URBAN GEOGRAPHICAL CHALLENGES AND MANAGEMENT

(A study on Vizag City urban slums in Andhra Pradesh - INDIA)

***Pinjari Useni,**
Research Scholar Department of Economics, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

**** Prof. T. Koteswara Rao,**
A.P Higher Education Vice Chairmen, Department of Economics, Andhra University.

ABSTRACT:

Due to uncontrolled urbanization in India, environmental degradation has been occurring very rapidly and causing shortages of housing, worsening of water quality, excessive air pollution, noise, dust and heat, and the problems of disposal of solid wastes and hazardous wastes. The situation in metropolises like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi and Bangalore, is becoming worse year by year. As cities grow, so do their slum population. According to the Global Report on Human Settlements (United Nations Human Settlements Program, (2003) 924 million people in 2001 or almost 32 percent of the world's urban population lived in slums, the majority of them in the developing world. The proportion of the urban population living in slums is about seven times as high in less developed countries s (43 percent) and in more developed countries (6 percent)Globally, the slum population is set to grow at the rate of 27 million per year during the period 2000-2020. In response to these projections, the Millennium Development Goals established a target to significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. In India, air pollution is proving to be an issue of concern. India's ongoing population explosion along with rapid urbanization and industrialization has placed significant pressure on its infrastructure and natural resources. According to reports, India's urban air quality ranks amongst the world are worst. Of the three million premature deaths in the world that occur each year due to outdoor and indoor air pollution, the highest numbers are assessed to occur in India. Some cities in India have witnessed decline in air pollution levels due to various measures taken by the Governments. In fact, according to a World Bank study, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmadabad and Hyderabad have seen about 13,000 less premature deaths from air pollution related diseases. They represent the highest form of human degradation. They reflect the failure of our urban planners, municipal authorities and urban technology to provide basic services like water supply, toilets, drainage, and garbage disposal etc. Due to unhealthy environmental conditions and Geographical settings of the vizag city urban slums in the Andhra Pradesh in India. Now India has recently committed to the development and construction of 100 Smart Cities to meet the demands of its rapidly growing and urbanizing population. In the state of Andhra Pradesh Visakhapatnam city selected as a smart city. In this research project analyzed some environmental challenges and issues for smart city concept.

Keywords: Disposal, Industrialization, Rapidly Growing, Various.

I. INTRODUCTION:

In India, [i]one of every three urban people lives in slums. Land value are extradianarily high and living conditions accordingly are worse in the million plus cities Slums have grown simultaneously with the growth of towns and cities partially in large industrial cities prohibeteration of slums has been taking place whenever the urban resources are stretched by intense population pressure. Industries in all major towns and cities have attracted a sizable number of people from rural areas who were reeling under the pressure of poverty there by leading to proliferation of slums at a faster rate. Such people who came to the cities in search of livelihood settled themselves in vacant places, due to lack of any basic civic amenities and these areas have soon grown into slums where people live under unhygienic and insanitary conditions in India slums population has been growing at an alarming rate.

[ii]The growth of population was more than 80% during 1971-81 and 37.11% during 1991-2001. Due to formation of GVMC and merger of surrounding villages, several well established urban components of the city are located within the GVMC. The details of population of the Municipal Corporation Visakhapatnam and now functioning as the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation are given About one third of population of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation's reside in slums, squatters and other poor settlements. Their contribution to city‟s economy has also been growing over the period. In the absence of developed land and clear policy to address their problems, the poor suffer from many inadequacies in terms of access to basic services and socio-economic needs. The distribution of slums is scattered all over the city but main concentration is observed in older parts of the city and also nearer to industrial establishments. Most of the slum dwellings are „Kachcha‟ with no proper sanitary facilities of water supply and showing haphazard growth of huts along the roads and on unauthorized lands and also government lands. It is necessary, therefore, to articulate policies and programmes to mainstream the slum communities with the city, both in terms of infrastructure provision and social and economic development. Visakhapatnam the slums have been more or less a result of the rapid industrialization it experienced over the last four decades heavy influx of laborers from rural to the port city has meant a growth in slum population at a rate higher than 6% perannum.During October,1985 and aprial,1986 the urban community development project of municipal corporation of Visakhapatnam has conducted as survey of slums in the city on the state of physical amenities in the slums and socio-economic conditions of slum-dwellers. Most of the Visakhapatnam slum dwellers live under sub-standard environmental conditions.

