

**Socio Economic Status of Slums under Rajiv Awas Yojna in Shimla City  
(A Case Study OF KRISHNA NAGAR)**

Raj Kumar<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract**

Rajiv Awas Yojana is a scheme under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) aiming for “Slum Free Cities” in India. Each State has to prepare a Slum-Free-City Plan of Action (SFCPoA). The preparatory phase of Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) that is preparing SFCPoA has been launched by the HP Government and Mission has been nominated as State Level Nodal Agency. In Krishna Nagar, we have found that the maximum number of households were belongs to the SC community. It is found that the maximum population comes from out of state for the search of employment. In this area, the maximum number of people encroached on the public land i.e., 60% of households. In this study, we find the most appropriate solution is Rajiv Awas Yojana which is implemented for the upgradation of the slum dwellers, it is a process through which informally settled areas are gradually improved, formalized, and incorporated into the city itself, extending access to land, urban services, and citizenship to the slum dwellers (since the dwellings are not located in a risk area, such as hillsides, near streams, and other high-risk situations). It offers slum dwellers services that can cover the infrastructure; water supply, sewerage, drainage, roads, etc. – and the education, and land tenure. Approximately, 26% of houses are eligible to cover under Rajiv Awas Yojana in this ward.

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**Key Words:** Socio Economic Status, Rajiv Awas Yojna, Slum

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**INTRODUCTION**

Recent years have seen dramatic growth in the number of slums as urban populations have increased in the Third World. According to a recent UN-Habitat report, 327 million people live in slums in Commonwealth countries almost one in six Commonwealth citizens. In a quarter of Commonwealth countries (11 African, 2 Asian, and 1 Pacific), more than two

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<sup>1</sup> Master of Social Work, Department of Sociology & Social Work , Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla  
Email: [rajluckey2012@gmail.com](mailto:rajluckey2012@gmail.com)

out of three urban dwellers live in slums, and many of these countries are urbanizing rapidly.

The Census of India defines a slum as "a compact area of at least 300 in population or about 60-70 households of poorly built, congested tenements in an unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking proper sanitary and drinking water facilities."

According to a report on the United Nations Urban Land Policies, a slum is "a building, group of buildings or area characterized by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions or absence of facilities or amenities which because of these conditions or any of them, endanger the health, safety or morals of its inhabitants or the community".

The government of India has been implementing a range of schemes for slums improvement over the years. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched in 2005 with the aim of creating economically productive, efficient, equitable, and responsive cities through a strategy of upgrading the social and economic infrastructure in cities. Various schemes such as Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) 2005-06, Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) 2005, and National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2007, etc. are launched subsequently to improve the overall standard of living in Indian cities. However, recent studies have pointed out the drawback of these policies in recognizing the right of the poor to live in a city. The poor are pushed outside the peripheries of the urban space from where they need to commute daily to the city for availing livelihood opportunities.

### **RAJIV AWAS YOJANA**

Rajiv Awas Yojana is a scheme under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) aiming "Slum Free Cities" in India. Each State has to prepare a Slum-Free-City Plan of Action (SFCPoA). The preparatory phase of Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) that is preparing SFCPoA has been launched by the HP Government and Mission has been nominated as State Level Nodal Agency. The slum dwellers and the urban poor envisages a 'Slum-free India' by encouraging States/Union Territories to tackle the problem of slums in a definitive manner. It calls for a multi-pronged approach focusing on:

- Bringing existing slums within the formal system and enabling them to avail of the same level of basic amenities as the rest of the town;

- Redressing the failures of the formal system that lie behind the creation of slums; and
- Tackling the shortages of urban land and housing that keep shelter out of reach of the urban poor and force them to resort to extra-legal solutions in a bid to retain their sources of livelihood and employment.

## SLUM

The definition of “slum” varies from country to country. In India, each state has its own definition of a slum. The National Definition of ‘Slum areas’ was set by the Slum Areas Improvement and Clearance Act of 1956. It defines them as places where buildings: are in any respect unfit for human habitation; are by reason of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement and design of such buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation, light, sanitation facilities or any combination of these factors which are detrimental to safety, health and morals.

The phenomenon of slum has come to be regarded as a major problem of urbanization. While no Indian city is free from slums, the problem appears to be more acute in metropolitan cities. slums are known by different terms in different regions: katras, gallis, juggi-jhopdi (in Delhi); chawls (in Mumbai); ahartas (in Kanpur); bustees (in Calcutta); cheris (in Madras);keris (in Bangalore); and petas (in Andhra Pradesh). In Greater Bombay a million persons or 20 percent of the total population lived in slums in 1960 (Desai and Pillai 1972) and these figures rose to 3 million or 40 per cent in 1981(Mayur 1981). Nearly 2 million or 30 per cent of Calcutta's population live either in hutment colonies or on the pavements (Dayer 1975).

