A Study on the Causes and Problems of Slums in Pune City

Mr. Laxman Rambhau Damse
'Meghprasad’, 444/27A, PCNTDA, Nigdi, Pune

Abstract:
Increase in population is one of the biggest problems faced by India today. It is expected that in the next decade India will surpass China in the population. Pune city is not an exception to the problem of population expansion. The increase in the population of Pune city is prominently due to the industrialisation and the urbanisation in and around Pune city which has attracted a lot of migrants from other parts of the country resulting in the increase in the slums and slum population as these migrants many a times cannot afford housing in the city. The government has taken steps to curb the population increase and the slum increase from time to time but in vain. Along with the increase in the slums the problems faced by the slum dwellers are also increasing since the Pune municipal corporation is burdened with the task of providing the basic facilities to these slums. The research paper discusses the causes and problems of the slums in Pune city. The researcher is of the opinion that all the stake holders should work together in solving the problems of the slums and the slum dwellers.

Key Words: Slum, Urbanisation, Migration, Causes, Problems.

Declaration: The contribution in this paper is my own work and not published or presented elsewhere.

1. Introduction:
Economic development is an important aspect for every country. India is not an exception to this. Increasing urbanization is emerging as the most pervasive and dominant challenge for our country. India is a part of the global trends where an increasing number of people live in urban areas. The number of towns and the absolute urban population in India has increased steadily over the last 60 years. They are also the hopes of millions of migrants from the rural hinterland and smaller settlements. With growth of the service sector and surge of the knowledge economy, the population pressure on cities is bound to escalate. They are increasingly faced with negative consequences such as polarization of population in large cities, high density, slums and squatter settlements, acute shortage of housing and basic civic amenities, degradation of environment, traffic congestion, pollution, poverty, unemployment, crime and social unrest.

There are many definitions of slums. The UN Habitat defines slum as, ‘A slum is a contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services. A slum is often not recognized and addressed by the public authorities as an integral or equal part of the city’. Slum households are a group of individuals living under the same roof that has one or more of the conditions also called as characteristics listed below:

i. Insecure residential status
ii. Inadequate access to safe water
iii. Inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure

iv. Poor structural quality of housing, and

v. Overcrowding

The government of India has revised the definition of Slum Localities / Areas to register the exact number of slum dwellers / areas / localities as on 03.09.2010. The Central Government has decided that where there exists a minimum 20 slum owners the same area will be recognized as slum Locality / Zopadpatti.

2. Literature Review:

The measurement of level of urbanization simply involved the assessment of percentage of urban population in cities and towns of specified criteria. The literature on urbanization, unemployment, migration and the challenges faced by the slum is a process where there are different factors contributing to the development / improvement of slums. Ramachandran (R., 1992) has written a book on “Urbanization and Urban System in India”. The book addressed the current urban problems in India and unequal spatial distribution of urban services. The book gave the exposition and evaluation on the general study of urbanization over the last 500 years. The book also focused on the policies of urbanization and urban development.

In the book “Rural Urban Migration and Rural Unemployment in India” G.V. Joshi and Norbert Lobo (Joshi & Lobo, 2003) have stated that human beings migrate because they are living beings with experiences and aspirations. There was no dispute regarding the fact that rural-to-urban migration is a component of population change. Its impact was felt in the region where both ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors operate with varying intensity. The book highlighted rural unemployment as one of the burning problems that India has been facing. Its severity increased in the period following the new economic reforms. To think more about it was to think more about Indian rural problems in general and rural-to-urban migration in particular. This study discussed the variations in the extent of rural-to-urban migration at the national, state and district levels and the extent of rural unemployment in India and changes in it over the years.

