



**Research Article**

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC & PHYSICAL CHALLENGES FACED BY SLUM DWELLERS –  
A CASE OF RAIPUR**

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**ABSTRACT**

In India, about one billion people live in slums, and the number of slum dwellers is likely to rise in the next decades. Slums have grown in every city and town, not just in India, as a result of rapid urbanization and increased migration from rural areas. Cities are a result of fundamental societal changes that contribute to socio-economic development and modernization. These slum pockets require essential utilities such as water, electricity, rubbish collection, street lighting, storm drainage, housing, and emergency access routes, among other things. The strategies and goals for improving slum conditions evolve and change, and new initiatives are developed based on experience gained from the implementation of numerous programs. The focus of the study will be on how the government aids disadvantaged urban inhabitants in promoting economic possibilities by providing them with education, skills, and good health.

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**INTRODUCTION**

The term "slum" refers to a densely populated area with poor housing and squalid, miserable living conditions. It also refers to the dismal, horrible living conditions in informal housing settlements with insufficient housing. They are often overcrowded, with a large number of people crammed into small spaces. Three types of slums:

- (1) Notified slum (2) Non-notified slum
- (3) Recognized slum

Despite Raipur's strong economic expansion, the urban poor face major challenges as a result of densification, environmental degradation, inadequate infrastructure, and low quality of life.

As per the census, in the last three years, the percentage of people living in slums in Raipur has increased to 51.66 percent, with the number of slums increasing from 154 in 2011 to 246 in 2021. In Raipur, the Raipur municipal corporation has 70% of notified slums and 30% of non-notified slums in the city. Because Raipur is one of the state's oldest and most important cities, it's important to see that 7% of slums have existed for more than 50 years. There is evidence of widespread migration of rural poor people to cities and towns in search of work. There has been an increase in slums in the country's urban centers due to a lack of cheap housing. Slums

aren't all the same, and some provide better living conditions than others. Similarly, slum dwellers are a diverse mix of patients with a wide variety of interests, financial means, and backgrounds.

**Socio economic and physical challenges**

- Fire, flood, and landslide susceptibilities.
- Poor living conditions cause a high risk of disease.
- Informal economy, with many people self-employed.
- There is no access to safe drinking water and waste disposal.
- There is a lack of sanitation and medical amenities.
- In some slums, crime and violence are common.
- Room crowding & unhealthy foods.

**Objectives of the Study**

The present study focuses on a variety of factors influencing slum development in Raipur. The study's main purpose is to look into various slum issues. For the present study, the following goals have been set:

- To focus on the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the inhabitants.
- To examine slum dwellers 'demographic features.
- To focus on the slum's physical state as well as the slum's numerous concerns.
- To identify slum development issues and constraints.

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## METHODOLOGY

This study focuses primarily on primary and secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from research papers, government policy reports, articles, the Raipur Municipal Corporation, the Raipur Development Authority, and the India Census data. The primary data has been collected from household surveys, telephonic surveys, Google survey forms, the questionnaire method, the interview method, and conversations with the elderly. The information collected has been thoroughly examined in terms of slums. Numerous classifications, procedures, and statistical approaches have been employed to compute various socio-economic and population data.

There are a total of 246 slums in Raipur. Most of the slums are located near canals, mines, and railway lines. Similar to what I randomly selected three areas of us Santram Das ward-25, Chandrashekhar Azad ward-60 & Doctor Bipin Bihari Sur ward-64. Different types of slums are included inside these wards, like Dulari Nagar, Pujari Nagar, Brij Nagar and Ram Nagar slums.

### About Raipur City

Raipur is the capital of Chhattisgarh, an Indian state. Raipur district occupies the southeastern part of the upper Mahanadi River valley and the bordering hills in the south and the east. Thus, the district is divided into two major physical divisions: the Chhattisgarh plains and the hilly areas. The Mahanadi River is the principal river in this district. Raipur is the state's largest city and the administrative capital of the Raipur District and Raipur Division. It has seen remarkable industrial growth and has established itself as a key economic hub in Central India.

