



Impact Factor: 4.081

Geographical assessment of slum: Case study of Siwan town Bihar (India)

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Abstract:

Presence (or absence) of slums is an indicator of general quality of life or health of a city. Unfortunately slums have become an integral part of the urban landscape in almost all Indian cities and Siwan is no exception. Slums represent the areas inhabited by the poor and lack in basic services such as water and sanitation. Siwan town is located on the crossing point of an latitude 26°12'15"N and longitude 84°21'48" E in the N-W part of Bihar in Gandak-Godhra Doab. The population of town is 135066 as per census 2011(70756 Male and 64310 Female), municipal area is about approximately 15 SqKm. And it is divided into 38 wards. The survey recently undertaken under the ongoing SPUR programme in 2008 has identified 24 slums in SMC. The population of slum there was about 28444(2011) which was 21.07% of total population of the town population. Slum is not found in all wards (38) but only found in 17 wards. Slum dwellers live in an environment generally and outcome of rapid and unplanned urbanization with high health risks caused by poor sanitation, inadequate refuse or garbage disposal and drainage, heavy indoor air pollution and overcrowding. For city to become inclusive and developed it is necessary to identify all the slums in the city and provide basic services through comprehensive slum upgrading approaches. It is also necessary to formulate appropriate strategies for providing livelihoods. Developing a database on slums and squatters settlements along with infrastructure requirements is critical to urban poverty alleviation.

Keyword: slum, Urban

Introduction:

Slum is creation of man as advocated by Carter "god made the country and manmade the town..... The devil made the slum". This indicates that growth of slum in urban area is one of the major issues for urban progress authority. The National definition of slum area was set up by the slum area improvement and clearance act of 1956. The census of India 2011 define a slum as " a compact area of atleast 300 in population or about 60.70 household of poorly built congested tenements in an unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking proper sanitary and drinking water facilities

The word 'slum' is often used to describe informal settlement within cities that have inadequate housing and negated, miserable living conditions. They are

often overcrowded, with many people crammed into very small living space. These settlements lack basic municipal services such as water sanitation, waste collection, storm drainage, street lighting, paved sidewalks and roads for emergency access. Most also do not have easy access to schools, hospital, or public places for the community to gather. Many slums have been subserviced and unrecognized for long periods, over 20 years in some cities. Like all informal settlements, housing in slums is built on land that the occupants do not have a legal claim to and without any urban planning or adherence to zoning regulations. Slums are not the same, and some provide better living conditions than others: Likewise slum dwellers are not a homogenous population but a diverse group of people with different interests, means and backgrounds. The physical problems include lack of privacy, immense conflicts which are bound to arise when people are in close proximity, almost impinging on the space of each other and related sense of insecurity.

On the economic front the slum population is apparently the most marginalized. Some of them survive on a shoe-string budget or even a hand to mouth existence, though cases of relative opulence hidden in an ocean of poverty cannot be ruled out. However, generally the slum is Below Poverty Level (BPL).

There are two main reasons for the slum development: population growth and governance. Countries around the world are urbanizing rapidly as more people migrate from rural areas to the cities and natural population growth continues to occur. Urban migration happens for a number of reasons that is pushing and pulling forces of migration. Low incomes from agriculture better job opportunities etc. Another reason slum develop is bad governance. Government often fail to recognize the rights of the urban poor and incorporate them into urban planning, thereby contributing to the growth of slums.

Aim and Objective

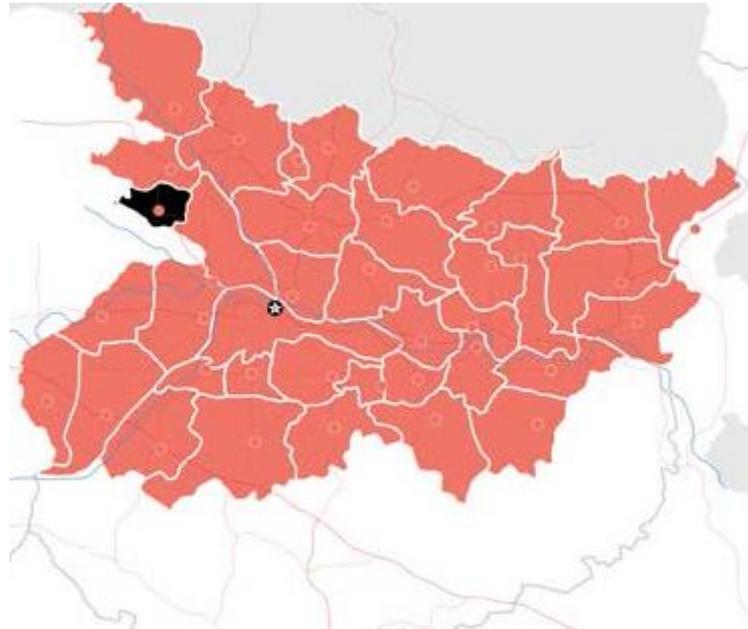
1. To understand the responsible factors for the emergence and growth of slum huts in the study area
2. To get the actual status of streams and site specific background of slum of Study area
3. Understanding the reasons for the less education, absence and amenities and home appliances in slum area
4. Understanding the reasons of less annual income, occupational structure of the slum families.
5. To study is important for the information about the religion and caste status in slum.

