CHAPTER 2
PROFILE OF AMRAVATI CITY & ITS SLUMS
CHAPTER II

PROFILE OF AMRAVATI CITY AND ITS SLUMS:

INTRODUCTION:

Prior to dealing with the infra-structure of Slums at Amravati and living conditions prevailing therein, it is most essential that profile of Amravati city should be discussed in its varied aspects, covering the following topics:

2.1 HISTORY AND LOCATION
2.2 POPULATION AND GROWTH RATE
2.3 ECONOMICAL BASE AND OCCUPATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
2.4 TOTAL NUMBER OF SLUMS
2.5 CASTE-STRUCTURE OF SLUM POPULATION
2.6 LITERACY LEVEL OF SLUM-DWELLERS.
2.7 INCOME LEVEL AND OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE.
2.8 NATURE OF HOUSING TENEMENTS IN SLUMS.
2.9 NATURE OF THE OWNERSHIP OF SLUM SETTLEMENTS.
2.10 SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME AT AMRAVATI.
2.11 SLUM UPGRADEATION PROGRAMME AT AMRAVATI.
2.12 FINANCIAL PROVISION.
2.13 SLUM HOUSING PROGRAMME.

2.1 History and location:

Amravati is considered to be an ancient town with traces of its history long back up to the days of Lord Krishna, who had a date with Rukmini -- the beautiful princess of Kaundanyapur and who came to famous Amba Temple
of Amravati under the pretext of worshipping Goddess Amba but eloped with her lover Krishna. The name of this town has also its mention in old puranas, and scriptures in Sanskrit literature.

The known chronological history of Amravati town is traceable from 18th Century onwards. It was founded by Maratha Ruler Raghaji Bhonsle and it since than has always held a unique place in this region, in view of cultural and agricultural importance. It became internationally famous on account of having largest Cotton Market in Asia. The early history of this town denotes that this particular place was ruled by Nagpur and Hyderabad Rulers and the culture of the people now resembles that of Hyderabad city. Presently, Amravati is the Head Quarter of Amravati Revenue Division - the administrative unit covering the Districts of Amravati, Yavatmal, Buldana and Akola. Educationally, it is next important centre after Nagpur in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra State. On 1st May 1983, a University under the name of Amravati University was also set up providing academic leadership to this town. In August 1983, Amravati Corporation was established which gave an extraordinary fillip to its rapid growth and development.

The Corporation area is 137.27 Sq.Kilometers and it is fairly large city in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra State. The vastness of the area is due to merger of the two erstwhile Municipalities viz. Amravati Municipal Council and adjacent Badnera Municipal Council both established in
Amravati City faces in the Amravati District and is the headquarter of this District. The nearest main Railway Station is Badnera and it is about 10 Kms. from here connected with Amravati by a local Train Service. Bombay-Calcutta National Highway No. 6 passes by, while Pulgaon-Burhanpur and Badnera-Yavatmal State Highways pass through. Nagpur, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldana and Chandrapur are very well connected to Amravati. The Maharashtra Road Transport Corporation runs buses on about 450 routes originating and terminating at Amravati while about 80 routes pass through the City.

The City of Amravati is located at about 841 meters above M.S.L. and situated at about 168 Kms. from Nagpur and 673 Kms. from Bombay. After Amravati Municipal Corporation was established, the administrative control of the entire Corporation area rested with the Administrator. But recently in April 1992, the elected body has come into being and it runs the administration.

2.2 Population and Growth Rate:

Population-Growth of Amravati City was mainly due to immigration in search of occupation. It was in the days of Shivaji Maharaj, that hundreds of families belonging to different castes and communities immigrated from Bundelkhand in connection of trade of various commodities. Immigration from Telangana region of Hyderabad State also took place but it was mainly in search of employment as laborers. Since
Amravati was considered to be a safe place. The people migrated to this town to save themselves from the onslaught of Pindaris and tyranny of their local rulers. It is a historical fact that about the year 1745 at the end of 18th Century due to the tyranny of the Akola Tahsildar a large scale immigration took place from Akola.