Raipur's slums are largely concentrated in the city's core. In Raipur, migration from rural and small towns has increased in the last two decades. The municipal area of Raipur has a total of 70 wards, which are divided into 8 different zones. 26 villages were included within the municipal boundary. It covers an area of 1222.2 ha. Raipur Municipal Corporation had a population of 1,010,087 people in 2011, with 519,286 males and 490,801 females, for a sex ratio of 945 females to 1,000 males, according to the 2011 census.

Raipur city has a total of 246 slums. In Raipur, the Raipur municipal corporation has 70% of notified slums and 30% of non-notified slums in the city. Raipur's population grew dramatically as a result of growing urbanization and industrialization in and around the city. Several urban poverty-reduction programmes are already being implemented in Raipur.

### Some of the Central Government's sponsored programs

- National Slum Development Programme.
- Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojna.
- Vambay.
- Balika Samrudhi Yojna.
- Special Nutrition Programme.
- Low-Cost Sanitation Programme.

### Some of the state government's sponsored programs

- Rajiv Nagar bata programme.
- Urban Programme for household income advancement.
- Rajiv yuvasakthi welfare program.
- Welfare Program for Women, SC, ST Minorities, and Others.

### Some of the Raipur Municipal Corporation-sponsored programs

- Briddha Pension Yojna.
- Indira Sahara Yojna.
- Samajik Pension Yojna.



Fig1 Map showing location of Raipur City Slum

### The following are some of the factors that contribute to the growth of slums

- Encroachment on private property
- Unauthorised construction
- Incompatibility with the surrounding environment
- Temporary/semi-permanent structures
- Unplanned development
- Constructions, and a lack of or inadequacy of basic services are some of the factors that contribute to the growth of slums.

### Causes of slum

- Rapid migration from rural to urban areas
- Economic Situation
- Unemployment and Poverty
- Ghettoization is forced or manipulated
- Politics and poor planning
- Informal economy
- Natural disasters & social conflicts

**Study Area**

There are a total of 246 slums in Raipur. The present study area is a slum settlement located in Santram Das ward-25, Chandrashekhar Azad ward-60, and Doctor Bipin Bihari Sur ward-64. These wards contain a variety of slums, including Raipur's Dulari Nagar, Pujari Nagar, Brij Nagar, and Ram Nagar slums. Most of the slums are located near canals, mines, and railway lines. similar to what I randomly selected three areas of Dulari Nagar, Pujari Nagar, Ram Nagar, and Brij Nagar slums. All these slums are classified as notified or non-notified slums. This includes the slum population, which increased from 97,264 in 1991 to 5,16,829 in 2011.

**Table 1** populations & area statistics of slums

Settlement	Slum/Area /sqm	Slum/Population
Chandrashekherazad ward-60	91340	2406
Bipin bihari sur ward-64	105329	1065
Santram das ward-25	60011	850

**Profile of the Slum Area of Bipin Bihari Sur Ward No. 60**

The area of study was in four settlements located in the Bipin Bihari Sur 64 ward slums, namely: Dulari Nagar, Math Para, Adarsh Nagar, and Pujari Nagar. Dulari Nagar and Pujari Nagar are located in front of Swami Vivekananda Sarovar near the canals. Mathpara and Adarsh Nagar are located in front of the new bus terminal near the pond. Initially, when Dulari Nagar and Pujari Nagar were being developed, there were 10 to 20 households. Then the areas of Dulari Nagar and Pujari Nagar began to rapidly expand. People began relocating from other cities and towns for a variety of reasons: they were seeking work, they had good housing, they had all the facilities and amenities, and their lives would be better. The total area of households covered in the Bipin Bihari Sur 64 ward slums was 105329.11 sqm, the total number of households was 523 and the total population was 1065.