[iii]India has recently committed to the development and construction of 100 Smart Cities to meet the demands of its rapidly growing and urbanizing population. This effort will include construction of new municipalities and renovation of existing cities as the rural population shifts into urban areas. This white paper is a direct outgrowth of U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) Chairman and MasterCard Global CEO Ajay Banga’s mission to meet with the new Modi Administration in June. His discussion with Minister of Urban

Development Venkaiah Naidu included topics such as India's growing need for jobs, housing, commercial floor space and other pressing challenges. An outcome from that meeting was a specific issue paper that would discuss Smart Cities in a robust manner and feature expertise from USIBC member companies the publication of the Concept Note on Smart Cities by the Indian Government in September 2014 provided clarity about the policy-makers' thinking underpinning public statements and commitments in the recent election about the swift creation of 100 Smart Cities in India. The concepts set out in the paper cover a broad span of public administration, economic, social and sustainability issues. In this sense it was far from unusual: the established body of knowledge on smart cities as a concept is broad and relatively shallow, and the set of projects and initiatives pursued by organizations active in this space that have been bestowed with the 'smart city' tag is heterogeneous. Projects to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases caused by lighting systems in commercial property share the space with others concerned with the use of the internet to empower citizens and to reform democracy; and there are a host of others projects and ideas in between. There are, however, a number of core principles that can be identified in all the body of smart city work. The aim of this paper is to set out MasterCard's understanding of those core principles and to present the capabilities that MasterCard possesses to help cities implement smart city projects in line with them.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

We select the pinpointed objectives for this research paper mainly focusing on the environmental pollution effect urbanization.

1. Assess the Causes for growth of urbanization and dirty slums formation within the city.
2. Geographical setting of the urban slums of the selective study area.
3. Trace of the Infrastructural facilities in urban slums.
4. Some policies and suggestions.

III. REVIEW OF THE STUDY:

There are many factors that contribute to the continued formation and expansion of slums. Among these are rapid rural-to-urban migration, policy failure, increasing urban poverty and inequality, population growth and globalization. While more people are migrating from rural areas to towns and cities, urban areas are not expanding enough, there are not enough affordable houses, and municipalities are not being able to provide enough accommodation. Therefore, the in-migrants are forced to occupy illegal settlements on marginal lands at the urban periphery, along railways and riversides, or on other hazardous areas that are not suitable for development leading to expansion of slums. According to

Retnaraj (1998) it is generally believed that urban growth is mainly due to three components, viz. natural growth, migration and changes in urban jurisdiction. Natural growth represents the rate of growth of population, (which reflects the difference in the change in birth and death rates). Migration is considered to be an important contributing factor to the process of urbanization. Not only rural-urban migration, urbanization or population growth etc. that is the cause of slum formation, but also the failure of governments, failed policies, corruption, inappropriate regulation, dysfunctional land markets, unresponsive financial systems etc. to provide low income people with essential public infrastructure and services (UN Habitat, 2003). Result of lack of basic public services and facilities to sustain slum dwellers exposed them to many problems related to health (Alberti & weddell, 2000). For instance, water-borne diseases, such as malaria, cholera, typhoid, and malnutrition, child mortality are common in addition slum dwellers are prone to polluted and hazardous areas example next to toxic plants, on areas threatened by land slip or waste water disposal areas, flood and environmental hazardous and they are vulnerable to risk. The contamination of water by human and animal waste is responsible for the scourge of chronic diarrhea, which kills infants. Urban slums are marked by deplorable living environment and are often marked by a lack of civic amenities and facilities leading to environmental degradation and higher incidences of morbidity and mortality (Anuradha Banerjee, 2006).

