Chapter - III

Slum Development and Specific Nature of Criminality

The Indian Constitutional law is a basic law of a nation which prescribes fundamental principles to regulate the relations of government and its citizens, and also chart out plan and method according to which the public affairs of the nation are to be administered. The Constitution also provides and enables every citizen rights and freedoms, which could always be enjoyed within the reasonable limits of the Constitution. Under the scheme of distribution of legislative powers between Union and States, protection of life and health have find place at several entries of the Seventh Schedule.¹ Part III to the Constitution provides fundamental rights to citizens.² One of the most important provisions among these is the right to life and personal liberty.³ This article emphasizes that right to live with dignity and a dignified life means a healthy life. The Constitution of India, 1950, also recognizes the government’s responsibility for promoting the health of entire nation, recognized how crucial citizen’s all round well being was to the functioning of India’s democracy. Following various provisions in Part

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¹Health being the state subject, following are few relevant entries given in List II & List III of Schedule VII of the Constitution of India.
List II, Entry 6 of the State List “Public Health and Sanitation; Hospitals and dispensaries”.
List II, Entry 8 deals with “Intoxicating liquors, that is to say, the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors.”
List II, Entry 9 speaks of “Relief of the disabled and unemployable”.
List II, Entry 10 speaks of “Burials and burial grounds; cremations and cremation grounds.”
List II, Entry 17 deals with “Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power subject to provision of entry 56 of List 1.”
List III Concurrent List
List III, Entry 16 talks about “Lunacy and mental deficiency, including places for the reception or treatment of lunatics and mental deficient.”
List III, Entry 18 deals with “Adulteration of food stuffs and other goods”.
List III, Entry 20A provides for “Population control and family planning”.
List III, Entry 24 states “Welfare of labour including conditions of work, provident funds, employer’s liability, workmen’s compensation, invalidity and old age pensions and maternity benefits.”
³Article 21 of reads as follows; “No person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.”
IV of the Constitution of India directs the state to ensure health and safety of its entire people by framing policies in this direction. A reference to the specific Articles empowering the cause of citizens would be relevant at this point.

**Article 38(2)** states that,

“The State shall, in particular, strive to minimize the inequalities in income, and endeavor to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations”.

**Article 39(e)** of the Constitution of India requires that,

“the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.”

**Article 39(f)** of the Constitution of India specify that, the State in particular directs its policies towards securing that,

“the children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.”

**Article 41** of the Indian Constitution requires that,

“The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision, for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of underserved want.”

**Article 42** states that,

“the State shall make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.”

**Article 43** states that,

“The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas.”
Article 47 lays down that,

"the State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of the public health as among its primary duties and, in particular the state shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health."

Article 48A requires that,

"the State shall endeavour to protect and improve environment and to safeguard the forests ...."

The State is under an obligation, to take all steps for improvement of public health and safeguard the right to life of every person. To further strengthen it, the State now has been directed to ensure free and compulsory education to all children up to 14 years of age under Article 21A.

In the wake of human rights, the ambit and scope of these constitutional rights is ever widening. Now the State is mandated to provide to a person all rights essential for the enjoyment of the right to life in its various perspectives. The right to health and access to medical treatment has been included in the plethora of rights brought under the ambit of Article 21.

Article 21 is one of the articles where the higher courts have constantly applied their rigorous attention and the scope of this article is growing year after year. Thus, as on today, right to life also includes Right to good health and Right to a reasonable health care system i.e. medical aid, health, insurance, while in service or after retirement was a

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4 Simultaneously, Part IV A, Article 51A of the Constitution in the form of ‘Fundamental Duties’ of the citizens of India also imposes duty on every citizen of India under clause (g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lake, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

5 In M. Vijaya v. The Chairman and Managing Director Singareni Collieries, AIR 2001 AP 502 (para 52). The Andhra Pradesh High Court, held that it was necessary for the State to identify HIV +ive cases and any action taken in that regard could not be termed as unconstitutional, Chief Justice S.B. Sinha, alongwith Justices B. Subhashan Ready, Dr. Motilal B. Naik, Bilal Nazki and V.V.S. Rao, delivered the judgement.

6 Recent 86th Amendment Act 2002 added 21 A making education a fundamental right of for all children in the age group 6 to 14 years old. Also under Article 51A, (k) of part IV A duty is enjoined upon every parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or as the case may be, ward between the age of six and 14 years.


fundamental right under Article 21. Some of the key following judgments given by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India show that how the magnitude and boundaries of Articles 21 have been enlarged to a great extent.

In this regard, our Apex Court verdict delivered on a public interest litigation related to the rights of the workers of mining and asbestos industries is a historic judgment, which affirms the fundamental right for health care and medical aid for all workers, denial of which denudes the workers of the finer facets of life violating Article 21.

Citing various earlier judgments wherein the court held that the expression ‘life’ assured in Art. 21 of the Constitution does not connote mere animal existence or continued drudgery throughout life, rather it has a much wider meaning which includes right to livelihood, better standard of life, hygienic conditions in work place and leisure, the Supreme Court laid down guidelines to be adhered to by all the asbestos industries in order to control occupational health hazards and diseases of workmen. While delivering the judgement, Justice K. Ramaswamy stated that

“Occupational accidents and diseases remain the most appalling human tragedy of modern industry and one of its most serious forms of economic waste. Occupational health hazards and diseases to the workmen employed in asbestos industries are of our concern.”

In this regard, the court further issued the following directions to all the industries.

- To maintain and keep maintaining the health record of every worker up to a minimum period of 40 years from the beginning of the employment or 15 years after retirement or cessation of the employment whichever is later.

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1Consumer Education and Research Centre v. Union of India, AIR1995 SC 922. While delivering the judgment Justice A.M.Ahmadi, (Ex. C.J.I.), Justice Madan Mohan, Justice Punchhi and Justice K. Ramaswamy laid down guidelines to be followed by all asbestos factories to control occupational health hazards and diseases faced by the workers.

2Id at 939 (para 24).

3Id at 925 (para 1).

