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Slums and Social Development: A Search for Alternative Paradigms

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Abstract
Social development has multidimensional aspects, which covers eradication of poverty, promotion of productive employment acceleration of social integration, opportunity of quality education etc. Social well-being is also designated to enable each individual to improve his ability to take charge of his destiny by means of fruitful activities in the economic, social, cultural, moral, and political fields and to participate in the choices and decisions concerning the society in its collective orientation. To achieve these objectives social development policy must focus on the human person, equity, social justice and security together with social cohesion, respect for human rights and non-discrimination and finally the participation of the people in the whole range of development policies. Social development calls for strategic investments in health, education and social services, and necessitates access of the underprivileged to means of economic well-being. In this study, dimensions of urban poverty and key issues for urban poor and those living in slums are discussed briefly.
Keywords: Slum; decision making; development; human rights; infrastructure.

Introduction
Major cities in India are projecting immense development with sky scrapers, fancy flyovers, massive shopping malls and multiplexes. But what are co-existing are poverty, poverty of employment, poverty of shelter, poverty of basic necessities and poverty of access to basic infrastructure like electricity, water, drainage and sanitation. Housing for the poor is so scarce and consequently slums are mushrooming everywhere, with little action on the part of the authorities to ensure cheap housing for the poor (Chakraborti, 1995). The so called slum rehabilitation authority does precious little by way of locating suitable land and constructing tenements with basic necessities. Poverty can be seen in the form of slum. Slums may be the byproduct of the development. Here the concern is to explore the development discourse in the form of slums and urban poor. Paradox of economic growth in urban areas is the growing number of urban poor. Increasing population pressure resulting in deterioration of physical environment and quality of life further aggravates the problem (Knack, 1995). In this study, dimensions of urban poverty and key issues for urban poor and those living in slums are discussed in detail. Society develops by building up higher and higher levels of organizations. The establishments of each successive new layers of organization occur as an overlay on the foundations of the society's previous achievements. We refer to these essential foundations as the infrastructure for the next stage of

development. The term infrastructure is commonly used to refer to the physical infrastructure of roads, ports, navigable rivers, railways and electric power that support economic activity. Here we give extended meaning to the term by including three other levels of infrastructure – social, mental and psychological -- that are necessary for further developmental achievements. The social infrastructure consist of all the laws, systems, administrative, commercial, productive and financial organizations like colleges, research institutes, banks, stock exchanges, courts, etc. built up during previous stages of development that serve as a foundation for future progress. The mental infrastructure includes the availability of information, the level of education and awareness in society, the technical knowledge and skills of the workforce. The psychological infrastructure consists of the collective social energy, aspirations, attitudes and values that make the society open to new ideas, responsive to opportunities, willing to change, dynamic and hard working – all of which are essential characteristics for rising to higher levels of development (Rawls, 1971). The remarkable advances in the development of organizations conform to the same principle. It is the continued growth in the capacity of human beings to conceive, design, plan, allocate, systematize, standardize, coordinate, and integrate actions, systems and organizations into larger, more complex and more productive arrangements which are responsible for the process of social development discussed in this study.

Methodology

For the present study it is decided to use purposive sampling method to choose respondents from Raipur city slums in India. Purposive sampling may involve studying the entire population of some limited group or a subset of a population. Here the sample size is 300 persons from four slums taking 95 women from Gandhi Nagar, 88 women from Moulipara, 100 women from Kushalpur and 17 women from Kota Basti proportionately distributed. For the present study ten percent of total number of families in each selected slum area is taken. In case of Gandhinagar ten percent total family size is 95.7, for Moulipara 87.8, for Kushalpur 100.3 and Kota 16.6. But the figures have been rounded off for the sake of convenience for calculation. All individuals selected in the sample were asked to provide informed voluntary consent.