**Population Projections:**

The following Table of population figures for the past decades eloquently projects increasing percentage of Growth Rate as given below:

**Table No. 2.1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>GROWTH RATE %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>39,511</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>40,610</td>
<td>+ 2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>45,469</td>
<td>+11.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>57,100</td>
<td>+25.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>74,309</td>
<td>+30.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>1,02,606</td>
<td>+38.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1,37,875</td>
<td>+34.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>1,93,800</td>
<td>+40.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>2,61,404</td>
<td>+34.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>4,02,003</td>
<td>+53.79 (provisional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census of Amravati District [1] (1981).*
Population Growth of Amravati City

Population in Thousands

Year

FIGURE. NO. 2.2
2.3 Economic Base and Occupational Infrastructure:

While considering the economic base of a city, the ecological and socio-economic features are to be understood in its totality. Otherwise also both are inseparable from the social system in the urban life. Cotton Growing, Cotton processing and Cotton Trade has been the central fabric of occupational structure of Amravati City. Generally, people in slums are poor and have inadequate income. They earn low wages, suffer from intermittent unemployment and under-employment. They are incapable of saving and can not contribute their little to the growing economy of the city. The economic backwardness of the slum dwellers naturally leads to low standard of living, deficient nutrition, poor health and housing and there seems to be a correlation between occupation, income and the slum conditions.

2.3.1 City's Economy:

The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) has developed 180 Ha. of land as Industrial area with 59 Ha. area in Corporate Industrial Estate and rest in Private Industries. The Private Industrial Estate have 634 Factories most of which are Engineering and Service type.

35 Ha. of Agricultural Produce Market Yard at 3 places deals with the marketing of cotton, seeds, grains and fruits.
In 1981 the Labour participation was 54.08 percent, while the occupational structure was as shown below:

(i) Engaged in Primary Occupations .... 8.90%
(ii) Engaged in Secondary Occupations .... 41.75%
(iii) Engaged in Tertiary Occupations .... 41.35%

Another special feature contributing to the economic growth of the city is that there is a substantial student population in the city. The establishment of the University, Medical College and Dental College have added to it's growth all the more.

2.3.2 Socio-Economic and Environmental Condition of Amravati Slums:

Generally all the big cities in Maharashtra face the problems of slums alarmingly and the Socio-Economic and Environmental conditions of the communities living therein are very appalling. In contrast to the slum communities living in slums of Bombay, Thane and Kalyan the economic conditions of these communities living in Amravati Slums are very poor and left to themselves they cannot improve the conditions. A survey conducted in October, 1987 by the Amravati Municipal Corporation revealed that the Socio Economic, Spatio-Environmental and cultural factors constitute predominant causes, which were summarized as under:

(a) In more than 50% of the slums, the ill-health of women and children is due to the problems of insanitations,
lack of potable water supply. absence of garbage disposal and stagnation of water.

(b) The existing network of infrastructure provided has either deteriorated due to inefficient maintenance or inadequate catering to the fast increasing population.

(c) Deteriorated houses, crowded habitat, open sewers, poor lighting, large family size, small living area and flies including mosquito-breeding.

The above causes served as a base for taking up the existing Slum Improvement and Upgradation Programme, by Amravati Corporation and the present investigator is concerned with its evaluation up to 1991.

2.4 Total Number of Slums:

In Maharashtra a Survey of the Slums consisting of unauthorised and unsanitary hutsments was recently undertaken by the Maharashtra Housing Board (MHB) with the co-operation of concerned local bodies. In this Survey it was seen that the Slums in almost all the big cities of the State were generally in a bad shape and Amravati was also not an exception. According to the statistics provided by the Maharashtra Housing Board initially in 1974 only 7 localities were identified and declared as slum localities. They progressively increased as shown below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Slum Localities declared</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-81</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-83</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-84</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 1990</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total : 72**

The names of the above 72 Slum Localities are given in Appendix (1).