4Id at 942 (para 33).
The Membrane filter test, to detect asbestos fibre should be adopted by all the factories or establishments.

All the factories whether covered by the Employees State Insurance Act or Workmen’s Compensation Act or otherwise are directed to compulsorily insure health coverage to every worker.

The Union and the State Governments are directed to review the standards of permissible exposure limit value of fibre/cc in tune with the international standards reducing the permissible content.

The Union and all the State Governments are directed to consider inclusion of such of those small scale factories or industries to protect health hazards of the worker engaged in the manufacture of asbestos or its ancillary products.

Thus, now the Right to life with human dignity encompasses within its fold, some of the finer facets of human civilization which makes life worth living.

Further, in the case of Paschim Bangal Khet Mazdoor Smity v. State of West Bengal, the Division bench of the Supreme Court comprising of justices S.C. Aggarwal and G.T. Nanavati interpreting Article 21, stated in para 9 that,

"The Constitution envisages the establishment of a Welfare State at the federal level as well as at the State level. In a Welfare State, the primary duty of the Government is to secure the welfare of the people. Providing adequate medical facilities for the people is an essential part of the Constitutional obligations undertaken by the Government in a Welfare State. The Government discharges this obligation by running hospitals and health centres which provide medical care to the persons seeking to avail those facilities. Article 21 imposes an obligation on the State to safeguard the right to life of every person. Preservation of human life is thus of paramount importance, the government hospitals run by the state and the medical officer employed therein, are duty bound to extend medical assistance for preserving human life. Failure on the part of the government..."
hospital to provide timely medical assistance to a person in need of such a treatment, results in the violation of his Right to life guaranteed under Article 21, and in respect of deprivation of the Constitutional Rights guaranteed under part III of the Constitution, the position is well settled, that, adequate compensation can be awarded by the court for such violation by way of redress in proceeding under Article 32 and 226 of the Constitution... It is no doubt true that financial resources are needed for providing these facilities. But at the same time it cannot be ignored that it is the Constitutional obligation of the state to provide adequate medical services to the people. Whatever is necessary for this purpose has to be done....

In the light of above mentioned facts and statements, there are some basic problems that have been identified to be more prevalent with the slum and its dwellers. In all cities and towns of the world where there are slums, poverty and deprivation, lack of job opportunities, ignorance and illiteracy are closely associated with the status of the inhabitants. In almost all urban renewals and improvements involving slums, the most frequent solution is ‘slum clearance’ or ‘demolition’ which comes with the problems of resistance and reluctance of the slum dwellers to comply. If and when the authorities compel them to do so, usually by wielding the gun and the helmet, studies have shown that these are usually short lived since no sooner do the police and soldiers return to their barrack than the illegal settlers tore turn to their former location. From the point of view of humanity, the very idea of ejecting people from a place they call home sounds very barbaric, inhuman, callous and to say the least primitive - especially when considered against the backdrop of the fact that their ‘sin’ is that they are not privileged enough to afford the ‘required’ type of housing and environment.

The very act of demolition or slum clearance leaves very indelible negative impressions in the mind and psyche of the slum dwellers and their children for generations as they watch all they might have used the better part of their lives to achieve and acquire reduced to rubbles and usually without compensation of any sort! This

\[1\] Id at 2429-2432 (paras 9, 16).
particular argument is from the point of view of the fact that government and its officials that usually weld the big stick of slum demolition or slum clearance had (in the years gone by) looked the other way while the problems that were precursors to slum development built up in the first place. If therefore, a fraction of what goes into slum clearance, demolition and renewal were used to address these social, economic and environmental problems initio, slum would not have emerged in the city. It is believed by such proponents that it is the play out of the neglect and dereliction of duty foisted on the society by the failure of the intelligentsia, government, politicians, and policy makers, architects and planners of earlier years that culminate in the development of slums (by not addressing these problems in the foundation years of such towns and cities). Furthermore, slum clearance is viewed in some quarters as moves for land expropriation and land grabbing techniques, to drive out the settlers especially as they have no legal rights or title to the land. Such lands are then appropriated and distributed to those in government and their wealthy friends.

The existence of slums constitutes eye sore, dehumanizes the human and a great testimony to the fact that some privileged sections of the society disproportionately corner to themselves what would have been used to improve the lot of the populace (it had been established earlier that slum emergence has socio-economic undertone) thereby resulting in conditions that manifest as slums. It is this type of situation that Fanon (1961), referred to as the ‘wretched of the earth’.

Furthermore, once slums get established, they grow rapidly in density, complexity and spatially. As a result of the numerous problems engendered by its emergence, coupled with the greater problems and difficulties associated with its elimination, better concept to tackle the slum question is to prevent its emergence ab initio. It is plausible therefore to reason that addressing these social and economic problems through sustainable design, planning and policy considerations will prevent the emergence of slums in towns and mega cities.
Many other Constitutional and legal provisions have been incorporated for the improvement and clearance of slum areas. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution explained that Right to life and personal liberty of human beings can be maintained only by providing them Right to live with human dignity. Right to live in unpolluted environment and Right to Shelter. Under Article 21 “Right to life” means a life of dignity to be lived in a proper environment free from the danger of diseases and infection. This right includes maintenance of health, preservation of the sanitation and environment, and right of enjoyment of pollution free water and air for full enjoyment of life. If anything endangers or impairs that quality of life in derogation of laws, a citizen has right to recourse to Article 32 respectively. In the case of Chameli Singh v. State of U.P. Justice K. Ramaswamy of the Supreme Court of India observed that,

“.....The Right to shelter is a fundamental Right. Shelter for human being is not a mere protection of his life and limbs. It is home where he has opportunities to grow physically, mentally, intellectually and spiritually. Right to shelter and decent surroundings, sufficient light, pure air and water, electricity, sanitation and other civic amenities like roads etc., so as to have easy access to his daily avocation.....”.

The Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992 through Twelfth Schedule inserted Article 243(W), which contain provisions relating to urban planning including town planning, regulation of land use and construction of buildings, planning for economic and social development, public health, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management, safeguarding the interest of weaker sections of the society, slum improvement and up gradation and urban poverty alleviation. Other than the above-said provisions relating to slum there are different legislation passed by Central and State Legislation for the improvement, clearance and rehabilitation of slum dwellers such as,

\[14\] Francis Coralie v. The Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi and others, AIR 1981 SC 746. (The judgment of this case was delivered by Justice P.N. Bhagwati).

\[15\] Virender Gaur and Others v. State of Haryana and Others, (1995) 2 SCC 577. (The judgment of this case was delivered by a bench of Justice K. Ramaswamy and Justice N. Venkatachala)

\[16\] AIR 1996 SC 1056.

3.1 Economies of Scale

Urbanization is increasing at this rapid pace for a simple reason. Cities account for most of a country’s economic growth to the benefit of the households who live there and the firms that operate in them. The record is clear that cities are more efficient at generating economic product than rural areas.

But what accounts for this greater efficiency? The answer, put simply, is the gains that arise from the concentration of economic activity. These economies of scale or agglomeration effects can be classified into three types: (1) those generated internally by firms (i.e., firms can set up large enough plants to reap large internal production efficiency gains); (2) those shared by firms in the same industry (i.e., they access a common skilled labor force and suppliers); and (3) those more generally available to producers in a large urban area (transportation links, efficient finance, specialized legal services, etc.).

Cities foster economies of scale of all three types, realize efficiencies, and drive economic development. Higher densities promote greater economies while longer distances between activities work against such economies. It is no accident that extremely high commercial and residential densities characterize the great cities of all regions.

The largest cities in developing and transition countries account for a disproportionate share of national GDP, and more highly urbanized countries produce

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19 Ibid
more GDP per capita. Globally, the largest 100 cities produce nearly 25 percent of the world’s GDP. Examples of ways that urban agglomerations of various sizes produce growth include market towns that facilitate economies of scale in marketing and distributing agricultural products and inputs, medium-sized cities that provide shared-resources for manufacturing industries, and very large cities that provide a wide range of facilities and services to business, government, and service providers such as schools and universities, and hospitals.20

Just how important are the economies of scale from urbanization? The World Bank has rendered its verdict: “No country has grown to middle income without industrializing and urbanizing. None has grown to high income without vibrant cities.”21

3.2 Challenges in Addressing Urban Growth and Housing Needs

To unleash the full capacity of the developing world’s urban areas for growth, a multitude of challenges now inhibiting their economic potential and their capacity to provide a healthy living environment for their inhabitants must be realistically faced and tackled. These include a significant shortage of decent affordable housing, especially for the poor; the abysmal housing conditions and the horrific physical environment in which many of the urban poor live, work, and raise their children; lack of a clean and adequate water supply; underinvestment in transportation; deteriorating natural environments; negative impacts of global climate change; and social instability all of which reduce the efficiency with which developing cities function.

3.3 The Scale of Urban Poverty

One-third of all urban residents in low- and middle-income countries live in poverty, according to the latest estimates. Although the poor are currently concentrated in rural areas in all regions except Latin America, an increasing share of the poor is urban,
with the percentage of poor persons in urban populations differing dramatically among regions (see Table 1). The highest rates by a very large margin are in South Asia (76 percent, the vast majority of them in Indian cities) and Sub-Saharan Africa (68 percent).\textsuperscript{22}

The degree of income inequality within urban areas also differs dramatically by region. African and Latin American cities have greater inequality among their citizens than do cities in Asia and the Middle East-North African region. Higher poverty rates and greater degrees of inequality mean that those in the lower rungs of the economic ladder are living in extremely difficult conditions. In other words, a high incidence of low incomes correlates with parallel shortcomings in a whole range of dimensions—housing, water and sanitation, health, and education.\textsuperscript{23}

Not all the urban poor live in slums, but most do; nor are all people living in slums poor; some may find the economic advantages outweigh the hardships—but most are. About 1 billion people in developing countries live in slums. This share also varies sharply by region, as the following list makes clear: Sub-Saharan Africa (72 percent in 2001), Asia Pacific. It is said that not all the urban poor live in slums, but it is also true that most do.\textsuperscript{24}

\begin{table}
\centering
\caption{Urban Poverty Estimates, 2002}\label{tab:poverty}
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|c|}
\hline
Region & Percent Urban Population Below Poverty \$2 per day & Percent of All Poor Living in Urban Areas \\
\hline
East Asia-Pacific & 18 & 15 \\
Europe-Central Asia & 11 & 10 \\
Latin America & 28 & 66 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\textsuperscript{22} Id at 10.  
\textsuperscript{23} Idib  
\textsuperscript{24} Idib  
Middle East-North Africa  | 12  | 29  
South Asia         | 76  | 25  
Sub-Sahara Africa | 68  | 31  
Total              | 34  | 26  

Living conditions for poor in urban slums, characterized by a lack of basic public services and infrastructure, precarious housing, overcrowding and often escalating social problems, remain a major and growing challenge in cities all over the developing world. As it has been pointed out in previous chapters also, it is now estimated that one in three city dwellers, a billion people, a sixth of the world’s population, live in slums. Governments and the development community have invested significantly in improving the lives of slums dwellers through a range of upgrading programs which typically include infrastructure investments (water and sanitation, waste management, electricity, roads), and in some cases interventions aimed at improving tenure security, social infrastructure, housing quality, access to credit and access to social programs. The immense and growing scale of slums has, however, outpaced the impact these programmes alone can have.

If studied closely, it can be observed that Slums were often ‘fixed’ by clearance. However, more creative solutions are beginning to emerge such as Nairobi’s ‘Camp of Fire’ program, where established slum-dwellers promise to build proper houses, schools, and community centers without government money, in return for land on which they have been illegally occupying on for 30 years. The ‘Camp of Fire’ program is one of many similar projects initiated by Slum Dwellers International, which has programs in Africa, Asia, and South America.