Analysis of the findings

Table 1: Awareness of Civic Rights and Duties of Respondents

Name of Slum	Awareness of Right				Awareness of Duties				Total Respondents
	Aware		Un-aware	Total	Aware		Un-aware		
	Casting vote	Through decision making			By active participation	Indirectly Active			
Kota Basti	7 (41.18%)	5 (29.41%)	5 (29.41%)	17 (100%)	4 (23.53%)	8 (47.06%)	5 (29.41%)		17 (100%)
Kushalpur	56 (56.00%)	17 (17.00%)	27 (27.00%)	100 (100%)	31 (31.00%)	56 (56.00%)	13 (13.00%)		100 (100%)
Gandhinagar	62 (65.26%)	20 (21.05%)	13 (13.69%)	95 (100%)	51 (53.68%)	38 (40.00%)	6 (6.23%)		95 (100%)
Moulipara	37 (41.67%)	8 (9.33%)	7 (9.33%)	88 (100%)	15 (17.05%)	68 (77.27%)	5 (5.68%)		88 (100%)
Total	181 (60.33%)	60 (20.00%)	59 (19.66%)	300 (100%)	101 (33.67%)	170 (56.67%)	29 (9.66%)		300 (100%)

Rights and duties are complimentary in the sense absence of one may create disequilibrium in social life. Since human are social by nature, they are meant to live with others and to work for one another's welfare. A well-ordered human society demands that people recognize and observe their mutual rights and duties. It also demands that people contribute generously to the establishment of a civic order in which rights and duties are more sincerely and effectively acknowledged and fulfilled. Beginning our discussion of the rights of the human person, it is seen see that everyone has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life, these are primarily food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and finally the necessary social services. Here in the table 1 about 20% people are unaware about their rights mostly due to ignorance. But aware respondents have said that they apply their rights by casting vote (60.33%) and 20% respondents have said that through community participation they enjoy rights. So far the duties are concerned near about 10% respondents are unaware. Here the gap can be seen between level of awareness of rights and duties which are almost 10%. In the present time political awareness is increasingly growing among the marginalized sections along with the mainstream population. In an effective democracy the participation of local people is necessary to get the fruitful result and this comes from awareness of rights and duties to the society. In the present study it can be seen that the majority people participate in the voting process for choosing their representative from their respective areas. But it is also being noticed that only by casting votes people can't be empowered unless they participate in decision making process. The percentage of unaware people about their rights in Kota Basti and Kushalpur are almost same. In Moulipara maximum people are aware of their rights. On the contrary in Kota Basti 29.41% people are unaware about their duties to the society.

People's participation can be defined as the process by which people are able to organise themselves and are able to identify their needs and share in the participatory action (Goswami, 2013). The involvement of people down to the grassroots level is essential to ensure the success of social development programmes. Participation involves in the right to exercise voice and choice and developing human, organisational and management capacity in order to sustain improvement. Informal methods of fostering education through community participation can also reap benefits for the local population. During 1990-91 periods, Integrated Slum Development (ISD) is developed from a theoretical framework to an implementable programme based on the past personal experience and understanding the lives of slum residents. Up to the 1990s, the existing development paradigm of central planning considered slum residents as passive recipients of developmental inputs and not as active participants in the development processes affecting them. This welfare approach to slum development has created an overall feeling that the slum residents are inferior citizens of the city and hence the government has to take the burden of developing the slums. From an activist's viewpoint, there is a greater concern; that slum residents themselves are internalising this attitude, leading to decreased self-esteem and a diffident attitude. The ISD concept is developed assuming that the slum residents themselves are willing to be active participants in their own development process.

