



## LIVING CONDITION IN SLUMS AND NON-SLUMS OF AGRA AND VARANASI

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### ABSTRACT:

*Urbanization is the process of change and its consequences, when a society gets transformed from an agrarian economy to an industrial economy and from a small homogeneous society to a large heterogeneous society. Indian urbanization has proceeded as it has elsewhere in the world as a part and product of economic change. Along with the urbanization slums also expands and it becomes an integral part of the today's urban world.*

*As about 32 percent of the world's total urban population live in slums; some 43 percent of the urban population of all developing regions combined live in slums; and about 78 percent of the urban population in the least developed countries live in slums, while only 6 percent of the urban population in developed regions live in slum-like conditions.*

*In this paper, the scenario of slums and problems related to it in the state of Uttar Pradesh and specifically two metro cities of the state that is Agra and Varanasi with the help of primary survey data along with Census of India, 2011 data and MLE India Baseline and Endline (Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE)) data sets, is being taken into account. The chapter is organised in the following way, firstly a comparison is being made between the two cities along with the state of Uttar Pradesh.*

**KEYWORDS:** urbanization, slum, amenities, deprivation.

### INTRODUCTION

Urbanization in India is neither unique nor exclusive but is similar to a world-wide phenomenon as the average Annual Rate of Change of the Percentage Urban population of the world is 1.00% in 2010 and in India, it is 1.13%.<sup>1</sup> Indian urbanization has proceeded as it has elsewhere in the world as a part and product of economic change. For instance, in 1950-51, the contribution of urban sector to India's GDP was only 29 percent, which has increased to 47 percent in 1980-81 and presently it contributes 62-63 percent and is likely to be 75 percent by 2021.<sup>2</sup> Urban settlements enjoy economies of agglomeration in manufacturing and services. As the share of Employment in manufacturing sector in

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision

<sup>2</sup> Report of the steering committee, Government of India on Urban Development on Urban Development for Eleventh five year plan.

urban India is 23.62 percent, in Service sector is 68.94 percent,<sup>3</sup> while in Uttar Pradesh secondary sector contributes to about 21.4 percent and tertiary sector's contribution is 55.20 percent<sup>4</sup>.

There is a primacy of larger towns, wherein people are more used to settle in already bigger cities. Class I towns increased from 380 to 502 in India but there is prevalence of primacy in India cities and population remains concentrated in few metro cities of the country<sup>5</sup> (appendix-1) and there are 71 class I towns in Uttar Pradesh. The numbers of metro cities<sup>6</sup> are continuously increasing from 12 in the year 1981 to 23 in 1991, 35 in 2001 and 54 in 2011 of which seven are in Uttar Pradesh.<sup>7</sup> These are Lucknow, Kanpur, Ghaziabad, Agra, Meerut, Varanasi and Allahabad. For the analysis only two cities have been taken, one is from east that is Agra and another one is from west that is Varanasi.

It has been observed that slum is existed worldwide and its growth is worldwide phenomenon but it more aggrieved in developing and less developed nations. As about 32 percent of the world's total urban population live in slums; some 43 percent of the urban population of all developing regions combined live in slums; and about 78 percent of the urban population in the least developed countries live in slums, while only 6 percent of the urban population in developed regions live in slum-like conditions.<sup>8</sup> The formation of slums is closely linked to urbanization.<sup>9</sup>

In this paper, the scenario of slums and problems related to it in the state of Uttar Pradesh and specifically two metro cities of the state that is Agra and Varanasi with the help of primary survey data along with Census of India, 2011 data and MLE India Baseline and Endline (Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE)) data sets, is being taken into account.

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS:

### Slum Population:

Urbanization is the product of rural-urban migration, industrialization and modernization and a shift from rural economy to urban economy.<sup>10</sup> The mobile population of the country used to settle in those areas which provide better opportunities especially economic benefits and social and economic infrastructure. The indiscriminate growth of the immigrants in the city, non-affordability to attain the better civic amenity and poor infrastructure facilities provided by the government could not assimilate the immigrants in the city leads to the slum formation. People living in slums experience the most deplorable living and environmental conditions.<sup>11</sup>

The state of Uttar Pradesh is having about 10 percent of total slum population share of the country which is fourth largest in terms of absolute numbers. Agra is the second most populated in terms of slum population in the state while Varanasi is at the sixth place. From the figure 1 it could be seen the share the of slum population in the cities and in the state as well.