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Further, the process of urban decay is also worrisome all over the world. Urban decay is a process by which a city, or a part of a city, falls into a state of disrepair and neglect. It is characterized by depopulation, economic restructuring, property abandonment, high unemployment, fragmented families, political disenfranchisement, crime, and desolate urban landscapes. During the 1970s and 1980s, urban decay was often associated with central areas of cities in North America and Europe. During this time, changes in global economies, demographics, transportation, and policies fostered urban decay. Many planners spoke of ‘white flight’ during this time. This pattern was different than the pattern of ‘outlying slums’ and ‘suburban ghettos’ found in many cities outside of North America and Western Europe, where central urban areas actually had higher real estate values. Higher income countries are already very urbanized, with 74 percent of the population living in cities. Hence, heightened urbanization will result substantially from increased urbanization in the developing world, with the share of the population living in cities anticipated to rise from 44 to 67 percent by 2050. Africa has the lowest current level of urbanization (38 percent), but it has the highest urban growth rate (3.3 percent per year between 2000 and 2005), which is expected to remain high. Kabul, Afghanistan is the most rapidly growing city in the world. Secondary cities rather than the largest cities will grow the most.

Since, decent shelter is fundamental to physical and psychological well-being and the social stability of communities, the inexorable urbanization of the developing world is creating a massive shortage of affordable housing, especially for low income families. Lack of housing options for the growing urban population has driven ever increasing numbers into informal shelter in the burgeoning slums in many cities, large and small. In many of Africa’s cities and towns, for example, less than ten percent of the population lives in formal sector housing. In India, recent estimates indicate an urban housing shortage of almost 25 million units in 2007, which is expected to grow to 26.5 million by

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2012. Formal housing production has simply not kept pace with urban population growth in most cities of the developing world.29

Housing construction is also a major component of the economies of both industrialized and developing countries. Housing is a major source of employment, especially in lower income countries where it can employ large numbers of relatively unskilled laborers and it generates additional jobs in locally-based ancillary industries such as furniture, equipment and supplies. Yet formal sector housing production in most developing countries meets just a small fraction of demand.30

Housing conditions in developing countries for those who cannot afford formal sector solutions vary greatly, from fairly well-constructed sizeable dwellings of durable materials with many amenities (although still not legal) to decrepit shacks and hovels in the slums built of wood, mud and scrap materials. UN HABITAT estimated that in 2003, 133 million people in cities of developing regions lived in housing that lacked finished floor materials, with the largest percentage (73 percent) in Asia (mostly south Asia). In some of the poorer cities of Asia and Africa over half of the housing is made of non-permanent materials of various kinds.31

Overcrowding is also a serious issue in many cities of the developing world. UN-HABITAT recommends a minimum of 75 square feet per person to ensure sufficient privacy and good health but estimates that more than 20 percent of the world’s urban population lives in dwellings with less space, with two-thirds of the total in Asia. In some of the poorer cities of Asia and Africa, more than 40 percent of the population lives in housing of insufficient living space and in larger cities in Africa and Asia, such as Addis Ababa, Kampala, Dhaka, Karachi and Ulan Bator, the percentage is higher than 50 percent. The situation is comparatively better in Latin America.32

29 Supra note 18 at 11.
30 Ibid
31 Ibid
32 Ibid
A third serious housing problem in the cities of many developing countries is the lack of secure tenure for most informal sector housing. The precariousness of their legal status and the possibility of eviction make families living in the informal sector reluctant to invest in improvements to their housing despite the obvious benefits to the quality of life that would accrue. Renters, who constitute a significant percentage of slum dwellers, have even less security in their living situation than those who own their homes.

### 3.4 Social Instability Results in Violence

The deplorable slum living conditions just described—aggravated by lack of employment and low social status—foster stress and low self-esteem generally and especially for disaffected youth. These problems manifest themselves in a variety of ways. One is violence. A study of three Rio de Janeiro favelas over a 30-year period found a broad improvement in the economic standing of those remaining in these areas and of the one-third of original families who had moved to better neighborhoods. But the increased violence in the favelas had caused some families to relocate and had sharply reduced the social capital of those who remained because they were afraid to be on the streets. In nine slums in Colombia and Guatemala, crime and violence are viewed as the primary problem, more important than unstable infrastructure or unemployment.

Not surprisingly, slum conditions can lead to protests and sometimes riots. In 2005 in South Africa, about 900 protests were reported in urban slums, for example, of which half turned violent; the year 2008 witnessed further disturbances, this time aimed at foreign immigrants. Youth disaffection and related conditions, including oppressive regimes and militant religious leaders, create fertile conditions for recruiting persons into terrorist organizations, leading a number of scholars to call for improving slums and related conditions to address a root cause of terrorism.

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33 May be read as a synonym of slum, however the word in the Brazilian context means much more that.
34 Id at 18.
35 Ibid.
3.5 Slums: The Drag on Economic Efficiency

With the very real human suffering already portrayed, it is easy to lose sight of the economic consequences of the kinds of conditions recounted in this section. Urban mismanagement has powerful negative effects on the efficiency with which a city functions and in turn its growth. Three dimensions make the case.

First, consider the effects of an unreliable or insufficient electricity supply. In Lagos, 92 percent of enterprises recently surveyed have had to invest in their own generators; in Indonesia the figure is 65 percent; in Thailand, where reliability is much greater, the figure is six percent. Capacity shortages in the Yemeni cities of Aden and Mukalla have forced firms to resort to self-supply and have restricted economic growth. Obviously, the competitiveness of affected firms is inevitably reduced.

The second dimension is the loss of women’s productive time in fetching water in areas with limited water sources. This problem is widely recognized and the health impacts of such drudgery are documented. Forty-seven percent of woman living in Kumasi, Ghana slums, for example, allocate two to three hours per day to fetching water (traveling to sources, queuing, and returning); 27 percent spend four hours or more. A major portion of potentially productive time is thus simply lost.

The third dimension is delays in firms’ acquisition of land needed for expansion. In Mozambique, firms pay on average $18,000 in processing fees for land, and in Nigeria they must re-register land to use it as collateral, a process that can take up to two years and cost 15 percent of the property’s value in official fees (not counting bribes).