Most of the slum-areas of Amravati are located on both the sides of open "nalla" known by the name of Amba Nala, flowing through the city. A few slum-settlements have grown up by the side of Amravati-Badnera Railway-Line and the rest are scattered on the abandoned open grounds at th-
The following table shows the caste and religious structure of slum dwellers in Amravati Municipal Corporation:

**Table No. 2.2**

**Caste Structure of Amravati Slum Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>S.C.</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>Baudh</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>S.T.</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>N.T.</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2.6 **Literacy Level of Amravati Slum-Dwellers**:  

It is observed that the better employment, higher income and better living conditions are always associated with the level of education in a society. While it is quite high for Amravati city, it is miserably low in Amravati Slums. The educational level mostly decides the type of job and the type of job decides the salary which ultimately affects the socio-economic status.

It is also a fact that generally the percentage of total illiteracy is more amongst the women folk living in
3. Starting of pre-schools (Balwadis) on the lines of the ICDS in phased manner.


2.6.2 Non-Formal Education:

The slum-dweller parents face numerous problems in sending their children to schools. These problems may be related to the social and economic background of the parents or the health and nutritional level of children or the available educational facilities or any of them in different combinations. Lack of adequate educational facilities or the imbalanced distribution of such facilities in a city may also affect the participation of slum-dwellers in the educational process. (SEETHARAMU, 1983[3])

The problem of school drop-outs is very acute in Slum-areas of Amravati. Though this phenomenon is nationwide but it is more so with the slum children. Shri Sapra, C.L. indicates in his comprehensive study on "Educational Wastage and Stagnation in India" (NCERT 1967) that the wastage incidence is 75.09 percent in the case of boys and 84.74 percent in the case of girls. It is highest in Grade I and then goes on decreasing.

Therefore, to provide an opportunity to these drop-outs, non-school goers and working children Amravati Municipal Corporation has decided to set up coaching centres in slum-area.
2.7 Income Level & Occupational Structure:

According to Hunter slum is the focus of poverty, and poverty is one of the potent forces that maintain the vicious circle and make it so difficult to break out. (BERGEL, 1955)

Slum-dwellers earn low wages, suffer from intermittent unemployment and under employment. They have no assured income and as such they are incapable of saving and cannot contribute their little to the growing economy of the city. Thus, the economic backwardness of the slum-dwellers leads to low standard of living, inadequate food, poor health and housing. There seems to be a correlation between occupation, income and slum situation. Most of them are casual laborers and belong to the informal sector of economy in the urban society.

The slum-dwellers are mainly casual laborers, unskilled workers, petty hawkers, vendors, Tanga Driver or Rickshaw-pullers. Many work in the industry. Very few are craftsmen.

The occupation is considered as an important factor in deciding the income structure of a community, which ultimately affects and decides the socio-economic status. The following table presents a fair picture of occupational background in Amravati Slums:
2.8 Nature of Housing Tenements in Slums:

From the point of view of housing condition in Amravati Slums, we can divide them into following three categories:

1. Kutcha Hutments with thatched roofs.

2. Hutments with brick walls plastered with mud, floor smeared with cow-dung and kawelu or tins on the roof.

3. Pakka hutments with Kawelu or Tin-roof.

Besides the above permanent types of slum-settlements, there is also a nomadic type of temporary tent-inhabitation, which is moving from one place to another on the city outskirts but it does not fall under the scope of our study.

2.9 Nature of the Ownership of Slum-Settlements:

The ownership of Slum-Tenements at Amravati are of following three types:

1. Land and the tenement both are rented.

2. Only land is rented and the tenement thereon is owned by the dweller.

3. Land and the tenement both are owned by the dweller.

The State Government has, from time to time, made...
various efforts to provide proper shelter to the people living in slums. Initially, the concept of slum-removal and resettlement of slum-dwellers in tenements on rental basis was accepted. But later on the Government decided to take steps to confer upon them the security of tenure vide G.R. No. SCS: 2883/594/VII-A dated 6th. June. 1985 of Government of Maharashtra Housing and Special Assistance Department providing procedure to confer security of tenure. Prior to this, from 1972-1973 onwards Maharashtra Government had taken up implementation of the programme of environmental improvement of slums.

Inspite of the herculean effort made by State Government towards creating security of tenure in favour of slum dwellers, the availability of dwelling units both through Public as well as Private Sector has not been able to keep pace with the demand. The incapacity of the low income urban population to have on rent or purchase a dwelling unit has also contributed to the severity of the problem. Though, Vidarbh Housing Board has launched a programme of low income group (LIG) Housing but this effort also, though highly commendable, is just like a drop in ocean.