Pranati Datta (Datta, 2006) wrote an article on “Urbanization in India”. The study analyzed urbanization as an index of transformation from traditional rural economies to modern industrial ones. The study threw light on the process of urbanization in India over a century and urban morphology by using Indian census data during the period 1901 – 2001. The study found that the towns have grown from 1872 in 1901 to 5161 in 2001. Only 28 percent of the population was living in the urban areas as per the census of 2001. This was due to the rural ‘push’ factor and not the urban ‘pull’ factor. The analysis suggested that there was a relationship between the population growth, resource depletion and environmental degradation. The study suggested that there should be an urban health policy. There was a need to address the problem of social inequality in a proactive manner. The author suggested that housing was an activity that was typically labour intensive. Provision of shelter was a basic need that needed to be met with.

David. R.H. wrote a research paper on “The Slums Challenge and Response”. The paper explained the relations between the actors (slum dwellers, slum leaders and the government apparatus) involved in slum upgrading.
efforts in Madras (R.H., 2006). The paper revealed that the Madras slum workers had irregular jobs with payment on daily basis for men. The dominant job was that of a coolie as observed by the researcher. In case of women the main paid activity was house work for the richer families in the nearby parts of the city. The research paper concluded that the main conformities of interest between various actor groups, exist between slum leaders, government officials and the politicians of the ruling party. The study found that the ruling party politicians are in the best of the position to manipulate the available resources for slum upgrading to their own benefit.

A research paper on ‘The Urban Plan for India: A foundation for economic growth’ was written by Will Lawther (Lawther, 2011). The study focused on the increase in the urban population of Asia. India is a dominant force in South Asia. Urbanization has been the fundamental factor of economic growth within the industrial age. This paper addressed the context of urbanization in India in relation to both the inherent disadvantages and what India seeks to gain through the process. The research paper was based on secondary data. The study concluded that urbanization is a continuous process and urbanization can improve the economy, which would prove to be the foundation for India’s future. But there is a need to manage the slum population in an effective and beneficial manner. The paper suggested that it was necessary to create jobs, effective implementation of policies and ensure that the policies reach those people for whom it has been made.

3. Objectives of the Study:
The objectives of the study are to study the causes for the increase of the slum and slum population in Pune city and also to understand the problems of the slum population in Pune city.

4. Methodology:
This paper is based on secondary sources of information. The study is restricted to Pune city only and is limited to the causes and problems of slums and slum population in Pune city. The data has been collected from internet, articles, journals, newspapers, books, reports etc.

5. Discussion:
a. Increase in the Urban Population:
In India though urbanization is a recent phenomena, the process of urbanization started spreading its roots some decades ago. The slum census of 2011 shows that in India, the number of cities has grown from 1743 cities to 2613 cities.

Graph No. 1: Urban Population in India (1951-2011)
The above graph no. 1 gives information regarding the urban population in India. More significant for policy formulation is the share of urban population to total population, which has grown from 17.3 per cent in 1951 to 31.16 per cent in 2011. It can be seen that the share of urban population to total population is increasing. It means that people are migrating to urban areas more every year. The decadal growth of urban population shows ups and downs with a sharp dip in the growth of urban population in the decade 1951 to 1961. Again the position changed when the growth of urban population increased in the period of 1971 to 1981 after which it declined sharply and again is increasing at a steady pace.

b. Increase in Population and Slum Population in Pune City:
According to the slum census 2011, in Maharashtra, Mumbai comes first in the increase in urban households and increase in slum areas followed by Pune. Earlier there was no separate slum census. But from the year 2011 there has been a separate slum census conducted to identify the exact population of the slums in order to rehabilitate, redevelop or clear the slums.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Slum Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>1,33,227</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>1,62,001</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>2,37,547</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>4,80,942</td>
<td>36726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>5,97,105</td>
<td>92101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>8,56,105</td>
<td>2,39,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>12,03,351</td>
<td>3,77,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>16,91,430</td>
<td>5,69,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>25,40,069</td>
<td>9,50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>30,25,000</td>
<td>10,25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: MASHAL Report 2006)