As seen in previous chapter urbanization has created a number of problems like shortage of dwelling units, mushrooming growth of jhuggis, encroachment of public land and expansion of unauthorized residential colonies. Whenever a big project is commenced, a lot of workers migrate to towns in quest of employment. With no proper place to live, they usually encroach public land and the sites earmarked for various
developmental projects. This causes expansion of jhuggis and unauthorized colonies. Thus building enormous pressure on civic services and creating major bottlenecks in the proper development of cities. India is the world’s second most populated country after the People’s Republic of China. One out of six people on this globe live in India. India’s population density at 789 persons per square mile is one of the highest in the world (ten times the density of the United States). Intense pressure on limited land resources has forced people to migrate to already densely-packed urban areas. City authorities faced with rapid urban development lack the capacity to cope with the diverse demands for infrastructural provision to meet economic and social needs. Not only are strategic planning and intervention major issues in agenda to manage rapid urbanization, but city governments are not effectively linking the economic development trajectory to implications for urban growth and, hence, housing needs. Unfortunately, infrastructure and basic service development have not increased at the same rate and in countries where sanitation, roads, water, and other services were already under-developed, towns and cities are struggling to accommodate the unprecedented upsurge in urban populations.

The result is hundreds of millions of people living in overcrowded, neglected urban slums that pose serious risks to their lives. The rapid increase in India’s city population (presently around 28 per cent) has resulted in the growth of what are called slums or squatter settlements resulting in serious social, economic, and environmental problems. India’s metros, such as Delhi, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Bombay, Hyderabad, Bangalore and other cities, who absorb India’s poor migrants from virtually all over the country simply cannot afford to stay aloof from this problem. Rapid urban population growth has outpaced the ability of city authorities to provide for housing facility.

Squatter and slum settlements have formed mainly because of the inability of city governments to plan and provide affordable housing for the low-income segments of the population.
urban population. In the mega urban regions or metropolitan areas, part of the problem would lie in the coordination among different authorities that are in charge of economic development, urban planning, and land allocation. Such coordination issues also exist between the city and national governments.

3.6 World’s Biggest Slums

- Dharavi Slum in Mumbai, India: Dharavi is a slum that spreads out over parts of the Sion, Bandra, Kurla, and Kalina suburbs of Mumbai, India. Situated in the heart of the world’s third largest city, it occupies an area of 500 acres and has a population of between 600,000 and 1 million people. It continues to grow each day. Dharavi exports goods around the world, and the total turnover of these exported goods is estimated to be more than $650 million US dollars each year.

- Orangi Town, Pakistan: Asia’s largest slum is located in the northwestern part of Karachi (Pakistan). Its inhabitants are from a number of different ethnic groups. The population of Orangi Town was estimated to be more than 720,000 at the 1998 census.

- Kibera Slum, Nairobi, Africa: Kibera is home to 60 percent of Nairobi’s populations. Kibera does not receive public services, including public waste collection. In some parts, shelter has literally been built on trash. The waste includes excrement, which fills the muddy streets and contaminates the water. No one is sure exactly how many people live in Kibera. It is estimated that there are 750,000 people in one square mile. It is one of the most crowded places on earth.

- Rio De Janeiro, Brazil: A shanty town in Brazil is called a favela. These crowded shanty towns differ slightly from slums in terms of origin and location. Slums are created from rural migrants coming into the city. Shanty towns occur when large groups of people become displaced. They consist of irregularly self-constructed
housing that are illegally occupied and often built one on top of another. They consist of an ad hoc network of stairways, sidewalks, and simple tracks which allow passage through them. Many of them are built haphazardly on hills that overlook the city’s prosperous neighborhoods. The gap between poverty and wealth has never been so well-illustrated. There were approximately 300 favelas in Rio de Janeiro in 1969. That number has doubled since then. Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo are home to some of the biggest favelas in Brazil.\(^37\)

3.7 Slum Demography at National Level with Reference to Some Specific Cities in India

Slum Population simply refers to people living in slum areas below the poverty line. As India is still on the path of development, there is large number of people living below the poverty line. These people usually live in slum areas connected to the city. The Slum Population of India have exceeds the population of Britain. It has doubled in last two decades. According to last census in 2001, the slum-dwelling population of India had risen from 27.9 million in 1981 to 61.8 million in 2001. Indian economy has achieved a significant growth of 8 percent annually in last four years, but there is still large number of people nearly 1.1 billion still survives on less than 1 $ (around 46 INR) in a day. Increase in Indian Population over a period of time has also resulted in slum population growth. The financial capital of India known as Mumbai is home to estimated 6.5 million slum people. Nearly half of Mumbai's Population lives in small shacks surrounded by open sewers. Nearly 55 percent of Mumbai's population lives in Slum areas. After Mumbai, Delhi has the second largest slum Population in India. Nearly 1.8 million people lives in slum areas in capital of India - New Delhi. These people are mostly unemployed or daily wage workers who cannot even afford basic necessities of life.\(^38\)

\(^{37}\)http://www.myseveralworlds.com/2009/04/05/slums-around-the-world/, (visited on 30/12/2010 at 8pm.).