Methodology:

Present study based on primary and secondary data. Necessary information has been collected from Siwan municipal corporation Questionnaire method is used to know

the present status of slum people in study area. Apart from the secondary and the primary survey information have also been gathered from several Journals and books available, also internet and Library. In this study Collection of data, processing analyzing and presentation of data in logical framework. Empirical comparative and precious method is used in this paper study

Study area:



LOCATION MAP SIWAN TOWN

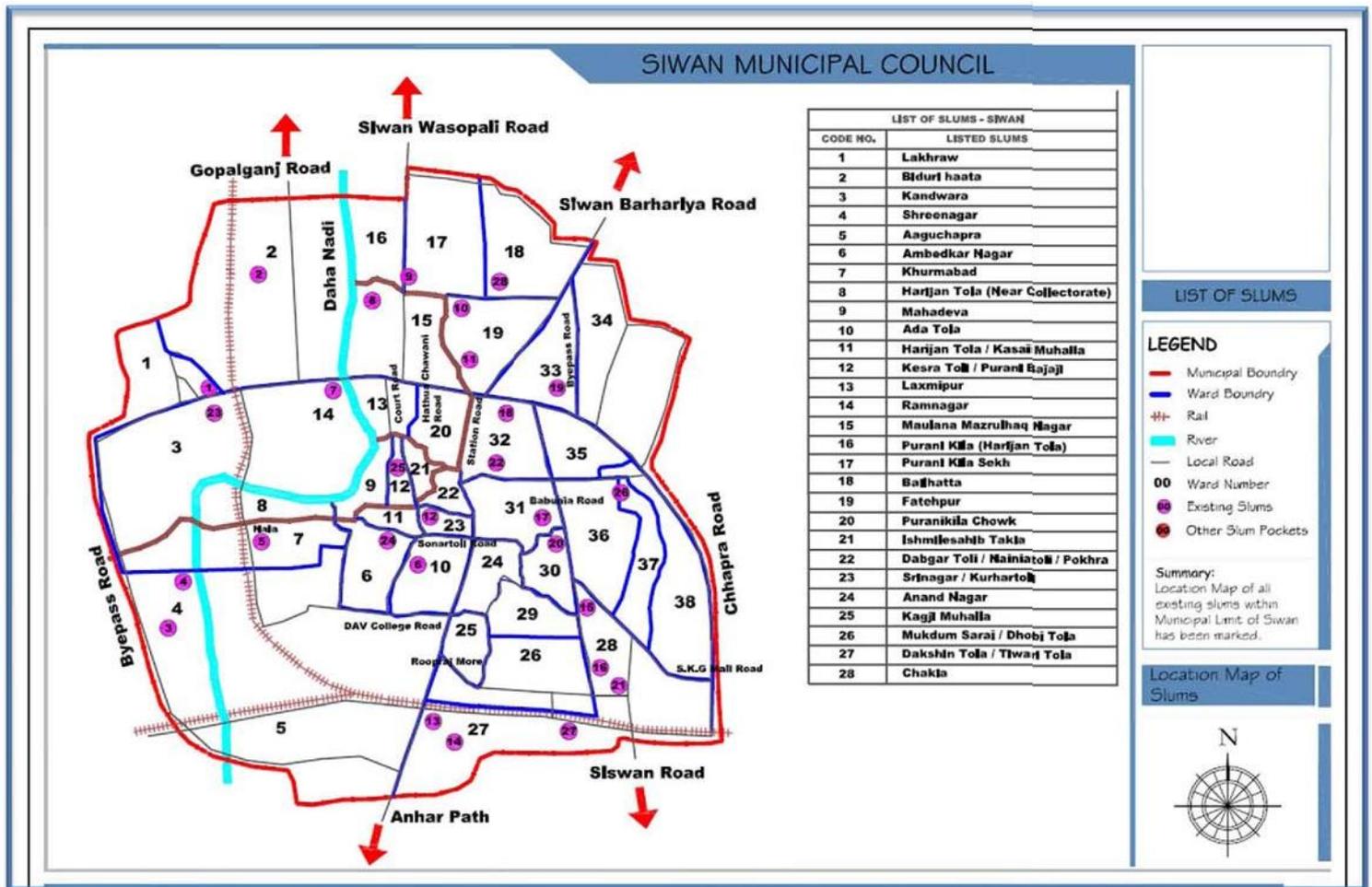
Siwan town is located on latitude $26^{\circ}12'15''N$ and longitude $84^{\circ}21'48''E$ in the N-W part of Bihar in Gandak-Ghaghra Doab. Siwan town is situated on both side of the banks of Daha River which flows from North to South .Siwan is 12th populated district in Bihar. It is B grade town of Bihar. The town has a population of 1, 35,066 as per the Census 2011(70,756 male and 64310 female) and the municipal area is about 15 sq km. The total number of slum in Siwan city numbers 4,242 in which population of 28,453 resides. This is around 21.07% of total population of Siwan city. There are 38 wards in the city. Among them Siwan ward no 27 is the most populous ward with population 6629 and Siwan ward no 13 is the least populous ward with population of 1864. Child population (0-6 years) of Siwan town 18,282(14% of total population) among them 9642boys (53%) and 8640(47%) are girls. There are 21223 Household in town and an average Six Person live in family. 93% of whole population are general caste, 6% form Schedule caste and 1% are schedule tribes. Population of the city has increased by 22.9% in last ten years. In 2001 census total population here was about 1.1 lakh Female population growth rate of the city is 24.5% which is 3.1% higher than male population growth rate of 21.4%. General caste population has increased by 22.4%, Schedule caste population has increased by 24.4% and schedule tribe population has increased by 70.1% and child population has increased by 6% in the city since last census. Total about 93 thousand and (80%)