<sup>3</sup> NSS, 68<sup>th</sup> Round; 2011-12

<sup>4</sup> Rajendra P. Mamgain, SherVerick, *The State Of Employment In Uttar Pradesh Unleashing The Potential For Inclusive Growth*, International Labour Organization, 2017

<sup>5</sup> Chaudhuri, S. (1999). Urbanization and Identity: Emerging Situation in Indian Metropolises. *Indian Anthropological Association*, Vol.29(2), 37-66.

<sup>6</sup> Cities having population above ten lakhs.

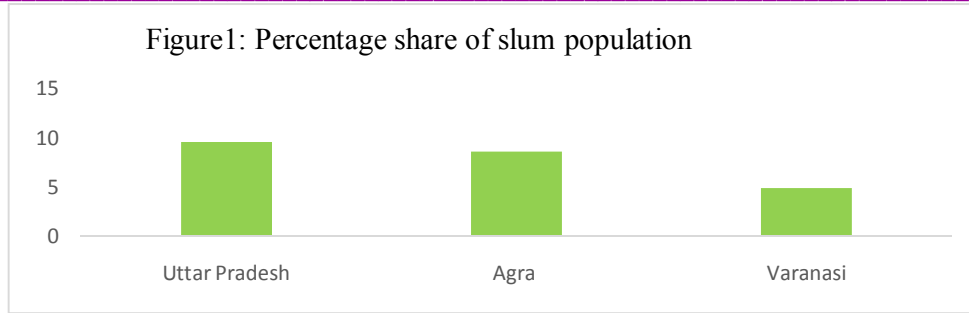
<sup>7</sup> Census of India, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011.

<sup>8</sup> UN-HABITAT (2003)

<sup>9</sup> Firdaus G. (2012). Urbanisation, emerging slums and increasing health problems: a challenge before the nation: an empirical study with reference to state of Uttar Pradesh in Nigeria. *Environmental Research and Management*, Vol.3(9), 0146-0152

<sup>10</sup> Datta, P. (2006). Urbanisation in India. *Population Studies Unit Indian Statistical Institute*, Vol.75(June), 1-16.

<sup>11</sup> Arimah, B. C. (2001). Slums as expression of social exclusion: Explaining the prevalence of slums in African countries, 1-33.



Source: Primary Census Abstract for Slum, 2011

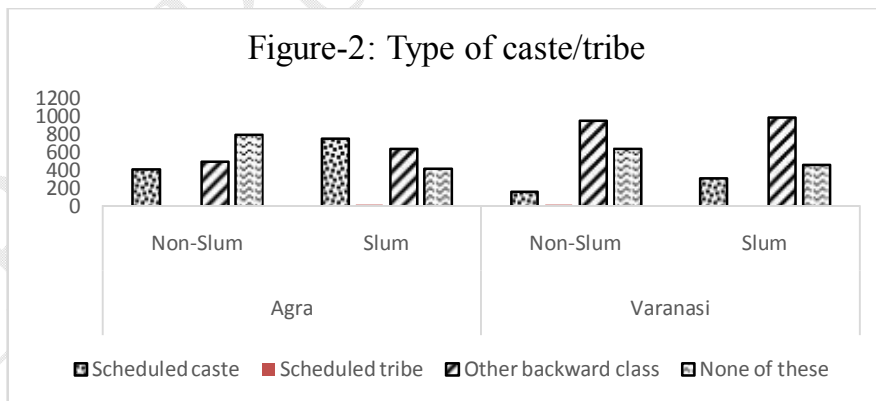
Figure 1 depicts the slum population share of Uttar Pradesh which about 10 percent of India’s total slum population. In Agra about 9 percent slum population of the state of Uttar Pradesh are living while in Varanasi it is about 5 percent.

