

Slums – A Case Study of Anand City

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1. Introduction

Slum is the product of modern industrial civilization. One of the distressing manifestations of urbanization is the sporadic growth of slums. It is a social evil, which grows along with urbanization. Poverty and deficit of housing in rapidly growing cities are reasons of emergence of slums.

If the world's general rate of growth of population is about 2% a year, towns and cities are growing by 4% a year, some big cities may exceed even 5 to 6% a year. The annual growth rate of population of Anand between 1981 and 1991 is 5.61%, whereas growth rate of houses is 34.77%. Disparity in the distribution of resources, leading to inequalities is one of the reasons for causing migration of people from place to place. In the third world countries exodus from rural areas to urban areas play a major role in the creation of slums. The result is that "one often comes across multistoried monuments, unrivalled in design and execution, surrounded reproachfully by innumerable "juggies" or "huts". While it is true that newer and newer problems arise as time passes and new slums are born while old ones expand and worsen, a certain awareness of the appalling conditions prevalent in such areas has developed over the years [1].

As per the 1st five-year plan (1951-56) for slum clearance, "the procedure to be adopted in such cases should be assessed on the basis of the use of which the land was put on the date of the issue of the clearance order. It has been suggested that no additional compensation on account of the compulsory nature of acquisition should be allowed in case of acquisition of slum areas, because it is believed that such compensation ought not think that the owners of slum areas perform any social service by accommodating large number of poorest sections of the community in conditions of squalor and filth. It has also been observed that why such social abuse of property should be compensated for over and above the actual value" [2].

The second five-year plan (1951-61), continued to dwell upon the specific subject of slum clearance and sweepers' housing. It drew attention to the need for two

sets of measures viz. 1) a strict enforcement of municipal bylaws and the enlisting of support from the enlightened public opinion and 2) the framing of master plans for every town, beginning with towns which are already large or have expanded much in recent years or are likely to grow rapidly in the next few year [3].

State governments were asked to undertake social and economical surveys of their worst slum areas in the larger towns and to draw up phased programmes of slum clearance.

However small and medium towns and cities, which are growing rapidly have been neglected, resulting in the growth of slums. One such urban area is Anand city (**Figure-2.1**).

The third five-year plan (1961-66) envisaged the plight of such families as they can not afford to pay even the subsidized rents of "pucca" structure. Schemes were formulated for skeletal housing and open developed plots with a separate washing platform and latrine for each family, leaving it to the slum dwellers to build huts of a prescribed pattern themselves on a self-help basis" [4].

However, it was experienced that the implementation of this plan of clearance and improvement of slums was a lengthy and time consuming process.

2. Anand Slums

Surprisingly the municipal authorities declare that there is no slum area in the city (census 1981 and 1991) though there are 54 slum areas in Anand. These slums are said to exist since 1940s. There are 32,014 persons populate them, which accounts to 24.4% of the total city population as per the year 1991.

The distribution pattern of these slums characteristically consists of small patches of poor mud huts roofed with anything from straw to mutilated kerosene, oil and biscuit tins. Slums mushroom in low ill-drained areas, pits, drainage-line, level-crossings, cross-roads, industrial areas, wasteland, scrub lands and nala or tunnels in contrast with the surrounding finer residences of the fairly wealthy people.

3. Methodology

- Identification of slum areas and locating on the map using Auto Cad.
- Slum growth shown with time scale.
- Collection of primary data through survey to assess

the socio-economic conditions in the slum areas.

- Ward wise mapping of the density of slums, density of slum population, density of slum houses. (Fig. 3.14-16)
- Mapping the physical indicators (**Table-1**) using GIS and correlating with the slum locations in order to get a better understanding about the trend of the slum growth.
- Mapping the social indicators using Auto Cad and Microsoft Excel by superimposing the parameters to get a holistic trend of slum growth.

Table-1 : Physical indicators and the number of slums

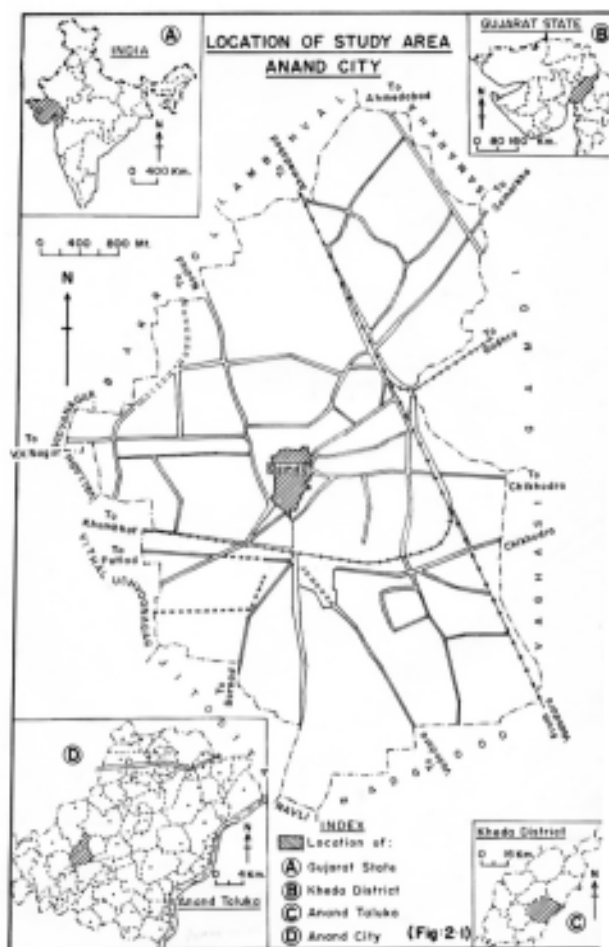
| Physical indicators | Number of Slums | Physical indicators | Number of Slums |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Overbridge | 1 | Cross roads | 4 |
| Tunnel | 1 | Wasteland | 6 |
| Nala | 1 | Water bodies | 5 |
| Industries | 4 | Pit/depression | 7 |
| Scrubland | 1 | Railwayline/Station | 4 |
| Residential colonies | 17 | | |
| Well | 3 | Total slums | 54 |