**Fig 2** Existing slum in Dulari & Pujari Nagar



**Fig 3** Existing slum in Math Para & Adarsh Nagar

**Profile of the Slum Area of Chandrashekhar Azad Ward No. 60**

The area of study was in three settlements located in the Chandrashekhar Azad- 60 ward slum, namely: Brij Nagar,

Bhairav Nagar, and the Ayodhya Nagar slum area, which is located near the stone quarry. Brij Nagar slum is a large slum, and people began migrating from other cities and towns. Hence, the reasons for migration in Brij Nagar slum were determined to be 66 percent for better work opportunities and 20 percent for better educational opportunities, 12 percent of people migrated for socioeconomic reasons, while 2% migrated for better infrastructure. The total area covered by households in Chandrashekhar Azad ward 60 was 91340 sqm, the total number of households was 813, and the total population was 2406.



**Fig 4** Existing slum in Brij Nagar



**Fig 5** Existing slum in Bhairav & Ayodhya Nagar

**Profile of the Slum Area of Sant Ram Das Ward No. 25**

The area of study was in four settlements located in the Sant Ram Das 25 ward slums, namely: Bharat Nagar, Bhavani Nagar, Kalinga Nagar, and the Ram Nagar slum area, located near the railway track. The total area of households covered in the Sant Ram Das 25 ward slums was 60,011.82 sqm, the total number of households was 1220, and the total population was 850.



**Fig 6** Existing slum in Kalinga & Ram Nagar

**Dulari Nagar, Ram Nagar & Brij Nagar slums' characteristics**

- Dwellings that are unsafe and/or unhealthy (For example, there are no windows, the floor is dirty, and the walls and roofing are leaking.)
- Overcrowding in the home.
- The hazards of fire.
- Income norms that are moral.
- Exclusion from society.

- Essentials such as electricity, water, and transportation are sparse or non-existent.
- Sanitation, drainage, and solid waste collection are all in insufficient supply.
- Slum residents are deprived of basic social services and live in deplorable conditions.
- There is a scarcity of emergency services, healthcare, and law enforcement;
- Government schools are difficult to enter; and climate change is making disaster-prone areas even more unsafe.

#### **Problems and issues in Dulari Nagar, Ram Nagar & Brij Nagar slums**

- Informal connections.
- A high poverty rates.
- Overcrowding and a dense population.
- Drainage should be open.
- Substandard homes or structures that are illegal or insufficient.
- Dangerous sites and unhealthful living situations.
- Inadequate and unsafe housing.
- Uncertainty of tenure, as well as irregular or informal settlements.
- A breeding environment for societal issues such as crime, drug addiction, and drunkenness, among others.
- Inadequate access to basic utilities such as sewage, water, and power.

#### **Recommendations**

There are many objectives for slum development and improvement to provide them with basic amenities like proper safe drinking water, sanitary facilities, solid waste collection, power supply, and a good home where they can spend their lives, etc. To improve them, the government has come up with a lot of policies and schemes, but all of these policies and schemes have been successful in very small spaces. The reason for not being successful is that the government and those who are in charge of these policies don't focus much. Funding is not done well and the people living in the slum area are very poor, especially those who live below the poverty line, who have nothing, so when this policy starts, they are not able to reach them. Governments should focus on these policies and schemes to solve the problems of the people living in slums by focusing on them.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The state government of India is to develop an urbanization policy that includes welfare measures to improve the lives of urban poor people. Slums are a result of Raipur's over-concentration of economic resources, which has generated an urban growth imbalance. Slum residents in Raipur still have a

poor standard of living. With rising urbanization and growth in the number of slums and slum dwellers, growing, more community-led programs are needed to develop slum regions rather than administration-led programs. The challenge is to provide the urban poor with equitable opportunities for good living and livelihoods. Even the most basic utilities, such as safe drinking water, adequate sewage disposal, enough ventilation, clean air, and health services, are lacking in these slums. In this sense, both state and federal governments can play an essential role in this regard. These agencies should focus on improving basic services for the urban poor, such as providing shelter for the homeless, improving the living conditions in slums, providing basic amenities and services in urban poor colonies, and other programs aimed at social and economic upliftment of these socially and economically disadvantaged people.

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