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Research Article

FORMAL – INFORMAL SPACES: AN ADDITIONAL ROOM TO THE URBAN POOR.

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ABSTRACT

Urban poor well-being is dependent on many aspects. One of which is ensuring adequate urban spaces. It plays vital role in attaining considerable importance in their lives and contribute to the quality of life in numerous ways. In slums, formal-informal spaces like common open spaces, covered spaces and courtyards plays an influential role and this spaces act as an additional room for them. It always acts in multifunctional manner. To understand the study of the LIG is done. This paper is based on field case study and intended to find out expediency of the common spaces, open or covered spaces, courtyards for the urban poor in one of the slum area in Nagpur.

Key Words:

Urban spaces, additional room, spill over activities, urban poor

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INTRODUCTION

The natural sequel of unchecked, unplanned and haphazard growth of urban areas is the growth and spread of slums and squatter settlements which present a striking feature in the ecological structure of Indian cities. The rapid urbanization in conjunction with industrialization has resulted in the growth of slums. There are many factors due to which the explosion of slum occurs such as, the shortage of developed land for housing, the high prices of land beyond the reach of urban poor, a large arrival of rural migrants to the cities in search of jobs etc.

Slums are known by different names in different cities. They are called bustees in Kolkata, jhuggi- jhoparies in Delhi, Jhoparpattis or Chawl in Mumbai and Cheri in Chennai.

Socially, slums tend to be isolated from the rest of the urban society. The lack of integration of slum inhabitants into urban life reflects both, the lack of ability and cultural barriers. Thus the slums are not just huts and dilapidated buildings but are occupied by people with complexities of social-networks, sharp socio-economic stratification, dualistic group and segregated spatial structures.

It has been realized with the time that securing shelter for urban poor and low income groups is a vital aspect of urban development in Indian cities. The living quality of slum

dwellers is perceived to be poor and miserable, and they also represent urban distress. (Joshi, R. and Sanga, P. 2009).

Slums are one or two-room hutments mostly occupying government and public lands. The houses in slums are built in mud or brick walls, low roofs mostly covered with corrugated sheets, tins, bamboo mats, polyethenes, gunny bags and thatches, devoid of windows and ventilators and public utility services.

Slums have invariably extreme unhygienic conditions. They have impoverished lavatories made by digging shallow pit in between three or four huts and with sackcloth as a curtain, hanging in front. When the pit overflows excreta gets spread over the surrounding area and is rarely cleaned.

The children cultivate the habit of defecating anywhere in the slum area. Slums have practically no drains and are marked by cesspools and puddles. Piped water is not available to slum dwellers and they mainly depend upon shallow hand-pumps for water supply.

Such handpumps are generally dug in the middle of a stale dirty pool. People wash their clothes and utensils under the handpumps. The entire muck around the handpump percolates into the ground and contaminates the ground water. This contaminated ground water is taken out through the handpump which adversely affects the health of the slum

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dwellers.(Roychoudhari,2013)

It has been realized with time that securing shelter for urban poor and low income groups is a vital aspect of urban development in the urban cities. The living quality of slum dweller is perceived to be poor and miserable, and they also represent urban distress (Joshi & Sanga, 2009). As urban poverty has grown with the time, it becomes difficult to address the issue of the urban poor and additional attention needs to be directed for their betterment of the same; especially access to basic infrastructure services for them is the most prominent concern in developing slum up gradation strategies in the country. (Menendez, 1991).

Urban Poor well-being is dependent on many aspect, one of which is ensuring adequate urban spaces. It plays a significant role and attains considerable importance in their lives. Those open spaces act as ecological assets and contribute to the quality of life in numerous ways.

Housing Projects by Architects for Urban Poor




These case studies were selected as they were sensitive towards designing the housing for urban poor with special considerations to design of open spaces.