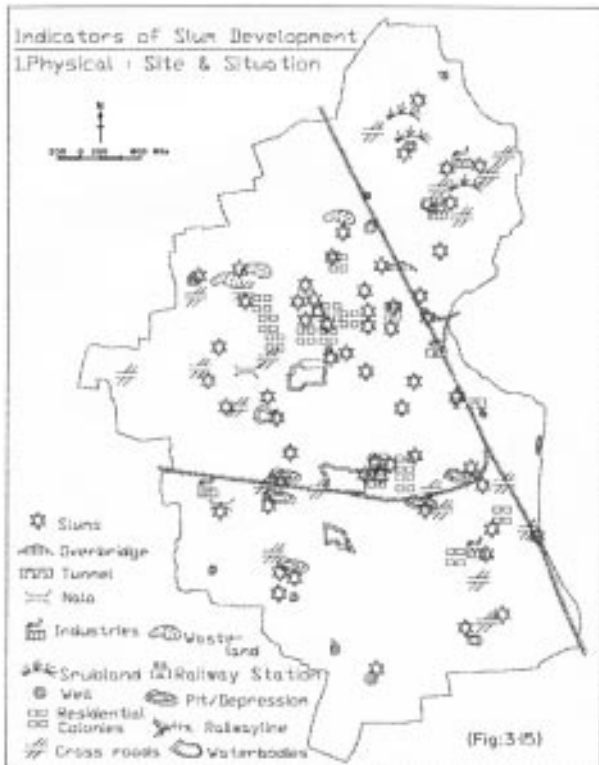
The physical indicators of Slum : The map showing distribution of slums (Fig : 3.15) may be broadly correlated with the Geographical factors like nearness to wells, nearness to place of work, pit or depressions, water bodies, scrub land, wasteland, over-bridge, tunnels, nala, industrial areas, residential colonies, nearness to railway station and cross-roads etc, are some of the important site and situation for slum occurrence and development.

Most of the slum concentrations are around the water bodies and wells and mainly they occupy those wards, which are away from the core. Slums also develop at sites where the main water supply line is illegally tapped and the areas of least access. Similarly, the nearness to railway line and railway crossing or over-bridge also become favourable sites of slum development (Fig : 3.15).

Social indicators of Slum development : Mangalpura (Ward I – Fig 3.16) is the biggest slum having 1000 houses and a population of over 7000 persons since 1963 in the Ward I in southeastern part of the city. The slum near Vyayam mandir, Patadia Kuva and Navaparu has the highest density of 10 persons per house (Fig : 3.16).

As far as wards are concerned, ward III has the highest slum density i.e. 11.37 slums per sq.km. While Ward II ranks first as far as number of houses per sq.km. is concerned, which comes to 735, while in case of





population density, ward I stands first with about 5033 persons per sq.km. However, wards VIII (core), ward IX and ward X does not have any slum area (Fig : 3.16).

More and more people are attracted to the already existing slum areas as they earn a living in low paid blue collar jobs or in self employment, contrary to what was expected. The over all sample survey revealed that over 80% of the slum households have very low monthly income. Many of the slum dwellers are non-working. The economic condition of only a few families is good as they are engaged in white washing in construction, masonry work, fabricating aluminum doors and window, thermocoal molding and plaster of Paris idols and show pieces, tin making and recycling is the main occupation of slum dwellers residing near the over bridge in ward I.. Some of the slum dwellers in ward XII near the Borsad chowkdi and near Vithal Udyognagar are engaged in preparing iron grills, swings and iron fabrication works which has a great demand, as new residential colonies are growing rapidly. A holistic view was obtained on superimposing the various social indicators using the Microsoft Excel'98 and Auto Cad R 14 software in order to get the correct idea about the areas more prone to slum development (Fig : 3.17).

4. Suggestions and Conclusion :

Thus the scope of slum clearance should be enlarged to embrace slum improvement by providing them minimum amenities like sanitary-latrines, drainage, uncontaminated water supply, approach roads, paved streets and lighting, in order to prevent them from spoiling both the physical and social environment and also uplifting them from a degrading quality of life.

Slum dwellers are more prone to disease because of the sub-human conditions, which prevail due to unawareness and neglect. In order to solve this, proper efforts to educate them in the direction of health and hygiene should be made.

In computing this shortage, the fundamental assumption was that each household should have a "pucca" dwelling unit, a reasonably permanent structure to provide minimum standards of comfort and safety.

The prevailing ideas of wholesale slum clearance and construction of costly housing must be abandoned and new ideas must be developed to solve the shelter problem and improve physical environments and the slum life. The fact that emergence of slums, is the result of social degeneration and economic poverty cannot be ignored. The approach therefore has to be such that taking into consideration both the physical environments and the social and economic status of the slum dwellers its execution should involve no harassment, no adverse effect on the socio-economic conditions of the slum dwellers [1].

Finally, "what is equally essential, is the need for talking to these people, for making them feel acceptable, for telling the women folk how they can keep their home and children clean, for telling the children what games to play, for telling the men what work awaits them in the world beyond the one" [1].

Reference

- [1] H.U. Bijlani (1977), "Urban problems", Navchetan press pvt. ltd.
- [2] 1st five year plan Handbook (1951)
- [3] 2nd five year plan Handbook (1956)
- [4] 3rd five year plan Handbook (1961)

