density varies from 450 to 150 PPH”

SLUM PROFILING

Our Slum approach starts with the slum analysis, slum rating, community informal meeting followed by the bio metric survey which leads to the policy level revisions and the incentives supports to the community members.
SLUM ANALYSIS

The slum profiling starts with the slum analysis and is based on the analysis of the socio economic, livelihood & the physiographic indicators details on the slum as follows:

General details: Here our focus is on physical location of the slum, its total area, total population, nature of the land ownership, number of households, population density, location constrain etc.

House-hold Characteristics: Average number of households, type of construction, average person per household etc is explored

Infrastructure: Width of the road area and other basic infrastructural facilities including water supply, sanitation and electrification are explored here

SOCIAL PARAMETERS

Employment Characteristics: This section explores the different age groups, major religions, type of occupation, work place and distance to the work place, monthly income & expenditure etc.

Amenities: Here we analyses the quality of the basic facilities available in the area which includes the education, health, recreational facilities (Park & Garden), Community hall etc.
Based on the analysis, the slum was rated on the basis of the selected poverty indicators. The Slum analysis was done on the weighted ratting as per the parameters. The detail of the ratting is as under.

**Location:** Priority is given to the slum settlement near to road and rail side and non private land. Here the maximum rating is given to such location where land is required for particular project like Medical College or road alignment.

**Topography:** The priority is given highest for desperation sites which are in risk of flood, disasters etc.

**Land Ownership:** Priority is given to the slums located in private land and semi government or local authority land. Here the NWCMC land is given the highest priority.

**Infrastructure:** Priority is given to the low income and highly dense areas which lacks basic services. The rank has given which can be help full for the redevelopment and up gradation of the slum.

**Type of Construction:** The rank is given as per the need of reconstruction or the modification. As per this hut has heights rank value.

**Amenity:** Here the slum is rated as per the need of the amenities. The basic need of the primary education and health facility etc is given preference rating. But in some of area, additional safety measures are required.
Distance for Workplace: The roadside slum may have very good conveyance from the home to work place and because of this, the inhabitants may not be ready to shift. In such case we consider that high rank is given as the distance to the work place increases.

As the Result of this process the slum profile of Guwahati can be put across as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>No of Slum Pockets</th>
<th>No of House hold</th>
<th>Criteria for Categories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>17056</td>
<td>Slum as per Census definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5380</td>
<td>Hill side housing, No congested housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2850</td>
<td>Railways quarters are very small and as family grows need of space, margin space covered with temporary material, looks as Slum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2680</td>
<td>Congested Developed slum because more than 70% housing are rented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>27966</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

A community planning event is also organized providing a network with the participation of local authority, other organizations, and the local community is held. Here the people have the opportunity to have their say on plans for the future of their development, on planning applications in their neighbourhood, and on developments going on nearby that may affect their quality of life. Here the public involvement, social networks/associations in action, recreational facilities and its quality is analyzed and the planning for the further programme is done here. As in Guwahati, during the public participation meeting, the results of the slum analysis and rating were discussed and the local leaders suggested their comments for the areas to be included in the slum.

BIO METRIC SURVEY AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

The slum analysis & rating is followed by the biometric survey. The Public participation guides change through a process that respects the rights of the individual while acting in the interest of the wider community.
This biometric survey is also based on the indicators used for slum analysis. But here we go to the grass root individualized details of the slum dwellers. Here more priority is given to the house hold wise details on every individual in the community. Here we collect the thump impression and photograph of the house hold head. The Biometric survey includes socio-economic profile with migration details.

The Slum Beneficiary Social Security Card (SBSSC) card is a slum permanent record system having 15 digits. The First 2 digits shows national identity, next 2 digits shows state Identity code, next 2 digits reveals district code, next 2 digits of city and 3 digits for ward, slum and remaining 4 digits shows the Identity of the Beneficiary.
This card is used by the Beneficiary as and when required anywhere in India to avail the benefit of Govt. Schemes. This card can be upgraded at regular interval to include and exclude information regarding following sector.

- Housing & infrastructure: under BSUP Scheme
- Health facility: by health center
- Education facility: school / anganwadi
- Self Employment Incentive: Self employment lone ect.
- Social Behavior: Crime Reduction

**SPRS WEB PORTAL: WWW.SPRS.IN**

SPRS web portal is a place where users can view different reporting aspects of SPRS. The website provides options to get the data on indicators based on state, city and ward specific which can be obtained in value and percentage wise.
As in the above shown diagram, the vertical side displays the different indicators which includes the details of the demography, socio economic details, household, physiography, infrastructure, amenities, livelihood details etc where as in the horizontal side the details of place in which we have the selection options for the state city and ward.

Analyzed Data’s can be displayed in value and percentage as per the needs with the supportive charts. The further clicking on the data leads to the details of the slums and summary of household with the slum identification code etc. Further clicking on the slum will give the user the details of the each and every household detail with the photo, thumb impression and barcode. This will give a benefit that even after the person has migrated, then also details remains as the identification of the person. The website also provides the total beneficiary status.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES**

In collaboration with local government body, SPRS based on the slum analysis and the beneficiaries identified, SPRS implements various development schemes which includes Basic Services to the Urban Poor, Integration Housing and Slum Development Project (IHSDP) etc
SPRS MIS

SPRS MIS is a tool for physical & financial monitoring of the grass root activities where we interlink SPRS MIS with the GIS mapping. This gives the updated data on the implementation status of the various schemes. Basic Services to the Urban Poor, Integration Housing and Slum Development Project (IHSDP) etc are some examples.

CONCLUSION

Thus the Slum Permanent records System is established for the better channelization of the opportunities for the development among the urban poor. But to reach these services to the poor sections, we need coordinated efforts at various levels. Let us join hands for this.

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WEBSITE LINKS

- www.sprs.in
- www.mis.aapil.com