Nagpur city profile

FACT SHEET	
Population (Census2011)	24.05 Lakh**
Area	217.56 Sq km*
Density	11,056 persons/ sq.km.
Slums	446*
Slum Population	8,58,783*
Slum HH	1,71,645*
Literacy Rate (%)	93.13 %**
Urban Local Body	Nagpur Municipal Corporation

LIST OF ZONES	No. of Slums (2002)	No. of Slums (2008)
Zone 1 (Lakshmi Nagar)	31	32
Zone 2 (Dharampeth)	47	50
Zone 3 (Hanuman Nagar)	17	19
Zone 4 (Dhantoli)	62	64
Zone 5 (Nehru Nagar)	25	26
Zone 6 (Gandhibagh)	38	38
Zone 7 (Satranjipura)	54	54
Zone 8 (Lakadgarj)	48	53
Zone 9 (Aashi Nagar)	57	63
Zone 10 (Mangalwari)	45	47
Total	424	446

* Source: Handbook on slums by CHF International, 2007-08
**As per Census of India 2011

	Aranya Low Cost Housing, Indore, India.(Source : Doshi, 1995)	Belapur Housing, Mumbai, India. (Source : Correa, 1987)	CIDCO Housing, New Mumbai, India. (Source : Raj Rewal Associates, 2012, Wordpress 2011)
Year	1983-1986	1983-1986	1993-1998
Architect	B.V. Doshi	Charles Correa	Raj Rewal
Client	Indore Development Authority	City & Industrial Dev.Corp. Maha. LTD.	City & Industrial Dev.Corp. Maha. LTD.
Site Area	88.72 Ha	5.4 Ha	1000
No. Of Dwelling Unit	12847	100	1000
Special Components With Respect To Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing inclusive of all neighborhood facilities like schools, medical centres and shops. Amenities overlapped with open spaces for usage throughout the day. Pedestrian network formed by interlinking the open spaces connecting the whole settlement. Creation of small clusters in the form of cul-de-sacs or open streets by grouping the dwelling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibility for expansion and modification for each unit. Housing scheme for a range of income groups; from Rs 20000 to Rs 1,80,000 per unit. Formation of community spaces through the arrangement of clusters. Hierarchy of open spaces formed with different forms of usage and provision of amenities. More open to sky spaces Hierarchy of spaces adjoining clusters: 8m x 8m to 12m x12m to 20m x 20m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In harmony with social stratum. Different types of spaces created by fragmenting large no. of dwelling units into smaller aggregations. Creation of dense residential clusters to facilitate social interaction. Concepts of housing units opening to an outer space.
Snapshots			

Source: Devashree Roychoudhary, March 2013, Value Of Common Open Spaces For Urban Poor: A Case Of Ahmedabad

“In slum, open space, covered space or courtyards plays an important role.”

It may be act as an additional room to them.

The function is not defined, in night they may used it for sleeping, in day time they may used it as a washing space or they may used it for cooking or bathing also.

Separate open space or courtyard can be provided to each house OR it can be shared with the group of 4-5 houses or may be two houses with one courtyard.



Figure 1 Nagpur City Map

Source: City Profile by Neha Hardikar



Figure 2 Map Showing Zones of Nagpur City

Slums	
• TOTAL	446
Status of Notification	
• Notified	287
• Not Notified	137
♦ Newly Identified Slum Areas	22

Source: Handbook on slums by CHFInternational, 2007-08



Figure 3 Selected Site, Mini Mata Nagar, Nagpur Source: google map

Introduction to Study Area

Selected City For Study :Nagpur
 Selected Slum :Mini Mata Nagar
 LOCATION :Near Old Pardi Naka,

behind Haldiram's Factory
 Site Significance : Settlement started growing besides the water body around 30 years back gradually the water body got dry that helped the settlement to expand.
 Social Groups :Mixed societies include Maharashtrians and Chhattisghari
 Dominant Occupation :Maximum dwellers are Hawkers.
 Few are having jobs at places like Brick Kiln, MIDC, Steel Factory, Ara Machine, construction sites, etc.
 Rest few are Self Employed.

Overview of Poverty Alleviation/ Slum Improvement Programmes

Government schemes implemented in Nagpur

Slum Improvement Program (1972 to 1994)

Its main objective is to bring basic infrastructure into the city's poor settlements. Water supply, provision of latrines, sewer lines, roads, drainage and street lighting. Total Rs.982.55 lakhs has been spent on these basic infrastructure facilities.

(Source: SDCO 2000).

Integrated low Cost Sanitation

Under the "toilet for every house" vision of the Government of Maharashtra, the Nagpur Municipal Corporation has constructed 7500 individual toilets in all zones across the city. Individual toilets are being provided to individual households against a payment of Rs.365 per toilet.

Pay and Use toilets

With the support of HUDCO and the state government, the NMC is building 51 community toilets. These will be owned by the Nagpur Municipal Corporation and sub-contracted to organizations to be operated on a pay and use basis.

