

Abstract

Index No - 16/20/Geo./26

Abstract

This thesis examines "Inclusive Slum Planning" in the context of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), to enhance living conditions, social inclusion, and resilience among Kolkata's slum populations. The study provides a thorough examination of slum planning processes, the dimensions of inclusion, and the obstacles encountered by slum inhabitants, in light of the city's rapid urbanization and the proliferation of informal settlements. It underscores the imperative for focused interventions in slum rehabilitation, resettlement, and infrastructure development to guarantee fair urban growth for underprivileged communities. The study contextualizes the concept of an inclusive city within the extensive dialogue of urban planning, incorporating international, national, and local viewpoints. The research examines critical themes like social, economic, and infrastructural inclusion, utilizing empirical analysis to pinpoint deficiencies in current policies and literature. It underscores how insufficient infrastructure, substandard housing conditions, and restricted access to critical services impede the inclusion of Kolkata's slums. Fourteen slums have been chosen for comprehensive research, with objectives delineated into general and specialized aims. The main objective is to investigate inequalities in access to safe, hygienic, and affordable housing, as well as essential urban services including water, waste management, energy, and security. The study examines the income levels of slum inhabitants and proposes techniques for their economic and psychological assimilation into the wider urban environment. Specific objectives encompass: 1) evaluating the disparate levels of inclusion across various historical zones in Kolkata, 2) assessing inclusiveness about legal status and geographical location, 3) examining the influence of religious traditions on inclusivity, and 4) analyzing the susceptibility of slums to fire hazards. The study examines the influence of geographical location on inclusion, including proximity to railways and canals, and explores the role of religion in creating the dynamics of slums. The research investigates the fire risks encountered by slum communities and analyzes both in-situ and ex-situ planning methodologies, suggesting model plans for displacement and rehabilitation. Recommendations seek to enhance inclusivity via improved urban governance, legislative reforms, and sustainable development practices. The research employs composite index analysis and SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges) to assess the relative inclusion of various slum regions, emphasizing temporal zones, religious dynamics, and fire susceptibility. The economic resilience of slums is examined, especially with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The study delivers actionable insights that enhance the discourse on inclusive urban development and provides significant recommendations for politicians, urban planners,

and development organizations aiming to foster more equitable and sustainable urban environments in Kolkata and beyond.

The thesis offers a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and potential in Kolkata's slum communities, stressing the necessity for a holistic and inclusive urban planning approach that integrates spatial, socio-economic, religious, and vulnerability considerations. It underscores the significance of adaptable techniques, community involvement, and flexible interventions to mitigate fire risks, enhance economic resilience, and alleviate religious divisions while recognizing data constraints. The study advocates for ongoing surveillance, primary data acquisition, and cooperative initiatives to foster sustainable urban development and enhance the welfare of marginalized populations in Kolkata's slums.

Keywords: *Inclusive Slum Planning, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Rehabilitation (In-situ Conservation), Relocation (Ex-Situ- Conservation), Socio-Economic Resilience, Disaster Risk Management, Fire Hazard, COVID-19, Urban Inclusivity, Urban Planning.*



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