**Religion of the households**

In Uttar Pradesh, percentage share of Hindu population is highest in total population as of the National level. When we see the religion profile of the state, about 79.73 percent of population is following Hinduism and about 19.23 percent population are Muslims while other religion are of very minuscule population. The same pattern is reflected in slums of Uttar Pradesh also. This could lead to the discussion on the social exclusion of people in terms of resident in the slum and non-slum areas. And when analyse this in terms of caste population distribution it is sharper, which is discussed in the following section.

**Caste wise population**

In Uttar Pradesh as a whole, about 40 percentile of the population comes under other backward class, while scheduled caste population is about 21 percent and remaining are the rest of the population in which scheduled tribe population is very less. When we see the slum and non-slum distribution of the population we find that in slums most of the lower caste population are living. This could be seen with the help of figure-2



Source: MLE India Baseline (Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE)), 2004

Form the figure 2, we can see that other backward classes has the major share of population both in slums and in non-slums in Agra as well as in Varanasi as in the case of the state. In Varanasi there is very less difference of percentage in the distribution of OBC in slums and non-slums. But in Agra, OBC population is more in slums than in the non-slums. And for none of these category that we could say the forward class is more in non-slums than in the slums in both the cities.

Scheduled caste population is much higher in slums of both the cities of Agra and Varanasi than other category of people. This pattern of caste distribution clearly indicates towards the social exclusion of people, where people of lower caste has to live in poor living conditions. As it is well observed that social is a process where people are pushed to the edge of the society and forced them to live in the bad living conditions. And slums are the most vulnerable spaces of concentration of social exclusion process<sup>12</sup>. Here we can say that poverty and social exclusion may be correlated as in slums most of the people are poor and engage in daily wage earners this will be discussed in further sections.

### SEX RATIO

Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males. It is an important and useful indicator to assess relative excess of deficit of men or women in a given population at that point of time<sup>13</sup>. Sex ratio of Uttar Pradesh is 918 females per 1000 males which is much lower than the national average that is 943 females per 1000 males. While sex ratio of urban population of the state is 894, this is also very low when we see the sex ratio of India's urban population that is 929. And when we look into the slums of the state it is further lower. This could be summarise in the table-1.

**Table-1: Sex Ratio of Slum population**

Area Name	Sex Ratio	Child Sex Ratio
Uttar Pradesh	892	889
Agra	874	861
Varanasi	892	874

Source: Census of India, 2011.

From table-1 it could be analyse that sex ratio of slum population is very less as compared to the national level as well as the state level urban population. This could be the result of sex selection for many hands to feed the family as this population is mainly daily wage earner community. Population of slums not only lag in sex ratio but on other features also they are deprived. This could be analyse in the following section.

### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE HOUSEHOLDS:

Literacy and level of education are basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a society. Spread of literacy is generally associated with important traits of modern civilization such as modernization, urbanization, industrialization, communication and commerce. Literacy forms an important input in overall development of individuals enabling them to comprehend their social, political and cultural environment better and respond to it appropriately. Higher levels of education and literacy lead to a greater awareness and also contributes in improvement of economic and social conditions<sup>14</sup>. In India about 80 percent people are literates in urban areas<sup>15</sup>. In Uttar Pradesh, urban literates constitutes the 75 percent of urban population of the state which is lower than the national literacy rate. And for slum population it is much lower, shown in the table-2.

<sup>12</sup>FikretAdaman, ÇağlarKeyder ;*Poverty And Social Exclusion In The Slum Areas Of Large Cities In Turkey*, European Commission, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG, 2005.

