SLUMS AND HOUSING

Slums

Most third World cities on their outskirts possess slum areas where about 20% world's population live in crowded, unsanitary slums. In India in Urban slums, people live below poverty line and lack basic amenities like food, water, proper drainage, electricity, sanitation etc. Most of the families in slum areas live in single room and share common kitchen and bathroom facilities and use charcoal braziers or kerosene stoves for cooking food and lightening purposes, which causes some times accidents by fire and electric shocks. In slum houses dangerous materials are within the reach of the children causing accidental poisoning and other mishaps. In Greater Mumbai about 49% population live in slum areas. In Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore one thirds of population live in slum area. In such metro cities because of the higher per capita income than the national averages some of the people in slum areas enjoy life moderately above poverty line but most of them are poor people. They live in slum areas for many years and even pass their whole life there. There literacy rate varies between 5-85%.

The term 'slum' is being used for 'squalied housing' or 'shanty housing' in high density district of industrial cities. The word 'slum' comes from 'slumber' which mean back streets or allays. According to chamber's dictionary 'slum' mean an over crowded part of the town.
where the houses are dirty and unhealthy. Slums are the areas where poor rural migrants find their first home at a cheaper rent, from where they search their livelihood and employment adjusting themselves to the city life. This shows that slum areas overcrowding congestion insufficient infrastructural and basic amenities with poor housing system under social isolation is seen. Slums are generally categorised into following three categories:

(i) Unauthorised occupation of piece of land with semi-permanent structure build mainly by corrugated iron sheets as well as plastic sheets.

(ii) In the another category small hutment colonies or squatter colonies are found which are build with the help of shacks, thatch and mud.

(iii) Some time a third category of slum is seen in the areas with single and multistoreyed buildings which are at the verge of demolition.

Mostly slum areas are occupied by garbage, animal refuge and under sanitary facilities where people live in a overcrowded room with dark surroundings under sooty and filthy environment with no proper drinking water facilities. The residents of slum are generally lower class labourers, rickshaw pullers, railway porters, beggars and hawkers.
Housing -

There are three basic needs of human beings, which are food, clothing and housing. Housing is the fundamental requirement of man where not only physical shelter is provided but it also provide all the services and facilities for the human welfare. According to WHO 1961 housing is "the residential environment, neighbourhood, micro-districts or the physical structure that mankind use for shelter and the environs of that structure, including all necessary services facilities equipment and devices needed for physical health & wellbeing for families and the individuals". Peoples standards of living is indicated by its economic condition, his/her housing conditions and the healthy and hygienic environment of the area where he or she lives. Proper and adequate housing raise the economic and social status of the individual but the overcrowding in the slum area create adverse effects. Due to rapid population growth many developing countries face the housing problem. A poor housing condition is seen in slum areas where mostly temporary houses are made with inadequate water supply, lack of proper sanitation, very poor ventilation and overcrowding due to limited space, very often leading to many diseases such as Tuberculosis, Hepatitis, Typhoid, Jaundice, Skin infection and other respiratory as well as stomach related diseases, which are mainly due to poor housing conditions. It has become disastrous and this become still worse because of increasing population burden in the cities. In India, the urban poverty will
become increasingly serious in future as warned by World Bank in its report on "Urban Policy and Economic Development", an agenda for 1990's published in 1991. In this report the growth rate of urban population was shown to be 3.96 between 1995-2000 AD, much more higher than 1980-85 which was 3.91 because of family planning campaign and moreover so, still large scale migration of people from rural areas to urban areas continue despite of the Government efforts of check this. The urban housing backlock might increase beyond 7.8 million in 21st century which was 2.9 million in 1981, Singh et.al. (1988) have reported shortage of housing in urban India because of rapid urbanization process as seen from the following table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Demand (in millions)</th>
<th>Supply (in millions)</th>
<th>Shortage (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>12.500</td>
<td>10.305</td>
<td>2.195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>15.780</td>
<td>14.063</td>
<td>1.717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>21.640</td>
<td>18.413</td>
<td>3.227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>31.945</td>
<td>27.604</td>
<td>4.341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note- The demand is observed depending on one dwelling unit for 5% whereas the supply of housing stock has been gathered from the available census record of the respective years.

The above table shows the supply of housing is much lesser than the demand. In India nearly 20% of the urban population lives
in the so called slums and this becomes much worse in metropolitan as well as industrial cities (Singh, D.N., 1991). This shows that the shortage of housing, generates many problems of living for example-developing slums and squatter settlement and increasing overcrowding in a limited space of the room, creating health problem and due to poor hygienic condition of the people causing poor quality of life and poor health standard in the population. The slum development grow very quickly as said by Escape (1985) that by the year 2000, more than 66% of the urban population will live in slums and squatter settlement. The proper water supply and sanitation are two major factors to measure the residential environment (Kundu, 1985). Mostly urban populations lack proper supply of drinking water and whatever drinking water is available either from borewells, handpumps or even water supplied from Jal Sansthan in different residential areas are not upto WHO permissible limit because such water is being continuously polluted by mixing of sewer and water main lines which are usually laid side by side through leakage problems, causing health hazards. Moreover due to dumping of raw and untreated sewerage into different water bodies like ponds, rivers, lack sea etc.causes pollution and many health hazards (Singh, Rambali, 1988).

