

## Environmental Menace in Slum Areas

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### ABSTRACT:

Slums are a phenomenon that occurs all over the world and have a tendency to make the urban environment worse. Migration to urban regions is a common occurrence that has contributed to the increased population pressure seen in cities. The urban catastrophe is being caused by an increasing number of individuals moving into the city's slums. Urban slums are the shadow zones of urban existence. These zones are characterized by the coexistence of poverty, crime, aesthetic pollution in addition to other types of pollution, disease, and deprivation.

Recent years have seen a rise in the number of people living in urban slums, which has put additional strain on urban infrastructure and presented a challenge for government-sponsored development initiatives such as those aimed at improving slum conditions and combating poverty. The environment is still adverse for surviving due to the presence of urban slums.

**KEY WORDS:** Slum areas, Environmental issues, Pollution, Urbanization,

### INTRODUCTION:

A surge in the number of people moving from rural to urban areas caused metropolitan centres to become overpopulated. In economies that are still in the process of developing, it is extremely challenging to administer urban facilities for a large population. Slums are a part of the urban phenomenon that can be found all over the world and are located on the lowest possible rung of the socio-economic ladder. From the 18th through the late 20th century in both the United States and Europe, the rate of urbanization of the general population increased, which resulted in the proliferation of urban slums. Slums are still largely prevalent in urban regions \of developing countries, but are still found in certain wealthy economies. Urban slums located mostly \sin low lying ecologically dangerous location coupled with inadequate facilities such nutrition food, proper \shelter, sanitary facilities, health care make their lives even worse. Recent years have seen a rise in the number of people living in urban slums, which has put additional strain on pre-existing urban infrastructure and posed a challenge for government development initiatives such as those aimed at improving slum conditions and combating poverty. Slums created \burden over the environment owing to misuse of urban resources [Raghvendra kumar, 2019].

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There are an estimated 828 million people living in slums, which is roughly equivalent to one third of the total urban population of the world. Up to 80 percent of the population in some of the world's poorest cities lives in slums. As a result, informal settlements, which are the product of unplanned growth, present extraordinary potential for city planners to accomplish improvements in both the environment and health (WHO). However the majority of specialists are in agreement that if we include the various kinds of informal settlements, the figure rises to 1.6 billion, which is equivalent to one quarter of the urban population of the world. It is projected that one in every four people on the earth would reside in a slum or another type of informal community by the year 2030. It has been argued that slums are "nothing but an area of substandard housing," and the problem with slums is, therefore, fundamentally the challenge of providing adequate home for the less fortunate (**Desai and Pillai, 1972**). The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provided the following definition of a slum: "a slum is a building, a group of buildings, or nil urban that is characterized by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions, or absence of facilities or amenities, which because of these conditions or any of them endanger the health, safety, or morals of its inhabitants or the community." As a result, one can say that slums are "contiguous and yet at times physically separated geographic spaces within the legal urban limits of a city that are characterized with serious lack of basic amenities and sanitation with dense and overcrowded housing conditions where dwelling units range variously in terms of the use of building materials for walls and roofs available rather than cheap with substantial contribution of one's own or vernacular architecture." This is a working definition of what slums are, and it can be used to describe settlement.

Nowadays, one-fourth of the metropolitan population across the globe resides in informal settlements (UN-Habitat 2015). 881 million people living in cities in developing countries are considered to be living in slum conditions. Its number stood at 689 million in the year 1990. Even though the percentage of the urban population in developing countries that lives in slums has decreased from 39 percent to 30 percent over the same time period, the absolute number of people living in slums has increased by 28 percent over the past 15 years. This represents an increase in the absolute number of slum dwellers (United Nations 2015). Between the years 2000 and 2014, the sheer number of people living in slums continued to rise, and the problem of slums remained a significant contributor to the worldwide continuation of poverty. That is not a new phenomenon for low-income neighborhoods. They had a role in the history of the majority of cities, particularly during the population surge that occurred during the early years of urbanization and industrialization. Slums are, in general, the only form of habitation that is affordable and available to the poor in communities where there is severe rivalry for property and income. These towns tend to have a high population density. The expansion of the population and poor management of resources are the two basic causes of the creation of slums.

#### **REASONS OF DEVELOPMENT OF SLUMS**

The natural population of the world's nations is continuing to increase, which, combined with the migration of more people from rural to urban areas, is hastening the process of urbanization in

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nations all over the world. These days, urban areas are home to more people than any other type of human settlement on the planet. More than ninety percent of this urbanization is taking place in countries and regions that are still developing. Migration to cities occurs for a variety of causes, including the following:

- ✓ The majority of people who live in rural areas make their living in the extremely weather-dependent agricultural sector. There are also restrictions on rural land, and its fertility can be low or even decline over time. Soil holdings are small, farm debts are high, and many families lack a stable financial foundation. As a direct result of this, the average income in rural areas is low.
- ✓ Urban places have much more jobs than rural areas. Cities also offer better social mobility than villages since metropolitan cultures are less constrained.
- ✓ Most rural migrants choose to stay or go. Better transportation, communications, and links with earlier migrants have made rural populations more aware of the pros and pitfalls of metropolitan life, particularly in terms of work and housing.
- ✓ Sometimes rural households split into various groups in different locations—rural regions, tiny towns, and huge cities—to diversify their income and become less financially vulnerable.
- ✓ Poor governance causes slums. Slums occur because governments ignore the freedoms of the urban poor in urban planning. Many nations cannot respond quickly enough to growing urbanization. Towns grow faster than scheduling can accommodate. They frequently establish their territory and build a shanty before the authorities learn about them. Urbanization policy is another important factor. Some governments hate urbanization. They assume giving the poor urban facilities will encourage urbanization and slums. This viewpoint is flawed because most city residents come for jobs, not water or services. Governments are sometimes passively urbanizing. They either don't have the planning tools to handle fast urbanization or they're not responsive enough.
- ✓ Slums are ubiquitous. It mostly involves labour. Slum inhabitants desire land closer to work and the metropolis. They desire territory with water and near the main transport network. Slums usually form near factories, wholesale markets, go downs, railway stations, and even residential areas. Because it's cheaper, they choose public transportation or slow-moving vehicles like bikes and rickshaws.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRIMARY INDICES OF SLUMS:**

- Population density - the population density of that area
- Accessibility in that area to public services such as roads, water supplies, and sewage systems is what we mean by "infrastructure."
- Income - The income of the people who live in that particular place
- Social status - The social status of the people who live in that area. Building material of houses - The construction material that is utilized in the homes that are located in that location.

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- Legal aspect – Land ownership status in that area.
- Health and sanitation – Health and sanitation status of the houses in that region.

#### **THE IMPACT OF SLUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DANGER IT PRESENTS:**

Environmental contamination is so severe that only community action can solve it. Economic constraints prevent contaminated residents, mostly slum dwellers, from leaving. They're imprisoned and helpless because they can't flee. Folkman (1984) proposed that emotion-focused coping mechanisms may work better when people are powerless to minimize environmental risks. **Baum, Fleming, and Singer** (1983) suggested that emotions are easier to control than hazards.

#### **IMPACT OF WASTE GENERATED FROM SLUM:**

Slums in urban areas are a major contributor of solid garbage. Slum areas' contributing factors to air and water pollution are their inability to effectively manage their solid waste. There is no municipally notified area located within slum areas. Nearly every slum suffers from the problem of waste that is allowed to gather and then is thrown out onto the streets. In some cases, it is collected once or twice each month by a lorry provided by the corporation. Occasionally, rag pickers also play a significant part in the collection of non-compostable garbage such as plastic, broken glass, rubber, metals, and so on. They do this by scattering waste about the dumpsters, which puts them in danger from a number of different health risks that they are unaware of.

#### **EFFECTS OF SLUM ON THE NOISE, AIR AND WATER:**

Noise pollution is a serious problem in urban slums, and the primary causes are local activities and traffic. By the sides of the roadways are where you may find urban slums. On the other hand, the air pollution levels in the majority of the other slums are only moderate. Traditional fuels like firewood, animal dung, and other similar materials are used in the majority of urban slums. Cooking releases a variety of pollutants into the atmosphere, including particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons, amongst others. Traditional fuels have an odour that is unpleasant, and this, together with their other side effects, can lead to watery eyes, headaches, respiratory diseases, and skin irritations. Every slum suffers from a severe lack of clean drinking water. Most slums have their water and sewage pipes laid next to one other, which means that whenever there is a leak, the drinking water is frequently contaminated. Slums that are located in low-lying locations have a problem with rainwater pooling and standing water, which creates an environment that is ideal for the growth of mosquitoes that can transmit the Malaria and Filarial viruses.

#### **POLLUTION MENACE TO THE SLUM:**

Urban slums are notorious for their high rates of infant mortality as well as the prevalence of infectious diseases. The inhabitants of practically all slums have appallingly low standards of personal cleanliness, which is mirrored in the clothing and living situations that they are forced to endure. Because of this, slums are the origins of the health hazards, including both acute and chronic

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diseases. Innovative technology and ecosystem-based management are needed to manage urban watersheds.

This pervasive environmental issue requires us to find new and better uses for sewage and other effluent. We agree with Vörösmarty et al. (2010) and Dodds et al. (2013) that additional study is needed to understand the effects of anthropogenic stressors on freshwater ecosystem services in lower-income nations.

#### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The socioeconomic conditions of the urban poor's living conditions are appallingly deplorable. Those who live in slums are typically members of groups with poor incomes and limited educational opportunities. In addition, a poor physical environment that lacks any kind of management for the disposal of solid waste is a phenomenon that is quite widespread in urban slum regions. Hence, the high prevalence of diseases transmitted through the air and water among children who live in slums implies that they are exposed to an unsafe environment. In these kinds of situations, ensuring the food security of urban poor people might be difficult, especially if their socioeconomic situation does not improve.

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