<sup>13</sup>Census of India

<sup>14</sup>Census of India

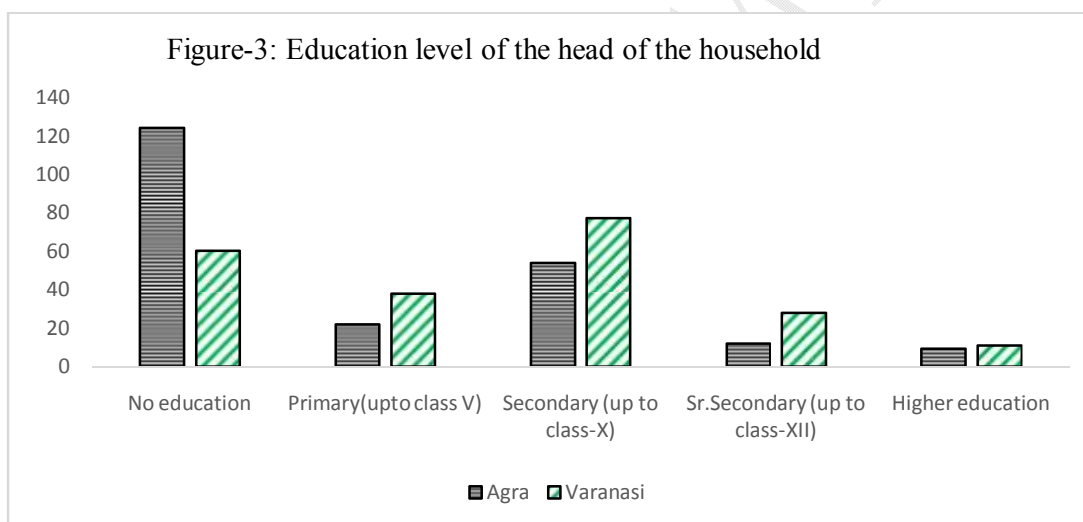
<sup>15</sup>Census of India, 2011

**Table-2: Literacy rate in slums of Uttar Pradesh**

Area Name	Literacy rate	Male literacy rate	Female literacy rate
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	69	75	62
Agra	68	74	62
Varanasi	73	78	67

Source: Census of India, 2011.

As the people are more vulnerable and have less opportunities in slums, this is depicted in term of literacy rate also. As the slums are also the integral part of the urban area but are far below the national literacy level. In the state it is 69 percent, in Agra it is 68percent and for Varanasi it is 73 percent which is slightly better than the state average but still below the national average. And as usual the following the national trend female literacy remains low in the state as well as in the both cities. This is about the literacy rate which do not take into account of formal schooling of the person as per the definition a person aged seven and above who can read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate<sup>16</sup>. But when we consider the formal schooling of people of slum, a different scenario comes in the light that most of the people do not attended the school or having no formal education. And if they attain some education it is mostly up to secondary level.



Source: Primary survey

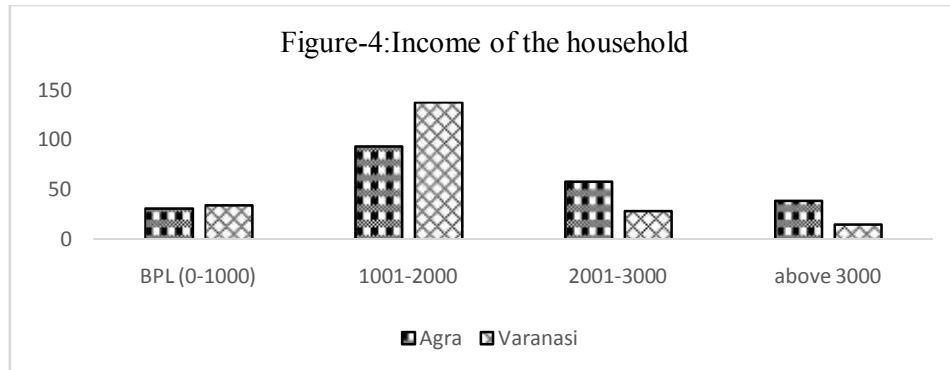
Figure 3 tells us that most of the heads of the households of slums are not educated. When we compare Agra to Varanasi, we found that in Agra people are less educated than the people of Varanasi. So we can say that in slums of Varanasi prevalence of education is more. This pattern of literacy and education have some implications on the income of the households and their workforce participation rate.