people in the city are literate, among them 52 thousand are male (85%) and about 41 thousand (73%) female are literate. Male literacy has gone up to 5% and female literacy rate has gone up by 9% according to 2001 to 2011. Siwan has 27% (about 36 thousand) population engaged in either main or marginal works. 43% male and 9% female population are working population.

Ward-wise distribution of slum in Siwan town:

The survey, recently undertaken under the ongoing SPUR (Support programme for urban Reform in Bihar) programme in 2008 has identified 24 slums in Siwan Municipal Corporation (SMC) area. The population is around 28,444 which is 21.07% of total population of the town in 2011. Slum is not found in all 38 wards but only found in 23 wards which are 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36 and 37. The total list of slum in Siwan Municipal Corporation is given below:

Location Map of Slums: Siwan Town



SLUM OF SIWAN TOWN (Ward wise distribution)

SI NO .	Ward No. As received from Municipality	Circle/ward after phy .verification	Name of the slum (poverty pocket)	No. of HHs	Major Castes	Land Ownership
1	1	1/2	Lakhrow	75	BC	Own land
2	8	2	Bidruti hata	30	SC	Govt. land
3	2	4	Kandarwa	20	BC	Own land
4	2	4	Shreenagar	25	SC	Own land
5	5	7	Aguchapra (Nawalpur)	60	EBC	Own land
6	4	10	Ambedker nagar/chik toil/Harijan toli	150	SC	Own land
7	7	14	Khurmabad	100	SC	Own land
8	8	15	Harijan Tola (North of Clocteriate)	50	SC	
9	10	16/17	Mahadeva	180	SC/BC/ Minotity	Own land
10		19	Adda pokhra	25	Minority/ BC	Own land
11	11	19	Harijantola/ kashai muhalla	60	SC/ Minority	Own land
12	15	23	Kasra toil/ purani bajaji	20	BC	Own land
13	20	27	Laxmipur	100	BC	Own land
14		27	Ramnagar	30	BC/SC	Own land
15	28	28	Maulana Majhrulhak Nagar	50	Minority	Own land
16	28	28	Purani killa (Harijantoli)	50	SC	Own land
17	16	31	Purani killa shekh	35	EBC, Minority	Own land
18	24	32	Belhatta	30	SC	Govt. land
19	25	33	Fathuleha Fathepur	30	SC	Own land