The decision making process is one of the ways of measuring the weaker section's empowerment, although mere participation in any matter does not corroborate full empowerment of such group. However, participation in decision-making process in community matters considers that the slum dwellers are accounted in the community. Participation in decision making refers to different mechanisms for the public to express opinions and ideally exert influence regarding political, economic, management or other social decisions. Participatory decision making can take place along any realm of human social activity, including economic, political, management, cultural or familial. Levels of participation are judged by the number of registered civil society organizations, memberships of political parties, trade unions and business associations and key international conferences and events and the levels of voting turn out. Ensuring gender equity and equality, and the empowerment of women depend on overcoming cultural, social and economic constraints that limit women's access to education, as well as providing universal access to reproductive health education and services that allow them to protect their health, control their fertility and develop their full potential in all aspects of public and private life. Removing social and family barriers to women's and marginalized sections' equal social, economic and political

participation and combating against discrimination are essential. Reproductive health and rights such as the right to decide the number, timing and spacing of children, free from coercion and violence are central to women's empowerment and gender equality, and to women's enjoyment of other human rights.

Table 2: Familiarity of Local Counselor by Respondents

Name of Slum	Fully Known	%	Not well Known	%	Don't Know	%	Total Respondents
Kota Basti	11	64.70	3	17.65	3	17.65	17 (100%)
Kushalpur	33	33	44	44	23	23	100 (100%)
Gandhinagar	57	60	22	23.16	16	16.84	95 (100%)
Moulipara	57	64.77	10	11.36	21	23.87	88 (100%)
Total	158	52.67	79	26.33	63	21	300 (100%)

Success of any development programme is possible through active participation of local community. Local community generally participates through their local leaders or ward Counselors in the development programmes. The slum community has legitimate representation in the Municipal Corporation by election of the counselor from where they belong. Counselor is accountable to person who is supposed to look after the necessities of local people. So communication with counselor is very vital for good governance. Table 2 shows 52.67% respondents are very much familiar with counselor. 26.33% people partially know and 21% people don't know their counselor. The people of Kota Basti (64.70%) and Moulipara (64.77%) know their counselor fully. 23% people of Kushalpur and 23.87% people of Moulipara don't know their local counselor.

Table 3: Opinions of Respondents Regarding Participation in Decision-Making Process

Name of Slum	Often takes suggestion	%	Some time takes suggestion	%	Never take suggestion	%	Total Respondents
Kota Basti	1	5.88	3	17.65	13	76.47	17 (100%)
Kushalpur	12	12.00	29	29.00	59	59.00	100 (100%)
Gandhinagar	15	15.79	42	44.21	38	40.00	95 (100%)
Moulipara	8	9.09	54	61.36	26	29.55	88 (100%)
Total	36	12.00	128	42.67	136	45.33	300 (100%)

The counselors not only have a larger stake in and commitment to improving the living conditions of their communities, but their own importance in greater domain is decisive factor for the well-being of their communities. Therefore, peoples' involvement and participation play crucial role in bringing about change. Conscious efforts to involve them through the cooperative are made. The counselors are the key persons for implementation of any policy. Some time denial of slum dwellers' participation in the drafting of the various policies and programs for them made by the local leader is noticed. The planning process and the experience with development projects so far indicate that citizens have been totally excluded from the discussion about the location and nature of development projects, their size, their socio-environment impact, the distribution of their costs and benefits. The above table (3) shows that 45.33% respondents are never asked for their demand and requirement by their counselors, whereas only 12% people have said they are involved for local job some time. 42.67% respondents have said that some time they are given due importance for the framing plan for development of local slums. In Kota Basti it seems the decision making process is lagging behind than other slums. The peoples' participation in the decision making process is better in Moulipara.

Table 4: Participation in Development Programme in Locality by the Respondents

Name of Slum	Always participate	%	Sometime participate	%	Never participate	%	Total Respondents
Kota Basti	1	5.88	2	11.77	14	82.35	17 (100%)
Kushalpur	3	3.00	42	42.00	55	55.00	100 (100%)
Gandhinagar	6	6.32	46	48.42	43	45.26	95 (100%)
Moulipara	1	1.14	31	35.23	56	63.64	88 (100%)
Total	11	3.67	121	40.33	168	56.00	300 (100%)

Table 4 shows that 3.67% respondents always participate, 40.33% respondents some time participate and 56% people never participate in the development programmes of locality. From this table it is seen that for all slums very few people actively participate in the development programmes. Except Kota Basti people of other three slums sometime participate. Regarding participation of local people in development programmes Kota Basti is lagging far behind than other slums.