[iv]Visakhapatnam, popularly known as Vizag, is a fast developing port city. With a population of 15, 00,000 in 2001 and a land area of 530 square kilometres, Visakhapatnam is the country's largest city in terms of land and Andhra Pradesh is second largest urban agglomeration in population. On account of rapid industrialisation, there has been significant migration into the city. The city was originally a small fishing village but due to its natural harbour it developed into a major port. It has experienced rapid industrialisation with the growth of major industries, including steel, petroleum refining and fertiliser. With the formation of "Greater Visakhapatnam" in 2005 the city's development is set for a quantum leap. The Municipal Corporation of Visakhapatnam, prior to its constitution as Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation in 2005 has a jurisdiction of 111 square kilometres with a population of 9. 69 lakhs as per the 2001 census while the Visakhapatnam Urban Agglomeration covered approximately 5.3 square kilometres with a population of 13.62 lakhs. The government of Andhra Pradesh has reconstituted the Municipal Corporation of Visakhapatnam in the year 2005 by extending the jurisdiction and by merging the adjoining municipality and panchayat. The reconstituted Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation has an area of 515 square kilometres with a population of 14.5 million. Thus the GVMC is representative of the urban agglomeration in terms of area as well as population. The Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority has a jurisdiction of 1701 square kilometres and covers a population of 22.02 lakhs.

Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation is characterized by a very significant presence of the urban poor, with a growing poverty profile. Slum settlements have multiplied over decades and the living conditions of the poor have not improved. Environmental decline, vehicular pollution, inadequate basic services and infrastructure in the poor settlements hit the poor hardest. Slums are scattered across the city and surrounding areas, with high

population densities and the number of people inhabiting them estimated to be around 342658. It is estimated that more than half of these slums are on GVMC and Govt lands, and the rest on lands belonging to various public entities. Poverty has a visible gender dimension too. The incidence of poverty among women is higher and female-headed households constitute the poorest of poor. The poor, not only habitat in slums of GVMC area but are spread in squatter and informal settlements in small groups deprived of basic services. This makes them more vulnerable to vagaries of nature and threat of eviction. At present there are 472 slums and the slum population is over 6 lakhs. A major problem is the incorporation of 32 villages around Visakhapatnam in the GVMC. Almost all these villages are inhabited by poor and the infrastructure is very low. These areas should be taken as 'poor areas' and special programmes need to be initiated to develop them on par with the city.

IV. DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

Data Source:

To study the above mentioned objectives primary as well as secondary data have been used. For the primary data we collected by slums. And for secondary data obtained from Census Reports of Government of India, Districts Statistical Hand Books, and slum basic information from UCD section of municipal Corporation offices and depend upon various government reports published by Bureau of Economics and Statistics by Government of Andhra Pradesh----etc.

V. SUGGESTIONS AND FINDINGS:

Making a city "smart" is emerging as a strategy to mitigate the problems generated by the urban population growth and rapid urbanization. Yet little academic research has sparingly discussed the phenomenon. To close the gap in the literature about smart cities and in response to the increasing use of the concept, this paper proposes a framework to understand the concept of smart cities. Based on the exploration of a wide and extensive array of literature from various disciplinary areas we identify eight critical factors of smart city initiatives: management and organization, technology, governance, policy context, people and communities, economy, built infrastructure, and natural environment. These factors form the basis of an integrative framework that can be used to examine how local governments are envisioning smart city initiatives. The framework suggests directions and agendas for smart city research and outlines practical implications for government professionals.

"Smart Cities have been characterized and defined by a number of factors including sustainability, economic development and a high quality of life. These factors can be achieved through infrastructure (physical capital), human capital, social capital and/or Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) infrastructure" – European Commission

"The Smart City is a process, or series of steps, by which cities become more "livable" and resilient and, hence, is able to respond quicker to new challenges. Thus, a Smart City should enable every citizen to engage with all the services on offer, public as well as private, in a way best suited to his or her needs" – Department of Business Innovation & Skills.

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