\(^{38}\)http://www.indiaonlinepages.com/population/slum-population-in-india.html, (visited on 29/12/2010 at 8pm.).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>State / UT</th>
<th>Total Slum population</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>42,578,150</td>
<td>22,697,218</td>
<td>19,880,932</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Is.</td>
<td>16,244</td>
<td>8,855</td>
<td>7,389</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>5,187,493</td>
<td>2,625,745</td>
<td>2,561,748</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>82,289</td>
<td>43,472</td>
<td>38,817</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>531,481</td>
<td>282,772</td>
<td>248,709</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>107,125</td>
<td>62,762</td>
<td>44,363</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chhatisgarh</td>
<td>817,908</td>
<td>422,096</td>
<td>395,812</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>2,029,755</td>
<td>1,140,334</td>
<td>889,421</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>14,482</td>
<td>7,469</td>
<td>7,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>1,866,797</td>
<td>1,020,288</td>
<td>846,509</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>1,420,407</td>
<td>778,734</td>
<td>641,673</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>268,513</td>
<td>143,416</td>
<td>125,097</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>301,569</td>
<td>158,532</td>
<td>143,037</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>1,402,971</td>
<td>714,413</td>
<td>688,558</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>64,556</td>
<td>31,699</td>
<td>32,857</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>2,417,091</td>
<td>1,269,757</td>
<td>1,147,334</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>11,202,762</td>
<td>6,137,624</td>
<td>5,065,138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>86,304</td>
<td>43,078</td>
<td>43,226</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>629,999</td>
<td>330,054</td>
<td>299,945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>73,169</td>
<td>36,012</td>
<td>37,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>1,159,561</td>
<td>629,326</td>
<td>530,235</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>1,294,106</td>
<td>681,541</td>
<td>612,565</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>2,866,893</td>
<td>1,441,437</td>
<td>1,425,456</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>29,949</td>
<td>15,093</td>
<td>14,856</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>4,395,276</td>
<td>2,348,679</td>
<td>2,046,597</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Uttranchal</td>
<td>195,470</td>
<td>103,895</td>
<td>91,575</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>4,115,980</td>
<td>2,220,135</td>
<td>1,895,845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 2001
Table 3.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Million Plus Cities</th>
<th>T. Pop.(in '000)</th>
<th>Slum Pop. (in '000)</th>
<th>% of Slum to T. Pop.</th>
<th>Sex Ratio in Non-Slum areas</th>
<th>Sex Ratio in Slum areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Mumbai</td>
<td>11,978</td>
<td>6,475</td>
<td>54.06</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi M. Corp.</td>
<td>9,879</td>
<td>1,851</td>
<td>18.74</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>4,573</td>
<td>1,485</td>
<td>32.48</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>4,301</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>10.02</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>4,344</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>18.88</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
<td>3,637</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>13.46</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>3,520</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>17.23</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanpur</td>
<td>2,551</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>14.42</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>2,538</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>19.39</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surat</td>
<td>2,433</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>20.89</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All India</td>
<td>73,346</td>
<td>17,697</td>
<td>24.13</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About 57 per cent of slums were built on public land, owned mostly by local bodies and state government.49, 000 slums were estimated to be in existence in urban India in 2008-09 and out of which 24 per cent of them were located along nullahs and drains; and around 12 per cent along railway lines according to a report released by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).39

According to Government figures, the percentage of urban households living in recognized slums is the highest in Maharashtra (25.4), followed by Orissa (19.1), Arunachal Pradesh (18.2), Madhya Pradesh (18.1), and West Bengal (17.6).40

39http://www.igovernment.in/site/49000-slums-exist-india-37650 , (visited on 29/12/2010 at 8pm.).
40Article by Dr A.V. Ramana Kumar, India and a One-Child-Policy, http://india_resource.tripod.com/one-child-policy.html, (visited on 15/01/2011 at 11pm.).
3.8 The Reasons of Slum Development

Two main fundamental reasons for growth of slums at a galloping speed are: Population Growth and Bad Governance.

Population Growth

The fast population growth has been explained in the second chapter of this work. Here is discussed the second major factor of slum development that is,

Bad Governance

Bad governance is contributing largely to the increase of slums. Governments often fail to recognise the rights of the urban poor and incorporate them into urban planning, thereby contributing to the growth of slums.

In addition, many countries simply cannot respond to rapid urbanisation quickly enough. People are coming to cities far faster than the planning process can incorporate them. Often, they find their own land and build a shack before the government has a chance to learn of their existence.

The attitude of a government towards urbanisation is also an important component. Some governments take a hostile approach to urbanisation. They believe that if they provide urban services to the poor, it will attract urbanisation and cause the slums to grow. The problem with this view is that very few people come to the city for water or services, they come looking for work. In other cases, governments take more of a passive approach to urbanisation. They either do not have the planning tools to deal with the rapid urbanisation that is happening, or the tools in place are not sufficiently responsive to the reality on the ground. A brief record is also taken of the various slum sections in India and overseas. If we go by the definition once again, the definition of a slum or

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41 See page no 6 of Chapter II.
42 "About Slum Upgrading", available on http://www.citiesalliance.org/ca/About-slum-upgrading (visited on 12/09/2010 at 11pm.)
squatter settlement varies greatly from country to country, however they all have several things in common. Slums are considered to be a residential area in an urban geographic area that is inhabited by the extremely poor who has no tenured land of their own. These people end up squatting on vacant land, which is either private or public land. It is estimated that more than 1 billion people around the world live in slums. By 2030, the world’s slum populations could possibly rise to 2 billion, if no concrete and socially effective action is taken.43

3.9 The Concept of Crime and Criminality

Crime is most often defined as a breach of the law. It refers to many types of misconduct forbidden by law. The list of acts considered crimes is constantly changing. Crime is one of the world’s oldest social problems. Almost every generation has felt itself threatened by increasing crime and violence. However, no country has yet developed completely reliable methods for measuring the volume and trend of crime.

Organized crime consists of large-scale activities by groups of gangsters or racketeers. Such groups are often called the crime syndicate or the underworld. Organized crime specializes in providing illegal goods and services. Its activities include gambling, prostitution, the illegal sale of drugs, and loaning money at extremely high rates of interest. Many of these crimes may be classified in various ways. For example, they sometimes are grouped according to the seriousness of the offense, according to the motives of the offenders. Such crimes may include economic crimes, political crimes, crimes of passion, organized crime, and white collar crime. Crimes are often divided between acts that most people would consider evil and acts that lawmakers decide should be regulated in the interest of the community. The first group includes such major crimes as arson, assault, breach of the peace, burglary, kidnapping, larceny, murder, rape, and

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robbery. The second group includes crimes of a rapidly growing urban society. These crimes include violations of income tax laws, liquor control regulations, pure food and drug laws, and traffic laws. Crimes in the first group usually involve severe punishments while crimes in the second group are generally punished by fines, notices to follow the court’s orders, or other relatively light penalties.