OTHER SLUM POCKETS

SI NO.	Ward No. As received from Municipality	Circle/ward after phy .verification	Name of the slum (poverty pocket)	No. of HHs	Major Castes	Land Ownership
1	6	6	Anand nagar	15	Minority	Own land
2	6	12	Kagji muhalla	10	SC	Own land
3	26	36/37	Mukdum sarai/ dhobi tola/ harijan tola	10	SC/Minority	Own land
4	18	27	Dkhin tola/ tiwari tola	15	SC	Own land
5	10	18	Chakia	15	SC	Own land

Table 1: List of slum in Siwan Municipal council as per SPUR Survey 2008

In twenty four slum pockets only two (Bidurtihata Ward no.8 and Belhatta ward no.24) on government land/ Nagar Parisad land and twenty two on own land.

As per the census 2001, the number of households and population living in the slums are 4244 and 31743 respectively. The total slum population is 28.87% of the total city population. In 2011 the total slum population is 21.07% of total population. So slum population of total population is decrease in 2001 to 2011. There are 7092 BPL households in the city of total of 28414 households. 25% household population is below poverty line.

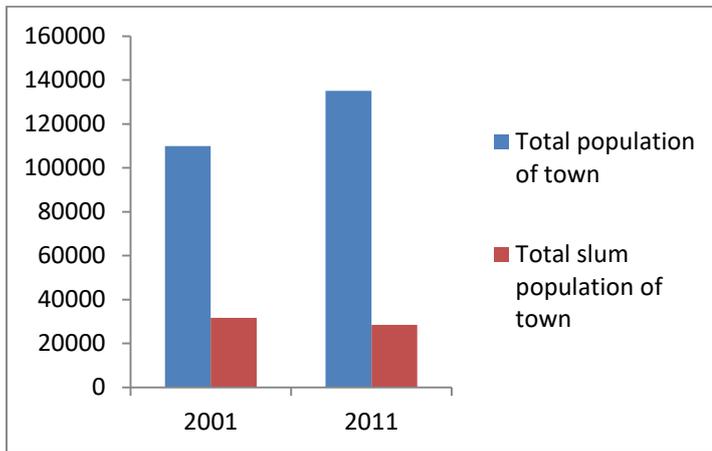


Fig: 1 shows total population and slum population of Siwan town

The population in the age group of 0-6 in 2001 was 2626 but it increased 40%. In Bihar slum population in the age group of 0-6 (17%) is maximum in India. In Siwan 14 % (The age group of 0 to 6) of total population lived in slum. The total population in the age group of 0-6 is 18282(2011) in Siwan town. The age-group of 0-6 in slum population is 4102, so it is clear that the 23% of 0-6 age-group lived in slum in town.

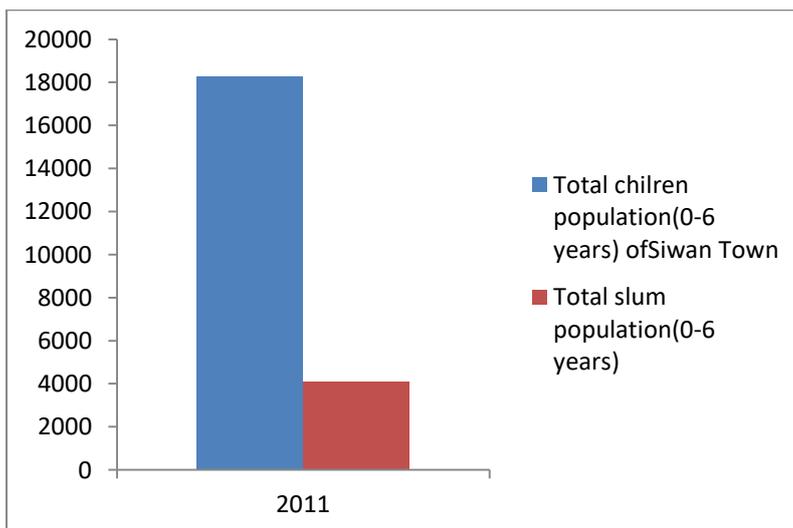


Fig 2 shows total children population (0-6 years) of Siwan town and slum population for

Children 0-6 year group

In 24 slum pockets eleven slum pocket formed by schedule Cast, five are formed by EBC and BC, two are formed by Minorities and Six Re formed by BC, Sc and Minorities. In 2001 total SC population lived in slum 2727(1457 male and 1270 female) and St was 253(141 male and 112 female) lived in slum. In 2011 the Sc population is 2549 and ST population is 214(809 male and 705 female). In ten years SC and ST population was approximately constant. The literacy rate of slum population is 57% as census 2011.