Table no. 1 shows the decade wise the total population and slum population of Pune from the year 1921 to 2011. It can be clearly seen that there is a decadal increase in the total population and the slum population.
The slums are situated on the river banks, on government and semi government lands (like land of the postal department, LIC, PMC, railways, defence etc.) and also on private lands. Some slums are situated partly on government land and partly on private land. The largest slum in Pune is Janata Vasahat and the Lumbini Slum, situated at Gokhale Nagar is the smallest slum. Table no. 2 shows the total number of slum pockets in Pune city. There are totally 564 slums out of which 379 are declared slums and 185 are undeclared slums which are spread across 14 administrative wards. Out of the 379 declared slums 119 are located on government and semi government land and the remaining 260 slum pockets are located on private land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF SLUM</th>
<th>NO. OF SLUM POCKETS (As per 2011 Census)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Declared Slum</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeclared Slum</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Pune Municipal Corporation Reports)

According to the 2001 census there were totally 477 slums out of which 353 were declared slums and 124 were undeclared slums. Hence it can be said that there is an increase in the slum population and also in the slum pockets in Pune city.

c. Causes for increase in Slums and Slum Population:

India is an agriculture based economy. Still an increase in the number of population shifting from rural areas has been observed resulting in increase in urbanisation.

Chart No. 1: Causes for Increase in Slum and Slum Population

The chart no. 1 exhibits the causes for the increase in slum and slum population. The increase in slums could be due to the push factor (conditions like draught, famine, floods, financial crunch etc. which pushes the people to urban areas in search of a livelihood) or the pull
factor (attraction towards city life, employment opportunities, industrialisation etc. which pull the people towards urban areas) or due to the increase in population or due to the availability of land to create dwelling. The major causes of increase in the slums and slum population in Pune city are distressed migrants from other cities and villages, industrial expansion and new work opportunities which attract more and more people towards finding their livelihood, attraction towards the glamour of city life, imbalance between the rural and urban development, natural calamities, social tensions which cause unrest, social stigma like untouchability, political harassment, population growth, increasing urbanisation and industrialisation, problem of unemployment and illiteracy.

d. Problems of Slums and Slum Population:
Similar to the problems faced by the slums in other cities and states, Pune city also faces certain problems. The major problems are unhygienic environment, anti social activities taking place in the slums, prejudiced outlook regarding the slum, feeling of insecurity, the housing condition i.e. unhealthy and unhygienic living conditions, apathy from the government, corrupt officials who pose problems in rehabilitation of the slum dwellers, lack of sufficient space to have proper roads which leads to traffic congestion, air pollution, water pollution, encroachment, untidiness, unproductiveness, mutual fighting/quarrelling, roils, prostitution, offending, tracking of illegal things, hiding places of offenders /criminals, illegal alcohol producing, drugs consumptions like exudation of flowers of hemp, opium etc., gang war, child offenders, gambling and pollution expansion.

6. Conclusion:
There is not much development in the rural areas and problems like famine, drought, limited financial resources, big families etc. contribute towards pushing the rural youth to the urban areas in search of livelihood. Also the rapid industrialisation and urbanisation attract these rural youth to relocate to the urban areas in search of employment for livelihood. Pune city is not an exception to the case and a lot of migrants from other areas of the country relocate to Pune for livelihood which has resulted in the increase in Pune’s population. The real estate cost in Pune is high and hence these migrants cannot afford to purchase a house for living because they are already barely able to make their ends meet. Hence they end up in putting dwellings on the land available and in turn contribute to the increase in slums. The slum dwellers are facing problems on basic facilities, amenities etc., since the Pune Municipal Corporation is burdened with task at hand already and to provide all the basic facilities and amenities to the ever increasing slums becomes difficult for them. The Pune Municipal Corporation should have a proper plan, a strong political will and strict implementation of the plans which will help them to control the increase in the slums and to provide the facilities required by the slum population.

7. References: