



URBAN POVERTY

A study to understand the contribution of the urban poor to the economy and functioning of the city.

OBJECTIVE

It focused primarily on the linkages between shelter, mobility, and livelihoods in urban slums. The relationship between living conditions of the slum residents in terms of their basic requirements, their potential for economic and social mobility, and the infrastructural and institutional facilities available to them are the focus of the study.

The study examines the difference between their current economic condition and their aspirational needs and the strategies adopted to cope with the difference. The study will assess the policy and the social implications of this analysis on our understanding of urban poverty and the evolution of slums.

Intended Audience

Slum residents, activists and civil society, policy makers, and academia

Keywords

Urban poverty, slums, livelihoods, mobility, shelter, social mobility, living wages



APPROACH

The study uses empirical data from The Bangalore Urban Poverty Survey, which was a survey of 1107 households in 36 slums in Bangalore conducted in 2010. With the help of key informants and activists working in the areas, a random stratified sampling framework was created for all 36 slums.

A quantitative survey instrument covering topics such as the demographic and economic profile of the household, the composition and livelihoods of individuals in the household, and their access to infrastructural facilities such as water and sanitation was administered in the 36 slums. These survey instruments were administered by eight women who were recruited from the slums.

In addition to this quantitative data, qualitative data in the form of case studies were also collected on topic areas such as homelessness in the context of slums, the informal economy within the slums, and professions in the slums such as street vendors. The study combines both qualitative and quantitative data to understand the linkages between shelter, mobility, and livelihoods of slum residents



OUTPUT

- A report titled “Conceptualising Living Wages in Bangalore” used the framework of the living wages to examine the economic and social lives of the urban poor.
- A simulation to map evolution of slums in rapidly urbanising cities.
- A simulation to investigate the sustainable livelihood options for slum residents.

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