

Slum Free City Project Heading Toward Administrative Failure: A Study of Idgah Basti Slum, Ajmer

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Abstract

In India, urbanization is growing at an unprecedented rate. The majority of the urban growth takes place at poorest segment of urban society. This is direct outcome of migration from rural areas to urban areas as urban areas provide wide range of economic activities. This results in sprouting of slums in cities and towns. Slums have always been an affordable housing solution to the majority of economically weak population. Despite lack of basic urban amenities, inhuman conditions, ill-health conditions and other disadvantages, total number of town reported slums in India have been increased from 1743 in 2001 to 2613 in 2011(census 2011). Therefore to make India “Slum Free”, Slum Free City Project was launched under Rajiv Awas Yojana. This paper reviews the impact of Slum Free City Project on the slum dwellers of Idgah Basti, one of three notified slums of Ajmer city with respect to Good Governance and acceptability of the project at urban grass root level. The social, political, economic along with the general profile and physical infrastructures of slums are under the preview of study.

Keywords : *Urbanization, Slums, Good Governance*

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

Received: 04.03.19
Approved: 10.03.2019

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*RJPSS 2019, Vol. XLIV,
No. 1, pp. 87-97*

Article No. 12

Online available at:
[https://anubooks.com/
?page_id=5262](https://anubooks.com/?page_id=5262)

Introduction

In India, due to urbanization, slums have been found in every city and town. According to an UNESCO document “a slum is a building, a group of buildings or an area characterised by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions or absence of facilities or amenities, which because of these conditions or any of them endanger the health, safety or morals of its inhabitants or the community”. Though slums are characterised by many disadvantages but because urban areas pose a problem of affordable housing to the poor, economically weaker section found slums as convenient option. Therefore, Government has attempted to relocate slum residents or redevelop slums through Slum Free City Project under Rajiv Awas Yojana.

Rajiv Awas Yojana envisages a “slum free India” with inclusive and equitable cities in which every citizen has access to basic civic infrastructure, social amenities and descent shelter. Rajiv Awas Yojana was launched in 2011 June in 2 phased: the preparatory phase for period of 2 years which ended in June 2013 and implementation phase from 2013- 2022. Among 18 cities covered in Rajasthan in this project, Ajmer is one. Three slums have been identified and got approval from the central government: Pasand Nagar, Loharu Basti, Idgah Basti.

Slum Free City Project aims to provide housing and basic infrastructure services to slum dwellers with their consent and participation. The scope of project is:-

- Providing affordable housing for slum dwellers.
- Security of Tenurship
- Providing physical and social infrastructure facilities and amenities like water supply, sanitation, education, health and social security.

Though the government has introduced the concept of Slum Free City under Rajiv Awas Yojana in urban area for redevelopment of slums, but the acceptability of these kinds of project and good governance concept at the grass root level need to be studied. Most of the time due to lack of good governance in these kinds of project the benefits of the project does not reach to the target population or sometimes not accepted by the target population. Good Governance is an approach to government that is committed to creating a system founded in justice and peace that protects individual’s human rights and civil liberties. According to the United Nations, Good Governance is measured by the eight factors of Participation, Rule of Law, Transparency, Responsiveness, Consensus Oriented, Equity and Inclusiveness, Effectiveness and Efficiency, and Accountability. Also the changes at urban grass root level as an impact of the project needs to be evaluated.

This paper gives a midterm evaluation of Slum Free City Project for Idgah Basti slum of Ajmer City. The paper covers implementation of Slum Free City Project till 2016 from 2011 and gives recommendation for further work to be done till 2022.

The Study Area

Ajmer originally known as Ajaymeru, bounded by the oldest mountain range, the Aravalli hills is heart of Rajasthan. It is known for the two famous pilgrimage centres: the shrine of Sufi Saint Khawaja Mouinuddin Christi and Pushkar an ancient Hindu pilgrimage. The Ajmer district situated between 25° 38' and 26° 58' N latitude and 73° 54' and 75° 22' E longitude, covering geographical area of 8481 sq.km. Rapid urbanization and faulty urban planning has led to growth of slums in the city.

Slums in Ajmer City

'Slums' have been defined under section 3 of Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act 1956 as areas where buildings are in any respect unfit for human habitation or are by reason of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement and design of such buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation, light, sanitation facilities or any combination of these factors, which are detrimental to safety, health and morals. Slums in Ajmer have continuously increased from 1947 to 2011. As per 2011 census report, Ajmer city has population of 542,321. Ajmer population growth in the decade was 18.48%. Census 2011 records 59 slum areas in Ajmer city. Total population living in these slums area recorded 106221 that is 19.59% of total population of city. With increase in population plus the migrating population, housing needs of Ajmer also grew which could not be met by formal housing market.

Sample Slums

For sample survey, Idgah Basti Slum, one of the three notified slum under Slum Free City Project was selected. Idgah Basti has been selected for detailed project under Slum Free City Project for in-situ redevelopment by Urban Improvement Trust, Ajmer.

General Information

SN.	CHARACTERSTICS	INFORMATION
1.	Slum code	55
2.	Name of Slum	Idgah (chorasiya was) new
3.	Ward No.	55
4.	Age of slum in years	More than 5 years
5.	Gross Area of slum in sq.meter	578200 Sq. m
6.	Land ownership	UIT(now Ajmer Development Authority)
7.	Existing land use per master plan	Residential
8.	Proposed for (Redevelopment, upgradation, relocation)	Upgradation-cum-incremental Infrastructure upgradation

This slum is located in the eastern side of the Ajmer Pushkar Road and situated in the foothills of Naag Hills. The average elevation is 1751 feet. The slum situated between 26°29'58.41" North latitude and 74°03'54.30" East longitudes. The total households in this slum are 889.

In the Idgah Basti area, 100 respondents were surveyed. In the present study, takes into consideration general profile of respondents, social, economic political aspect and physical infrastructure of the slum.

General Profile and Its Findings

The general profile is based on variables like gender, family size, age, educational status of respondents, Below Poverty Line concept, number of years the respondent is living in the slum under consideration and why does the respondents chose to live in the slum.

1. As a part of research methodology opted, 50 male respondents and 50 female respondents were surveyed. Out of which 25 respondents belong to general category, 30 to OBC, 30 respondents belong to schedule Caste, 15 to Schedule Tribe category.
2. Out of 100 respondents, 10 respondents belong to 15-20 years age group, 30 respondents each belong to 21-35 years, 36 to 50 years and above 50 years.
3. Only 15 respondents out of 100 sample respondents are graduate and above, 15 have studied upto senior secondary level, 20 have studied upto matriculation, 10 each upto middle class and primary class. 30 respondents are illiterate.
4. 85 respondents belong to below poverty line families. Respondents living Below Poverty Line belong more to OBC and SC category (65%).
5. Out of 100 respondents, 24 respondents are living here for the period of 1-5 years, while 26 respondents are living here for period of 6 to 10 years, 21 respondents are living here for period of 11 to 15 years and 10 respondents have just migrated to the slum and have not completed a year also. Rests of the respondents are living here for their entire life.
6. Majority of respondents have chosen the slum area of Pasand Nagar either because housing/land was available at cheap price (20%) or their work place was near to the slum (25%).
7. 74% of the respondents have migrated from rural area to slum of Pasand Nagar, while 26% have migrated from urban area. 68 percent is permanent migration while 32 percent is seasonal.

8. There are total of 425 members in the families of 100 respondents including children and senior citizen. This means that the average size of a family is 4 members.

Economic Aspects and its Findings

Economic aspect of Idgah Basti Slum is studied under following:-

- Number of earning members in a household
 - Employment status of respondents
 - Monthly household Income
 - Principal occupation and Industry of earning members.
1. There were total of 144 members (120 male, 24 female) earning in families of 100 respondents surveyed in the slum.
 2. 25 percent of respondents are self employed, 15 percent are salaried class, and 30 percent each are casual wage earner and daily wage earner.
 3. 15 percent of the respondents have monthly household income of Rs.1000-3000, 25 percent respondents have 3001-5000 as monthly household income while rest of the 60 percent earn above Rs. 5000 as monthly household income.
 4. Principal occupations of slum dwellers is sand making (68%).

Political Aspects and its Findings

Political aspect of slum of Idgah Basti is based on variables like:

- Awareness about constitution rights.
 - Respondents exercise right to vote
 - Awareness about slum free city project- how and what
 - Benefitted from Slum Free City Project
 - Assigned property rights under Free City Project
 - Participated in decision making of implementation of Free City Project
1. None of the respondents have benefitted from Slum Free City Project, nor has anyone of the respondent been assigned property rights under the project.
 2. 55 percent of the total respondents vote in elections. It is important to note that, Percentage of voting is less among the ST respondents. Analyzing the voting percentage with respect to the age group, it can be seen that voting percentage is high among 21-50 years of age group (76%). Also respondents studied upto matriculation or above constitutes 69% to voting percentage.
 3. 33% of the total respondents knew about the Slum Free City Project ongoing the slum. Key findings are:

- a. Out of 33%, 52% were female respondents
 - b. 38% of the respondents who knew about Slum Free City Project belong to General category.
 - c. 79% of the respondents who knew about Slum Free City Project are educated upto matriculation or above.
 - d. 45% of the respondents belong to 15-35 years of the age group.
 - e. Majority of the respondents (70%) only knew that they will be giving Pacca Houses to live and no other aspect of the project was known to them.
4. 59 % of the respondents out of total respondents are aware of the constitutional rights given to them.

Physical Infrastructure and its Findings

1. If physical infrastructure of the Idgah Basti slum is to be considered, 35% of the houses are Pacca, 19% are Semi-Pacca rest 46% are kacca houses which are not permanent.
2. Majority of the respondents who have own pacca houses are earning above Rs 5000/month (94%).
3. 60% of the respondents are living in their own houses and not rented.
4. Half of the respondents have electricity connection in their houses, while the source of drinking water in slum is either individual tap or handpump.
5. There is no proper sewerage or drainage facility in the slum area of Idgah Basti.
6. Sanitation facility is also not proper.
7. All the roads of slums are Kacca.
8. No street lights are installed in the slums.
9. No garbage dumping bins are found in the area.

Social Aspect Findings

Social infrastructure facilities available in surrounding areas of slum i.e. within 1km of radius are private school and private clinic. But it is important to note that this are not constructed as part of the project. There is not a single aganwadi in the slum area. There is no health facility like primary health care, urban health post, maternity centre in the slums which should have been made as a part of slum free city project. There is no community hall, vocational training centre, welfare society or any other facility which were part of slum free city project.

FACILITIES	AVAILABLE
Type of school	
Government	NO
Private	YES
Educational facility as part of slum free city project	
Anganvadi	NO
Primary school	YES
High school	YES
Health facility as a part of project	
Primary health care centre	No
Urban health post	No
Maternity centre	No
Private clinic	YES
Facilities available within slum	
Community hall	No
Livelihood / Production centre	No
Vocational training centre	No
Street children rehabilitation centre	No
Night shelter	No
Old age home	No
Youth shelter	No
Social welfare facility	
Self help groups	NO
Thrift and credit society	NO

Analysis

In the slum of Idgah Basti, majority of the slum dwellers belong either to OBC category or SC category (30% each). There are total of 425 members in the families of 100 respondents including children and senior citizen. This means that the average size of a family is 4 members. This could also mean that some families may be living as joint families to minimize the expenditure and share the cost of living. Out of 425 members, only 144 members are employed. And out of these 144 members only 24 are female members. This shows that there is vast difference between male and female members when it comes to going out and working. This slum reflects a major sign of Gender inequality in the slum area of Idgah Basti. A few of the

respondents (15%) are holding graduation or above degree. More than a quarter of the respondents (30%) are illiterate. Although education level among the youth age group (21-35 years) is high as compared to the above 50 years of age group. Due to low level of education, slum dwellers are not able to find suitable job which can provide a decent standard of living to their families. Majority of the respondents are either casual wage earner or daily wage earner (60%) indicating towards uncertainty in their employment status. This is reason that 85% of the respondents are living Below Poverty Line. Respondents living Below Poverty Line belongs more to OBC and SC category (65%). Despite economic backwardness, people are still migrating to the slum (34% migrated in past 5 Years) generally because of the cheap price of house/land available or because of the proximity to their work place. Majority of the respondents earn above 5000Rs/month (60%). Most of these respondents belong to the age group of 21-50 years (75%) which a good sign. Those who are educated upto matriculation generally constitute to this group of respondents (64%). The primary occupation here is sand making. This area came into existence because of the people who came here for sand making work. Majority of the respondents (68%) still practice sand making as their primary occupation. More than half of the respondents (59%) are aware of the constitutional rights provided to them still a lot have to achieve. More than half of the respondents (55%) vote in the elections. It is important to note that, Percentage of voting is less among the ST respondents. Analyzing the voting percentage with respect to the age group, it can be seen that voting percentage is high among 21-50 years of age group (76%). Also respondents studied upto matriculation or above constitutes 69% to voting percentage. A very few respondents (33%) knew about the Slum Free City Project ongoing in their area. Out of which majority of the (70%) only knew that they will be giving Pacca Houses to live and no other aspect of the project was known to them. Here it is important to note that awareness about project was slightly more among the female members as compared to their male counterpart. Almost half of the respondents (46%) are living in the kacca houses. Almost all the pacca houses are occupied by those respondents who are earning above 5000Rs/month (94%). There is only private school in the area and no government school. There is not a single aganwadi in the slum area. Half of the houses still do not have electricity connection. There is no health facility like primary health care, urban health post, maternity centre in the slums which should have been made as a part of slum free city project. There is only private clinic and private hospitals in the nearby area which are a bit expensive for slum dwellers. There is no community hall, vocational training centre, welfare society or any other facility which were part of slum free city project.

Methodolgy

The research paper takes into consideration, the slum of Idgah Basti, one of the three notified slums of Ajmer City, under Slum Free City Project. Other two being Pasand Nagar and Loharu Basti slums. The study is empirical and is based on primary data collected through survey of 100 respondents from slum by a pre tested comprehensive questionnaire. The research design of paper is exploratory and descriptive.

Camparison With Targets of Slum Free City Project

The following table shows status of implementation of Slum Free City Project till 2016 with respect to the targets set under the project.

SN	TARGETS SET UNDERSFCP	STATUS OF WORK IN SLUM TILL 2016
1	As part of integrated approach, community participation in micro planning during preparation of detailed project report by administrative body involved.	DONE Meetings held between the members of administrative bodies and slum dwellers.
2	Allotment of funds by the government. (a total of Rs.85 Cr. Has been sanctioned for 3 notified slums of Ajmer City)	NOT UTILISED TILL 2016
3	Construction of G+3 building as a part of providing affordable housing to slum dwellers.	NOT STARTED (should have been started in 2013 as per policy)
4.	Development/ improvement/ mainternace of basic services:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply • Sewerage • Drainage • Solid waste management • Approach and internal roads • Street lighting • Community facilities such as community toilets/ baths • Child care centres • Pre school • Schools • Heath care centres 	NOT EVEN A SINGLE WORK HAS BEEN STARTED

Conclusion

It can be concluded that Slum Free city Project on paper is an excellent project crafted to perfection. The detail project report prepared by Ajmer development

Authority for the implementation of scheme is also detailed and productive for effective implementation of the scheme. The report has also won presidential award for best plan of action prepared for the city. But from the findings of the research it can be said that an excellent project is heading towards an implementation failure. Half of the implementation phase is over and under the project not even a single house has been constructed. The study as a part of midterm evaluation of slum free city project highlights that condition of slum of Idgah Basti is very poor with people living low quality of life. The comparison between the targets set and work done under the project portrays a pathetic picture. The slum and its problems needs urgent and special attention to achieve the targets set under the project by 2022. The slum lacks all the basic urban amenities. This project is an administrative failure as the concept like good governance has not been followed. No change has been notice at urban grass root level till now though half of the implementation phase is over.

The suggestion therefore is to firstly, improve socio-economic condition of slum dwellers by providing them adequate basic urban condition, which will led to improvement of quality of life in slum and building trust of target population on administration and government which can be achieved by people's participation at grass root level. This will also lead to acceptability of the project by the target population. Secondly, there is a need to strengthening the role of administrators at grass root level. Administrators should be provided adequate training with respect to measures of Good Governance. Finally, as 2022 (completion year of Slum Free City Project) is approaching; there is a need to follow a holistic approach for successful implementation of the project.

The Slum Free City Project as a policy is appreciated, but lack of administrative efficiency may lead to failure of the project. The future of the project depends on how administrative bodies will deal with challenges of implementing the project in the last lap of project period. And after government and administration, responsibility lies with the society.

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