Chapter 7

URBAN POOR
This section this the report is one which deals with basic facilities and conditions of the urban poor as well as slums in the city of Kanpur. Such an analysis is one that is based entirely on data sources that are both secondary that is, the collection of data, the information, reports from the DUDA, the KNN, the Census as well as the intensive consultations with Kanpur stakeholders and the interactions with the officials of the DUDA, the slum dwellers and the community development of Kanpur society members. The whole process from the applying to the clearance of loans sought to be simple in order for even illiterates, the people belonging to the low income group as well as below poverty level to avail such facility. In fact, the principal objective of these discussions was to go ahead and identify all the issues that are concerning urban poor such as their access to all basic services, the problems which they happen to be facing, the prioritization of problems etc.

7.2 STATUS OF POVERTY IN KANPUR

Although no sort of recent study has been done in order to accurately review the entire degree of the poverty in Kanpur, observations have revealed that the poverty levels happen to be quite high in the city of Kanpur. The city of Kanpur has quite a few textile mills, some shoe manufacturing units, plenty of tanneries, a well-known scooter unit, some spice packaging units as well as various others as well as medium scale industries. Several of these industries have shut down in the recent past (refer chapter 3). All of this has contributed to large scale unemployment as well as an increase in Kanpur’s urban poverty. Additionally, more than 20% of Kanpur’s population is known to reside in areas that are characterized by unhygienic conditions and which face a severe dearth of good civic amenities.

7.3 SLUMS IN KANPUR

As per the entire survey that has been conducted by the DUDA along with the documents from the KNN, the total slums in the city of Kanpur come to 390. The Census Report of 2001 states that the slum population in Kanpur came to 3.68 lakh which were as much as 14.5% of the entire population in Kanpur.
D.U.D.A survey in 1997-98 reveals that the population in Kanpur was 4,19,859 with the total number of households being 98,208. By the K.N.N estimate, the slum population in Kanpur comes to 5.0 lakh the year 2006 that is twenty percent of the total population. Massive numbers of people below the poverty line (BPL) population, around 60% reside also in the slums of Kanpur.

Table 7.1: Slum Population of Kanpur

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,38,113</td>
<td>32.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1,14,648</td>
<td>27.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>1,67,098</td>
<td>39.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Boys</td>
<td>89,520</td>
<td>53.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Girls</td>
<td>77,578</td>
<td>46.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,19,859</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DUDA Survey Report 1997-98

7.4 URBAN POOR’S PERSPECTIVES OF SERVICE LEVELS

7.4.1 AGE-WISE CATEGORISATION

According to the DUDA Survey Report of the years between 1997-98 all the slum children who were of the age 0-5 years amounted to 16% whereby all the boys and the girls of the age between five and eighteen years were about 30 percentage proving that the maximum number of the people in the slum belong to this particular category.
Fig.-7.1 Age Wise Categorization

ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION

50 percent subsidy in land development is provided and land is provided free. VAMBY is costed at Rs. 50,000 and sold at Rs. 25,000. Rest of the amount is paid by the central government. Under VAMBY scheme 1736 houses and under ASHRAY 4652 houses have been constructed by KDA whereas under very low income houses 40,516 houses and 19,777 houses for low income group have been built up.
WATERSUPPLYANDELECTRICITY

It has been observed that in the slums which have access to the individual waterconnections islow andpeople generally use publicand the posts, the hand pumps, or the wellsina few cases most of the householdsetwaterfrom public stand posts and only that is about 19 percent of them have individual taps. The principal sourceofwatersupplyinslumareasishand pumps as well as supply it can be seen, that is wherever the piped water supply happens to bethere, the water supply happens to be dirty or inadequate.

Water is something that they are able to use only after going through the entire process of sedimentation and filtration. Only very few of the houses in the slums of Kanpur are known to have access to kerosene, electricity and wood.

SANITATION FACILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economically Weakersection</th>
<th>VAMBAY 350</th>
<th>115</th>
<th>256</th>
<th>1015</th>
<th>1736</th>
<th>799</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>ASHRAY</td>
<td>3871</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>4652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Very low income category houses</td>
<td>39452</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>40516</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SubTotal</td>
<td>43673</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>1698</td>
<td>46904</td>
<td>2113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Low income group</td>
<td>19417</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19777</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>63090</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>1084</td>
<td>1698</td>
<td>66681</td>
<td>2120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Access to basic sanitation in Kanpur is very poor. Most of the houses in the slum areas of Kanpur for instance are known to use public toilet modes of sanitation. Very few houses actually make use of individual flushes. Open defecation is widely prevalent in Kanpur with more than twenty five percent of the slum population engaging in open defecation. At present forty nine community toilets are being constructed by the Kanpur municipal authorities for as many as thirty three thousand beneficiaries.

**HOUSING FOR THE POOR**

Houses in Kanpur are being constructed by the KDA under the BPL, VAMBY and EWS schemes. These are being built because of specific demands that have been made on the part of the district administration in Kanpur.

**URBAN BASIC SERVICES PROGRAM OR THE UBSP SCHEME**

This is a scheme that was launched in as many as hundred and ten slums in Kanpur. The purpose of this scheme is to improve to basic access to sanitation facilities for the urban poor of Kanpur. The scheme is one that specifically targets the women and children living in the slums as well as the old people and those who are handicapped. The main purpose of the scheme is to make use of funds that are provided under different plans of various departments of the Kanpur government in order to achieve an overall improvement in the living standards of the urban poor.

**THE DUDA SIFSA SCHEME**

This is an incredible scheme that was launched in the year 1995. It was started in as many as seventy eight slums with just one doctor and about eighty different community aides. The purpose of the scheme is to bring about an improvement in child planning standards among the people of Kanpur and to facilitate a healthy relationship and development between mothers and children among the urban poor of Kanpur. This scheme has been
known to experience much success with the child productivity rate in Kanpur being raised from three percent to about thirty five percent in a matter of a few years only.