Table 5: Place for Redresses of Grievances

Name of Slum	Counselor	%	Corporation office	%	Others	%	Don't do	%	Total Respondents
Kota Basti	10	58.82	4	23.53	1	5.88	2	11.77	17 (100%)
Kushalpur	68	68.00	19	19.00	13	13.00	-	-	100 (100%)
Gandhinagar	72	75.79	15	15.79	2	2.10	6	6.32	95 (100%)
Moulipara	81	92.05	-	-	7	7.95	-	-	88 (100%)
Total	231	77.00	38	12.67	23	7.66	8	2.67	300 (100%)

In order to ensure effectiveness of the machinery for redress of public grievances, the guidelines are stipulated in almost every government offices. But another grievance arises out of solving the grievance sought to solve. As the redress mechanism doesn't work effectively. From the table 5 respondents have said that they go to counselor's office (77%) directly depending upon the nature of the problem. Some of them (12.67%) have said that they go to corporation office, 7.66% respondents go to the local leaders for place the grievances for redress and 2.67% people don't do anything in this regard. The general attitude of the respondents is that they go to the counselors' office for redress but they receive lots of assurances rather practical solutions because as long the problem exists the demand of counselor will continue to exist. People of Moulipara (92%) directly go to the counselor's office. But people of Kota Basti mostly depend on municipality in this regard.

Concluding remarks

The poor lacks access to information about various Government schemes. NGOs could play a significant role by conducting mass education and mass awareness programs. Programmes may not be target driven but focused on achieving the objective laid out. Implementation programmes must be transparent and follow a time-bound procedure. Sufficient resources may be allocated for primary education especially for job-oriented education (Kumar, 2003). The thematic areas of intervention are access to housing, water, sanitation, food security, waste management and creating a safe living environment. Expressions of expectations about requirements for community reveal the other ideas that embody the cultural values. It increases the capacity of one's strength of arguments. The general convention does not permit the slum people to participate in larger matters owing to their less importance as they belong to some insignificant place. The experience of implementing poverty programmes clearly brings out the need for an integrated response to deal with the problems of urban poor (Khan, 2008). The experience highlights the fact that no sectoral intervention would mitigate the problems of the urban poor or improves their quality of life. It is also noted that programmes for the poor need to focus on particularly vulnerable groups among them, like women and children, disabled and destitute, the aged and children in difficult circumstances.

Lack of coordination of several agencies working on slums is observed, which leads to inefficient use of resources. Deterioration of infrastructure created by investments under various slum improvement programmes due to inadequate maintenance in slums is noted. The infrastructure created in slums is not linked to the citywide networks.

Slum dwellers generally participate through their local leaders or ward Counselors in the process of development programmes. The slum community has legitimate representation in the

Municipal Corporation by election of the counselor from where they belong. The general attitude of the respondents is that they go to the counselors' office for redress but they get lots of assurances rather practical solutions because as long the problem exists the demand of counselor will continue to exist.

While achieving considerable feats of inventiveness in self-help housing on an individual basis, the collective power of urban poor groups has produced exceptional results in building new homes and upgrading existing slum housing, as reflected in official development literature which recommends participatory slum improvement as the best practice for housing interventions in India. Land possession continues to be threatening issue in addressing the problems of the poor. People living in non-notified slums are most susceptible, as they are not officially recognized. They are most vulnerable with no regular incomes, access to basic services, absence of tenure rights, etc. Programmes for development are targeted mostly on notified and developed slums.

The planning process and the experience with development projects so far indicate that slum dwellers have been totally excluded from the discussion about the location and nature of development projects, their size, their socio-environment impact, the distribution of their costs and benefits.

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