### Income pattern

According to Reserve bank of India in India about 13.70 percent of urban people are living under poverty line and about 26 percent urban people are below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh which is much higher than the national average. And according to World Bank Uttar Pradesh is the home to the

<sup>16</sup>Census of India, 2011

largest number of India's poor. And if we take the World Bank's criteria, then almost all the people living in slums of Agra and Varanasi comes under below poverty line. The income distribution is analyse with the help of the figure-5



Source: Primary survey

From the figure-4, it can be seen that percentage of people below poverty line set by the Government of India that is rupees one thousand per capita per month given by the Tendulkar committee, is approx. 14 percent in Agra and 16 percent for Varanasi which seems to be lower than the state's average but most of the people reported their income above 1000 are nearer to the 1000 category and people could not be counted as below poverty line but they remain poor. And if we take the World Bank's criteria then all people of the slums of Agra and Varanasi will categories as poor. The further implications of income distribution will be discuss in the next chapter. Here we could see the workforce participation in slums and the people engaged in which of the occupations. So with the help of primary survey occupational structure or we can say where the population of slums work has been tried to analysed.



Source: Primary survey

In figure 5 occupational structure of the slums of Agra and Varanasi has been shown. In this we can see that daily wage earner shares the largest population in both the cities but are more in Varanasi. While in Agra Business man are also there but they are mostly own small shops where not only head of the household used to sit but most of the family members participates in the economic process.

Slums of Agra and Varanasi are facing more or less same problems as in general the slum population is facing within the country but on some parameters one differs the other. In some counts

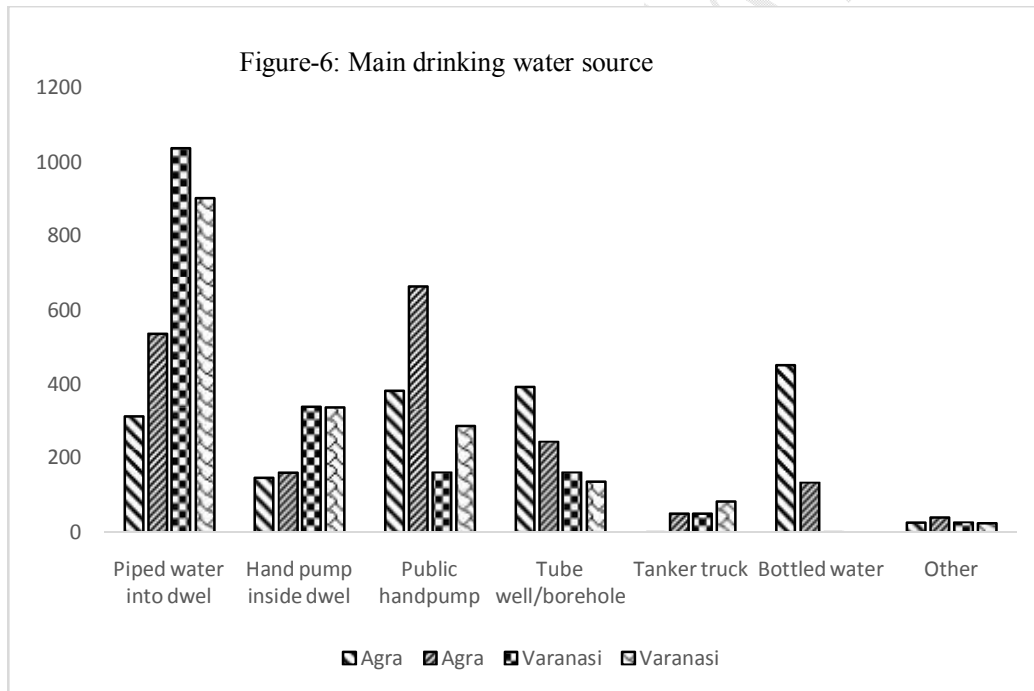
Agra excel while on some other attributes Varanasi scores well. People of slums are not only deprived in terms of education, income but also the amenities provided by the government is also very less and people have to bear the burden at their own end to fulfil their basic requirement like drinking water.

**MAIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE**

One of the major role in human development and economic progress depends upon availability of water. And most of the cities developed near one or the other source of water. There is mismatch of demand and supply of potable and unpolluted water as the population is increasing rapidly but not the resources and the available water resources are over exploited and pollution level also increasing over the years. In near future it will become a major problem if not tackle as early as possible.