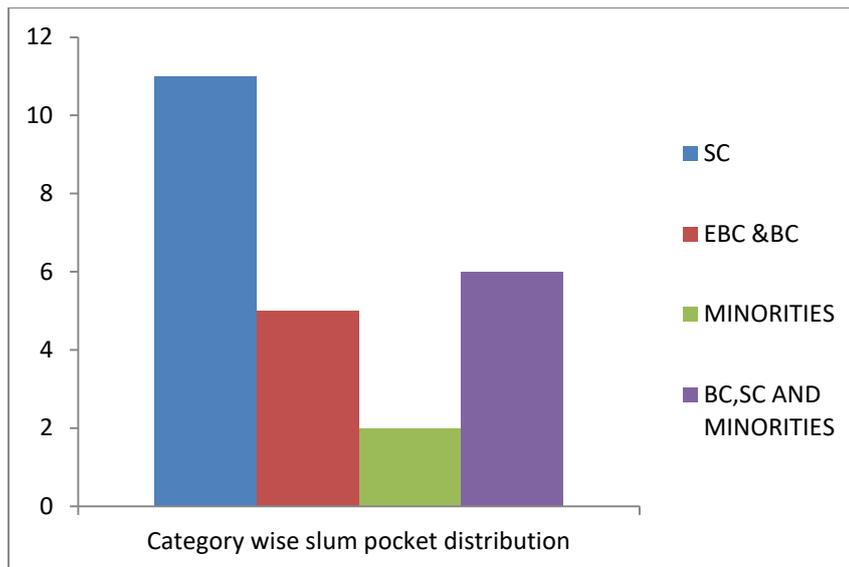


Fig 3: Category wise slum pocket distribution

About 58% of the slum pockets are located near the major roads and 38% near the nullah. The remaining 4% are located near the rail line.

The service level in the slum area is very poor. Most of the population depends on hand pumps as there is lack of water supply connection in the area. At present there are only 10 hand pumps in the slum areas out of total 125 in the whole municipal Council. Not a single slum has piped water supply. 46% of the total slum pockets depend on private shallow hand-pumps, 30% depend on deep bore-wells and 16% on public shallow hand pumps for drinking water.

There is lack of sanitation in the slum area which results in high open deflection. 92% of the slum defects in open in the absence of individual or community toilets. Most of the slum doesn't have any drains. Only 54% has kutcha drains and 83% has got kutcha roads.

Solid waste management is also not done properly due to slum dwellers lack of awareness about waste management and unavailability of municipal services as well; they dump the waste in the open drains which leads to chocking of drains. This leads to flooding during the monsoons and cause health effect.

In Siwan Municipal Corporation of total slum population 32.92% are workers. Main workers and marginal workers constitute 90.15% and 9.85% respectively. Among the main workers cultivations, agriculture labor, household industry and other workers constitute 0.94%, 2.25%, 4.56% and 92.26% respectively. In case of marginal workers cultivations, agriculture labors, household industry and other workers constitute 0.98%, 8.65%, 9.45%, and 80.87% respectively. There is a need for opportunity to enhance the capacity and improve the ability of the poor and marginalized to earn better livelihoods. The worker participation rate is lower in industry because of the close of the mills and other industries in and around the city. The proportion of main worker to total worker is also low which is due to the unskilled work force.

Conclusion:

With the increase of urbanization in the every corner of the world there is a growing inequality among the privileged and the under privileged. In case of Siwan town also there is a similar scenario where with the increase in the levels of urbanization there has been a clearcut distinction between the have and have not's. One of the causes is foreign economy. Siwan is the first position in Bihar in foreign economy. So inequality is deep. The deprived ones live in a slum with poor housing improper sanitation, degrade profession and face numerous problems.

After a detail study of Siwan municipal area, it may be said that the growth of urban poor and the poor living condition can be some extent blamed on government incapability providing proper shelter and employment opportunities.

Although some considerable success has been achieved there is a long way to go for Siwan in terms of addressing the issues related to urban poverty and slums. There is an urgent need to established clear long term strategies that address

- i. Land titles in basties.
- ii. Unauthorized new slums around canals.
- iii. Great effectness of urban poverty. Eradication programme and its implement.
- iv. Addressing the needs of the poor would enhance the productivity of cities and contribute to sustainable development.
- v. In Siwan 23% of total age group 0-6 lived in slum, So save your future.

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