NEHRU ROJGAR YOJANA

This is a scheme that was meant to develop small scale industries in the city of Kanpur. Those belonging to the general category were handed out sixteen thousand rupees as a loan to start a small business while those who belonged to the SC category were given twenty thousand rupees for the same. Of this amount, four thousand for the first section of people and five thousand rupees for the second section of people were contributed by the DUDA. The remainder amount of money was financed by banks and other financial institutions in the city of Kanpur. The loans are not limited to men alone and are granted to women as well.

The money is aimed to bring about a greater participation of the urban poor of Kanpur in industrial activities.

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE SCHEME

Comfort aides and physical aides such as clutches, crutches, glasses, blankets etc. are provided to the old and the disabled people living in Kanpur under this particular scheme. Under this scheme various camps and awareness programs have also been organized in order to make the people of Kanpur aware of the danger of drug and alcohol addiction.

NATIONAL SLUM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NSDP)

This was a program that was started in as early as 1996 and 1997. It is meant to improve the provision of basic services in as many as three hundred and ninety slums in Kanpur. The following are some of the main objectives of the program:

- The National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was started in 1996-97 to provide the basic services in 390 slums covering 4 lakh 67 thousand population. This is a program
that include the entire component that is covered under the UBSP schemes with a special emphasis being laid on community participation. Now under the UBSP scheme, an emphasis has been made on following aspects:

- Various education programmes like the opening of the anganwadi centres for the children who belong to 3 to 6 years of age as well as the non-formal education center for children who are between eight and fifteen years of age.

- A health improvement programme which was launched in order to improve the physical health of Kanpur’s children as well as women that is the provision of some nutritious food to as many as 8800 children followed by the health checkup of children between 0 to three years of age and the vaccination of 7000 kids as well 2400 pregnant ladies in order to keep them completely free from a number of different diseases.

- The Community Structure that ensured the provision of eye checkups for the aged and aides such as wheel chairs to the handicapped.

- The economic activities like the formation of many self-help groups (300) as well as training to the city’s women for many different small scale industries that is the tie & dye, the bookbinding, the repair of fridge and television, industry for food preservation, the computer industry, the shorthand and the typing training as well as marketing industry.

- The environmental cleanliness of the city through the plantation and maintenance of trees.

**SWARNAJAYANTISHAHI ROJGARYOJANA**

This is one of the most beneficial of schemes to have been announced for the urban development of the city of Kanpur largely due to the fact that it aims at providing people
with opportunities for employment. Both partial as well as full scale employment provision is sought under this scheme for the urban poor, for both men as well as men. Like all other schemes in the city of Kanpur, this is one that also relies a lot on the structure of the community, which has a key role to play in the success of the scheme. Under this scheme as many as twelve production centers have been set up for those who belong to the DUWCVA groups in Kanpur, employment provisions for as many as five thousand beneficiaries and skill training for more than two thousand people that are residing among the urban poor in Kanpur.

DISCUSSIONS/ CONSULTATIONS WITH THE STAKE HOLDERS

A number of efforts have indeed been made, as is evident from our interviews with the slum residents of Kanpur, in order to improve the condition of the slums on the part of the state authorities. The following are some of the key reasons as to why such efforts have not been very successful.

- Considerations have not been made with regard to practical conditions in which the slum dwellers live in, when carrying out development schemes.

- Often the slum dwellers have been found to have very little faith in the development authorities, which in turn has often acted as a hindrance in the execution of schemes.

- Many of the slum dwellers in the city of Kanpur are unable to pay the down payment or money that is required in order to move into the houses that are being developed for their benefit.

- The standard of the houses that are being constructed for the slum dwellers often turns out to be quite bad, as a result of which they feel no longer interested in moving into these.
• The new houses or the EW’s that have been constructed are those that are situated in very distant places making it possible for slum dwellers to get to their places of work from here on time.

A five year plan as well as a specific model is needed on the part of the city development authorities to grow in a successful manner and to provide all of its members with the wages and the employment that is needed in order for a rise to be witnessed in the standard of urban living in the city.

KEY ISSUES IN STAKE HOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

• Shelter and access to basic amenities in Kanpur is something that is indeed very poor. Efforts therefore need to be taken in order to bring about an improvement in the living conditions of the urban poor. As much as twenty percent of the population of Kanpur is known to reside in the slum areas. As a result, there is an even greater need on the part of the development authorities in the city of target the improvement of basic amenities and services in the slums.

• The resettlement of the people residing in the slums of Kanpur is something that has been to be carried out keeping their best interests in mind, such as the distance between the current area of residence and the area of relocation, distance from the slums to their place of work etc.

• While hand pumps and public stand posts have been provided in a large number of slums in Kanpur, a lot of water in the city continues to get wasted on a regular basis.

• The quality of the water that is provided to those who reside in the slums of Kanpur is very poor. More often than not, this water is contaminated. Slum people cannot afford filtration facilities in order to be able to consume this water without posing
any hazard to their health.

- The numbers of sewerage lines that have been provided to the slums in the city of Kanpur are very few. In most cases also, these tend to be quite chocked.

- Absolutely no provision exists for rain and storm water to be stored in a successful fashion in the slums of Kanpur.

- While public sanitation facilities in the slums have recently been improved, more than thirty to forty percent of the people residing in these areas still continue to defecate in public.

- The total number of the notified slums in the city of Kanpur comes to 390. The rehabilitation schemes are those that can be carried out in the notified slums only. A new survey therefore has to be taken as to the exact number of slums in Kanpur after which means have to be devised for the adequate improvement of these.