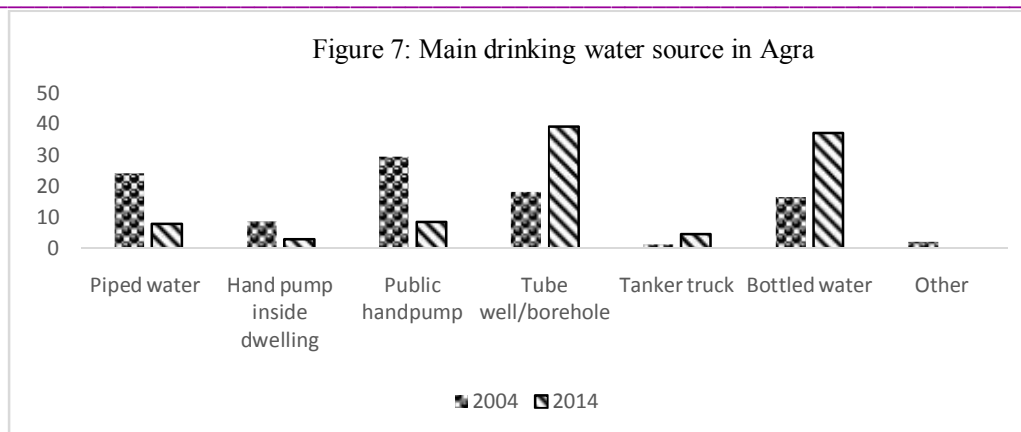
The total water demand for cities for domestic, industrial, and irrigation purposes, was increased during past decade, is likely to increase in future, due to various factors such as growth of population, rapid urbanization, an upward looking economy and rising standards of living, etc. According to NFHS-4, about 92.6 percent of the urban households of Uttar Pradesh are accessing improved drinking water sources, in Varanasi it is 98 percent but in Agra, only 48 percent or urban household have improved source of drinking water.

In Agra and Varanasi, ground water and river water remain the main source of water. This could be seen with the help of figure-6



Source: MLE India Baseline (Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE)), 2004

In figure 6 it is clearly seen that in 2004, piped water was the major source of drinking water in both the cities but more in Varanasi whether it for slum or non-slum. In Agra people not only depends on piped water but also on public hand-pump, which was a major source in slums of Agra. Bottled water was also used in Agra, mainly in non-slums. But in 2014, the share of bottled water in Agra gets doubled, this could be seen in figure-9



Source: Prepared with the help of MLE India (Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE)) data, 2004 and 2014.

Figure 7 shows the shift from public water to private water where people were dependent on publicly supplied water and public hand-pumps but in 2014 people used to dig boreholes in their premises and the use of bottled water also increased. People use to spend money as well as time to fetch the water for their daily chores.

In Varanasi people are still largely depends on tap water for drinking purpose while in Agra people shifted to bottled water to drink where they spend approx. 10 rupees per 20 litres of water, if they go to the shop and collect water bottle but if service provided to their home it will cost 20 rupees per 20 litres of water. This means they are spending on that thing which is the government's responsibility to provide safe drinking water.

### CONCLUSIONS:

1. The state of Uttar Pradesh is one of the top five states of India in terms of slum population. It is having about 10 percent of total slum population share of the country which is fourth largest in terms of absolute numbers.
2. Agra and Varanasi are the metropolitan cities in Uttar Pradesh. Along with the urban population these cities are increasing in slum population also. Agra is the second most populated in terms of slum population in the state while Varanasi is at the sixth place.
3. The scheduled caste population, they are more in slums than in the non-slums in both the cities but very much in the Agra city. This could be the result of the social exclusion.
4. In slums, literacy rates are far below the national literacy level. In the state it is 69 percent, in Agra it is 68 percent and for Varanasi it is 73 percent which is slightly better than the state average but still below the national average.
5. Education level is more in Varanasi as compared to the Agra.
6. Income level of slums remain low, and most of the people come are earning below 2000 rupees per month in both the cities.
7. Most of the people are daily wage earners in both the cities.
8. In Varanasi people are still largely depends on tap water for drinking purpose while in Agra people shifted to bottled water
9. In most of the parameters both the cities are more or less same but still we can say that the slums of Varanasi are well off than the Agra

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