**Slum Status in trans Varuna Area of Varanasi City**

The trans Varuna area which occupies out fringe of the Varanasi city but remain well within the corporation limit where poor immigrant of rural area get cheaper accomodation. In such areas, Government
authorities pay little attention towards their living conditions. In these areas, village features are lost and their part is taken by the developing housing colonies with adjoining hutments. In such areas lower middle class families as well as poor people who are migrants having their houses. Hutments of these areas are made up of mud, thatched materials with plastic or tin shade roofs. The maximum density in such hutment is about 5-7 people per hut with 3-4 children. About 31.6% of the slum population are generally literate out of total female population 11.4% are literate. About 23.6% are engaged in some occupation for economic gain. In this category about 48% are daily earners. Normally ladies of slum areas do household occupational work like sweeping, cleaning utensils of the kitchen at various residential colonies. Slum dwellers show majority of lower cast people, earning about 10,000-15,000 annually. In slum houses majority try to earn their livelihood including children. It has seen that in whole Varanasi city about 115 slums covering a total areas about 513 ha. The numbers of houses also vary in different slum areas from 18-1522 (Singh B.L. 1990).

In Varanasi many migrants come from neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. Out of these migrant maximum migrants are of Bangladesh, which form two-third of total migratory population, due to which slum areas are increasing day by day. In trans Varuna area many slums adjoining different developing colonies, have come up showing aforesaid features. In such slums
Plate No. X

Fig. 19- Showing Slum Area at Andhrapul Area.

Fig. 20- Showing Slum Area at Road Side of Alaipur.
facilities provided by municipal corporation are of inadequate nature and in many cases even illegal connections of power supply & water supply etc. are being taken and utilized. Mostly houses are of temporary nature with no connection of water supply and the population depend upon nearby tap or handpumps etc. Due to poor hygiene and sanitary facility, lot of diseases occur. In order to improve proper sanitation, Government has made 'Sulabh Sauchalay' at different places. But still people to go in open fields on the bank of river Varuna to discard their excreta which become the source of many disease like diarrhoea, dysentry, gastroenteritis showing symptom of vomiting and diarrhoea in most of the slum dwelling children. Even adults suffer from this. Amoebiasis and Giardiasis are common diseases of Varanasi city including the trans Varuna area. According to Vakil B.J. 1973 about 15% to total Indian population is suffering from amoebiasis which is reported through out India. But this percentage may varies from 3.6 to 47.4 in different parts of country (Bull., WHO 1980). This variation may depend on the use of medical diagnosis techniques and on sampling critarias (WHO 1981 and 1987).

Chicken pox, a highly infectious disease caused by varicella-zoster virus, characterised by high fever and developing vesicular rashes. Generally young children suffer from this and sometimes it also attacks adults. This disease is caused even if a person comes in the contact with an infected individual. Christie, A.B. (1980) has reported overcrowding as the reason for its transmission. Other
diseases like Cholera, Jaundice, T.B., Malaria are also prevalent in slum areas where Malnutrition is one of the factor causing poor health of slum dwellers. This is more pronounced among children. This shows that Government should pay more attention on the living conditions of slums dwellers, particularly to improve their nutritional requirements. Alcoholism and occurrence of crime are the two great problems of slum dwellers. About 80% population of slums are addicted to alcohol and in such intoxication they commit many crimes and every often they quarrel themselves also.

Housing Status in trans Varuna Area of Varanasi City

The housing status in trans Varuna area represents a combination of old and modern houses. The old city has developed along the left bank of river Ganga and its new expansion leads towards tributary river Varuna on its right and left sides, where due to limited space on the right side it is more developed on the left side. The old city which is not thickly populated and over crowded in a limited space and because of Ganga river on one side, it is not possible for the city to expand in that direction so now expansion is taking place in the Varuna river area and beyond the Varuna area. This has occurred because of rapid increase in population and change in the life style of the people. These areas are occupied by both residential colonies and the developing slums due to increase in the population stress created by migrants from other parts of the countries as well as from other countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh etc. In these areas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of Slum</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area in acres</th>
<th>Literacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alipur Nakki</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alipur West</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nakki Ghat</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nadesar</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>15000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pandeypur</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>22000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Paharta</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ghat Bazar</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Khajuri</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Varuna Pul</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ghausabad</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 Indices Used for Identification of Slums in Trans Varuna Area -
1. Category of Slum : A - Very bad
2. Occupational Distribution : A - Agriculture  
B - Animal husbandry  
C - Industrial (small and medium)  
D - Transport  
E - Construction  
F - Trade and Commerce  
G - Casual

3. Religion and Castes : A - Hindu  
B - Muslim  
C - Christian/Jain/Sikh  
D - Others  
F - SC/ST/Backward

4. Literacy level : % of Persons Capable of Reading and Writing.
the slums are found to be inadequately provided with drainage, sewerage, water supply, electricity, education and health facilities. Only about 41.75% of houses are connected with municipal taps whereas 46% are still without water connection. In these areas about 56% houses have no link with the sewer lines. Large number of slums are located in low line areas with few exceptions. Due to improper drainage facilities, water logging generally occurs during heavy downpour. In such slums, a survey shows that about 55% houses are without drainage facilities.