Swarna Jayanti ShahariRozgarYojna (SJSRY) and National Slum Development Scheme (NSDP) - These are centrally sponsored schemes with a mix of loans and grants for urban poverty alleviation.

BSUP under JNNURM in Nagpur City

Under the JNNURM, the BSUP scheme is being implemented in Nagpur Municipal Corporation Area through Slum Rehabilitation Authority Nagpur.

Research tool and technique

- Site visit
- Photographs
- Questionnaire
- Having conversation

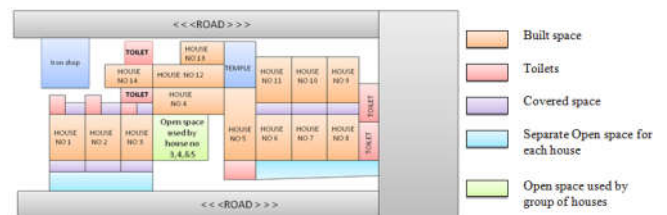


Figure 4 Plan of Study Area (Slum site), Mini Mata Nagar, Nagpur

Data Collection

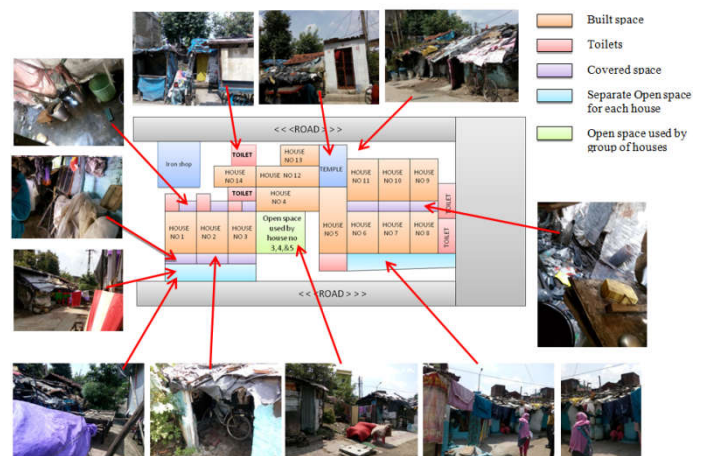


Figure 5 Showing The Present Scenario of Space Used.

Questions /observations	House No. 1	House No. 2	House No. 3	House No. 4
Types of space available	Open & covered	Open & covered	Open& covered	Open
Open space used by single family or by a group of families	Single family	Single family	Group of families	Group of families
Is there any house hold business?	Yes	No	No	No
Which space are you using for business?	Inside house in rainy season Outside open space in Summer & winter season. for playing	_____	_____	_____
How do children use the open space?	washing – separate space provided	for playing washing – separate space provided	for playing washing – separate space provided	for playing washing – separate space provided
Activities performed in the open space?	used for sleeping in summer & winter , Storage, drying clothes, parking vehicles.	used for sleeping in summer & winter, Storage, drying clothes, parking vehicles.	used for sleeping in summer & winter, Storage, drying clothes, parking vehicles.	used for sleeping in summer & winter , Storage, drying clothes, parking vehicles.
Do you have any pets, if yes then where are they placed??	Yes , placed under covered space.	No	No	No
Where most of the time is spent in the day by a lady in at home??	Inside house & front open space	Inside house	Inside house	Front open space
Any other recreation spaces ?	No	No	No	No
Which duration of the year is uncomfortable for using open space??	In April- June more heat is there. In July – September, because of rain.	In April- June more heat is there. In July – September, because of rain.	In April- June more heat is there. In July – September, because of rain.	In April- June more heat is there. In July – September, because of rain.

Analysis of Data

Covered space-mostly used for storage purpose, used for keeping cycle, cooler, pets,etc.

Open space-used for drying clothes , keeping food in sun for drying, some houses using for washing clothes & utensils, storing water, parking vehicles, etc.

USE OF OPEN SPACE



Used to keep their vehicles

Used for drying clothes

Used for water storage & parking



Used for drying clothes

Used for drying clothes

Used for storing water

USE OF COVERED SPACE



Used for storing water

Used for storage

Used for Keeping cycle

Used for storage

CONCLUSION

Both covered and open spaces are used as multipurpose space used for sleeping in night time during summer which are acting as an additional room to Urban poor. At the same time open space is acting as an recreational space for the urban poor.

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