3.10 Relationship between Crime and Criminal Behavior of Slum Dwellers

Slums are having their own social organization and own norms of behavior.44 Types of crimes committed by slum dwellers: Broadly all types of blue collar crimes are committed by slum dwellers. Specifically, crimes against person, property, public order and morality are committed by slum dwellers. Crimes against public order or morality include disorderly conduct, gambling, prostitution, public drunkenness, and vagrancy. General crimes committed by the slum dwellers are: Illegal possession over the government or private land, unauthorized construction, unauthorized use of electricity, water etc., crimes against women, man handling, prostitution, crimes against children, child labour, children’s physical abuse, child prostitution, thefts etc.

3.11 Reasons of Crime by Slum Dwellers

There are several reasons of crimes committed by slum dwellers which are discussed here. People commit crimes for various reasons. For example, many persons steal things they could not obtain otherwise. Others, such as drug addicts, steal to get money to buy narcotics or other things they need. Some shoplifters steal for excitement, but others do so to stretch the family budget. Many automobile thieves take cars for the joy-riding, but others strip down the stolen autos and sell them. Many embezzlers take money from their employers to meet a personal emergency, intending to return the money. The motives also vary in crimes of violence. A robber may kill his victim to

avoid detection, some gangster’s torture people to obtain money, and a man may beat his wife in a fit of rage during a quarrel.

Crime and violence victims face trauma and stress related to experiencing violent situations, both from community violence and gangs, and from intra-family violence. The consequences include low educational attainment, a lack of employment alternatives, dysfunctional families, high teenage pregnancy rates, an increase in HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, child and teenage prostitution. In addition victimization results in social stigmatization (sometimes exacerbated by the media), increased drug and alcohol abuse, greater levels of gang membership and delinquency. All of this fuels criminal activity and the continuation and deepening of the cycle of violence45.

Research by psychiatrists and psychologists stresses personality differences resulting from experiences in childhood or later. This research shows that many people who became criminals were neglected by their parents or were given harsh or uncertain discipline. Such treatment left them insecure and demanding in their relations with others. Their own wants made them ignore the needs and rights of others. But researchers have had difficulty making a direct connection between emotional needs and crime because many people with emotional problems find acceptable ways of solving them.

Sociologists have conducted crime studies that focus on the neighborhood and community rather than on the individual. These studies deal with how a person becomes committed to a career of crime, and others try to explain differences in crime rate. The highest crime rates occur in the most deprived sections of large cities. These are the areas where it is most difficult to train children to become law-abiding citizens. Such areas
have the highest rate of broken homes. Even in many homes where both parents are present, emotional conflicts and health and financial problems affect family life.\(^4\)

Slum areas usually have the poorest schools and the highest unemployment rates. These neighborhoods have a lot of run down, overcrowded housing and poor recreational facilities. For many young people, the excitement of the streets provides the principal escape from boredom and seemingly unsolvable problems. These streets are also the scene of much vice and crime—gambling, prostitution, narcotics use and sale, public drunkenness, and acts of violence. Law enforcement in the inner city is difficult, partly because too few policemen patrol the neighborhoods. In addition, many of the people fear the police and refuse to cooperate with them. All these factors increase the possibility that a person who lives in a slum will commit criminal acts.

### 3.12 Slums and Poverty in India- Impact of Changing Economic Landscape

After all, Poverty is that condition in which a person, either because of inadequate income or unwise expenditures, doesn’t maintain a scale of living high enough to provide for his physical and mental efficiency and to enable him and his natural dependents to functions usefully according to the standards of the society, of which he is a member.\(^4\) Most of the slum dwellers are living below poverty line. The foreign rule, exploitation of a class by the society, over population, lack of capital, lack of education, lack of ambition and economic motivation, lack of health and stamina in a harsh climate, lack of sound and honest administration, an outmoded social system without mobility are some of the important factors responsible for poverty.\(^4\)

A serious problem of developing countries is the mushrooming of shanty towns of squatters around the cities. Nowhere in the developing world has the growth of housing been able to keep pace with the urban population. The City Beautiful Chandigarh has

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become over-urbanized in the sense that it has over burdened with population. Besides, this urban center is becoming elitist and expensive and does not welcome the migrants with the consequence that most of them are being thrown in the fringes of the urban areas. This has resulted in enormous growth of slums, shanty towns and fringe area development. Resultantly, there will be great shortage of living space and the basic urban services of water, electricity, roads, sewerage etc. will be in a deplorable state. The poorer lot from the villages flock the cities in search of employment.

The available housing accommodation in the city is far too expensive and the poor are left with no choice but to make or take shelter illegally on any available place of land giving rise to slums. The emergence of slums is essentially the product of three forces - demographic dynamism of a city, its incapacity to meet the rising demand for housing, and existing urban land policies which prohibit the access of the poor to the urban land market. People living in slums areas, besides facing health problems, are also affected adversely by the condition of poverty, environmental urbanization and disorderly growth of urban settlements, resulting into proliferation of insect vectors of disease. There is something of the timelessness about slums in India.

One doesn’t know how long ago these have their beginning in time. If one grows up with something, ones sensibility is coarsened and the most sub-human conditions of living fail to arouse reactions. While it is true that newer and newer problems arise as time passes, and new slums are born while old ones expend and worsen, a certain awareness of appalling conditions prevalent in slum areas has developed over the years. People of different backgrounds, crime, juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, and drug addiction. Such anti-social behaviour arises in part from the inability of some people to adjust to urban living. Sociologists point to urban society’s impersonal relationship towards individuals to be a course of this inability. Some people may turn to crime or delinquency as a way of lashing out at society or making material
Western media headlines as usual are as follows – "twenty five percent of Indians live on less than a dollar a day and seventy percent live on less than two dollars a day." The forgoing was the headline of May 9, 2005 in a major international newspaper. Others headlines are not any less mischievous. These are all meaningless analysis. It does not reflect that same amount of money has differing values in different places. A more acceptable and bit accurate description of incomes in countries is Purchase Power Parity (PPP), which is, pricing identical products and services as needed by the local population in different countries, thus establishing a new and a more equitable exchange rate. The foregoing is applicable mostly to tradable goods. The PPP will put India’s GDP at $3.7 Trillion. This will raise daily monies of twenty five percent of Indians at the lowest rung of the society to seven dollars. The latter is still low but is much higher than the Western media would like to project. The forgoing is not the point; the point is that poverty is a major shame in India’s otherwise decent, scientifically advanced, peace loving and at times turbulent image. Poverty creates slums and slums breed hopelessness and crime. Hence it needs to be tackled as an integral part of economic development.