2.10 Slum Improvement Programme at Amravati:

For the purpose of Improvement and clearance of Slum-areas in Maharashtra State and their redevelopement and protection of the occupiers from eviction Act under the title of 'Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Act 1971 was passed by Maharashtra Vidhan
Sabha. This Act received the assent of President on 3rd August 1971 and was first published in the Maharashtra Government Gazette Part IV on 11th August 1971. In pursuance of this Act the Slum Improvement Programme came into action at Amravati in 1974.

In Maharashtra State the work of Slum Improvement was in progress even prior to 1973, but at Amravati in pursuance of the provisions of sections 104 to 159 of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Corporation Act 1976, it came into full implementation through the agency of Maharashtra Housing Board (MHB) with the financial assistance from the Central Government under the supervision of Amravati Municipal Corporation /Council. The Government Resolution No. SCS-1066-4528/CR/533-A/VII dated 10.2.84. the Municipal Commissioner was authorised to identify. and declare slums. He was also authorised to select the slum localities. prepare plans for improving them and implement plans with the grants-in-aid given to the Maharashtra Government at the rate of Rs.250/- per capita. This amount was to be spent on providing basic amenities just as (1) Public Latrines (2) Water Supply (3) Street Lights (4) Roads/ Pathways (5) Drains.

In special circumstances, the Grants-in-aid of Rs.250/- per capita could be increased upto. Rs.300/- per capita with the permission of the Government. The principal function of the Slum Improvement Programme is to improve the physical condition of the slum by providing basic civic

Under these guidelines, Amravati Municipal Corporation became eligible for a maximum loan of Rs. 5,000/- per family in a slum whose income was below Rs. 500/- per month for a minimum of 25 houses and maximum of 500 houses in each scheme.

2.16 Slum Housing Programme:

The Slum Housing Programme includes construction of new houses either in the same places of squatting of lands or slums which are un-objectionable or where the lands are reserved for other purpose in places earmarked for rehabilitation but without disturbing or causing inconvenience to the slum communities by depriving them of their employment opportunities. The sources financing such housing programme may be either from:

(i) Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

(ii) A National Housing Bank was set up in July 1988 by Government of India. It is the principal agency for promotion of Housing Finance.

(iii) State Government Finances.
The provision of housing tenements comes under Slum Up-gradation Programme. In Maharashtra State, it was started in the year 1989-90. For taking the benefit of this programme it was necessary—(1) To form a Co-operative Society and get it registered. (2) At least 70% of the people staying in the specified area should participate in the programme.

The total estimated cost for constructing one house was worked out to be Rs.13,180 and this amount was distributed as under:

- Rs 5,000/- Loan to be given by MHADA.
- Rs 3,000/- Loan to be given by Amravati Municipal Corporation for Housing Improvement.
- Rs 2,000/- Loan to be given by Amravati Municipal Corporation for Environmental Improvement.
- Rs 2,000/- Subsidy.
- Rs 1,180/- To be paid by the people themselves or they should render their services in the form of labour which could replace the cash amount.

The loan amount was to be returned within a period of 20 years Rs. 75/- per month. The rate of interest
chargeable was only 7 percent. The standard size of the house so provided by Amravati Municipal Corporation was:

(i) One Room with slab of size 10'X10'.
(ii) Only super structure of latrine and bathroom.

In the case of HUDCO funding in order to be eligible for subsidised interest rate of 7.5 percent the total cost of the infrastructure and structure of the shelter and land should not exceed Rs. 12,000/-. Another condition is that there should be security of tenure to the plot holder. The Government guarantee for the borrowing is necessary. If the cost of the house exceeds Rs. 12,000/- the scheme will fall under Low Income Group (LIG) for which the rate of interest will be more. In case of the slum housing for the economically weaker sections there was only need to show a notional cost of the land and to finance the infrastructure development separately from the State Finances. The quantum of loan eligibility where the cost did not exceed Rs 12,000/- was worked out to be between Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 10,800/-.
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