The key question that arises - will the current hype in economical development in India alter the landscape for the very poor? The answer is that, not much will change in next 20 to 25 years. The real impact will be felt later than twenty-five years. That is when 8 percent growth trajectory will take the PPP daily income of the very poor in India from seven dollars to forty dollars. By then, a $20 Trillion GDP economy (PPP basis) and $600 billion in exports (year 2001 basis) will add one hundred and fifty million jobs, of which forty to fifty million will go to the very poor segment of the society. This general prosperity will not only put food on the table but will add to better living, better housings etc. In the intervening period of 25 years, rising income levels will definitely add to the

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5 Ibid
exodus from the slums to planned living areas. The forgoing also requires massive governmental effort to house people properly.

It is also important to examine this issue of poverty and slums in Indian cities and its relationship to the betterment of economic conditions of the masses, a bit further. As stated above, 8 percent growth rate of Indian economy will push per capita GDP to $2,000 level in about twenty to twenty-five years (PPP per capita GDP will be much higher). The forgoing presupposes that the population does not explode in the near future but continue a healthy 1.5 to 2 percent growth. That is where the magic equilibrium of prosperity and desire to live a better life begins. These two together could end poverty and slums. With availability of affordable housing and jobs, slum dwelling is the last thought on people’s mind.

On the other hand, if the above does not happen, then slums dwellers will triple in 25 years and so will the poverty and crime rate. Delhi will have four and a half million-slum dwellers. Kolkata and Mumbai will have even bigger numbers. India’s shame will have no end. To avoid that, India’s economy has to remain at a high state of growth. Jobs created by the economic growth, hence higher incomes are key criteria for poverty reduction and slum elimination. The foregoing together with the current urban renewal in progress in the urban areas today will give cities in India a new look. Higher incomes will create a demand for in-expensive housing, which will have to be met with innovative use of land and building techniques. Government provided housing would be a great failure as it has been elsewhere in the world. Instead sufficient cash has to be placed in the people’s hands together with in-expensive land that people’s housing program become efficient and affordable. In addition slum living has to be made unattractive with land taxes and denial of social services. Slum colonies, which opt out of current hopelessness, should get a better deal in housing which replaces the slums. This followed with rapidly growing rural economy will kill migration. That will also reduce pressure on housing.51

51 Ibid
No single policy has ever brought an end to poverty and slums. It is a concerted effort and better policies, which will end it. No country in the world has ever been able to end poverty and slums completely. That includes the richest nations of the world. The point is that if economy progresses and special effort is made to uplift the poor, poverty and slums will be overtaken by better economic conditions of the people. Presently in India, urban renewal is in progress.

3.13 Urban Renewal in India

For last over fifteen years, a huge building and construction boom has started in all cities in India. Whereas governments are concentrating on building infrastructure and industrial base, private construction is building work places, shopping districts and housing for the middle class. The poor and slum dwellers are not there in any building equation. Cheap housing projects are lowest in the category. Hence slum dwelling has become a way of life.

If the experience elsewhere is a guide then poverty, slums and urban squat will be a diminishing phenomenon, if the rapid economic progress keeps its pace. Today we would have smaller of the slums, had economic policies of the present were in place 50 years back. Only now, all signs point to a rapidly rising GDP together with rising per capita GDP. With rise in income level, tendency to head to the slums has lessened. Diehard slum dwellers who wish to pay no taxes and spend nothing on housing will most certainly continue to stay there. Others will prefer to move out. This is a normal phenomenon. It happened in US and elsewhere. It will happen in India too. An economic equilibrium has not been reached in the society yet, where enough money in people’s pocket will persuade them to vacate the slums. This won’t we reached for another 20 to 25 years. By about middle of this period with increased availability of housing and higher incomes, the growth in slum dwelling will be arrested. Decline will begin only when much higher incomes are reached (as stated above), provided India does not make the
mistake of regularizing the slums/bustees with land tenure on tenable land and other amenities. That is a sure fire method to keep the slums going. People will always wait for free grant of land ownership even if these grants never materialize. Even the possibility of this ever happening in a distant future will keep the slum dwellers in the slums.

It is obvious that poverty, slums and urban squat are not going to go away in next 20 to 25 years. Reversal of this phenomenon will begin after sufficient economic progress had been made. Eight percent GDP growths is a good sign. With quadrupled GDP in 25 years, there is a good chance that the new and upcoming generation may stay away from slum dwelling. It may take another 25 years before the slums are vacated.

In a recent World Bank study on the effects of urban population growth on the built-up area of cities, it was projected that developing countries could triple their entire urban built-up area between 2000 and 2030. This means that in only 30 years, developing countries alone might generate the same amount of built-up urban area as the entire existing urban world had done up to the year 2000. The magnitude and rate of this urban transition is unprecedented. Managing the process of urban expansion is critical, but can be a complex and multi tiered challenge. City development strategies can be effective instruments through which cities can organize, orient, and initiate their response to the multitude of challenges and opportunities posed by their urban future.52

In brief, what slum dwellers really need is a chance to improve their own lives, and to make a positive contribution to the city. Plenty of evidence shows that resources spent on improving the lives of the poor are investments that will yield global economic and social returns. Affordable and successful adaptive measures for existing slums have, and can, increase the well-being of millions of slum dwellers. These measures also

further unlock the productivity of the urban poor, creating a powerful upward spiral that strengthens both urban and national economies. At the same time, effective proactive measures—measures that create conditions that allow the future urban poor to find affordable housing and not be forced to settle in slums — have proved extremely beneficial to cities, national governments, and the urban poor. These measures must be made more cost-effective, affordable, and implementable.