According to the Delhi Master Plan, the number of slum dwellers in the capital city is 7 lakhs which are nearly 16 percent of the total population. The slum dwellers in Madras increased from 4 lakhs (25per cent of the total population) in 1961 to 9 lakhs (33per cent of the total population) in 1971 (Sunday Standard, 9 December 1973). In Bangalore city, slum dwellers account for nearly 10 percent of the total population (Human Geography and Ecology 1976). According to a survey by the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad the slums give Shelter to 2.63 lakh persons (16 percent) of the city's population. This is the situation obtaining in some of the large cities. Clinard (1966) also included both physical and moral attributes in defining a slum. There is a marked variation in respect of physical conditions. Variations in the structure of construction include cabins, shanties, dens, dugouts, sheds, stalls

and huts built out of scavenged scrap. Similarly, there are variations in respect of the nature of overcrowding and of ownership and renting of houses, unsanitary conditions and absence of basic amenities (Abrams 1964).

### **Objectives of the Study**

To take up a socio-economic survey of the slums in order to study the socio-economic conditions of the slum dwellers in Krishna Nagar.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Nature of Study**

The present study was descriptive cum exploratory in nature. It describes the social as well as the economic status of the slum pocket of Krishna Nagar which explore the living condition, sanitary condition, livelihood, health status, employment status, source of earning, and the main reason for unemployment, etc. This Research study has found out the actual position and the living status of people living in slums of H.P. under Rajiv Awas Yojana.

### **Universe of Study**

The universe of the present study was about District Shimla. There is a total of 85 pockets in Shimla District that are declared as slums under project RAY by MC Shimla. Out of which the researcher studied at Krishna Nagar ward (slum pocket) in Shimla city. Krishna Nagar is the biggest slum pocket in Shimla which is situated below the old ISBT Shimla. This pocket is known as sensitive by the people of the city. According to the baseline survey by Municipal Corporation Shimla, there are 1003 households in the study area i.e. Krishna Nagar for the Rajiv Aawas Yojana. In Krishna Nagar, the researcher selected only 100 households through a random sampling technique out of the 1003 households which is approximately 10% of the total Households for the total population in Krishna Nagar 4553 (comes under the slum population), but the field worker covered 437 (100 households) out of 4553.

### **Tools of Data Collection**

Data for research have been collected through primary as well secondary sources. Primary data was collected mainly through an interview schedule, which pertains to questions related to no. of households and population, land tenure status, economic status and earning members, etc. also group discussions with community people on employment status, sources

of earning/livelihood, main reason for unemployment. Secondary data was collected through books, magazines, e-papers, and information and details from NGOs and a baseline survey of the Municipal Corporation.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Slum Population in India**

Slum Population simply refers to people living in slum areas below the poverty line. As India is still on the path of development, there is large number of people living below the poverty line. These people usually live in slum areas connected to the city. According to Government sources, the Slum Population of India have exceeded the population of Britain. It has doubled in last two decades. According to last census in 2001, the slum-dwelling population of India had risen from 27.9 million in 1981 to 61.8 million in 2001. Indian economy has achieved a significant growth of 8 percent annually in last four years, but there is still large number of people nearly 1.1 billion still survives on less than 1 \$ in a day.

In 2011, 65.5 million or 22.5% population lived in slums which are distributed among 2613 towns/cities. The distribution of slum towns across the states and union territories is not uniform in India. Indian 9 larger states namely; Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Gujarat enumerated more than 81% slum population and 1955 slum town. On the other hand, 9 small states/union territories include Nagaland, Sikkim, Pondicherry, Meghalaya Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar had reported only 47 slum towns, share only 0.6% of the total slum population. Thus, high positive correlation exists between urban and slum concentration in Indian states. The ever-increasing slum population is a continuous phenomenon in towns/cities, but providing good facilities at the rate of their growth will definitely benefit all the slum dwellers. Above discussion which highlights the slum condition argue that there is an urgent need to tackle this situation for long term sustainable development as well as for city prosperity.

### **Slum in Shimla**

There are 85 identified pockets in Shimla city with 2658 households. In Shimla, there are 25 wards under the Municipal Corporation. In these identified pockets the total populations of slum dwellers are 11451 according to the baseline survey of 2012-13 by the

Municipal Corporation, Shimla through SAMIKSHA (State level NGO). According to the census of 2011, the total number of people in Shimla city is 169578. The current population of slums is 6.75% of the total population of the city (According to the 2011 census record). According to the MC record, there are 37756 houses in the city and the slum households are 7.03% of the total households. According to the current survey, 74% of households in within 5 wards and only 26% of households are in the 20 wards. Krishna Nagar covered 37.62% HHs, Ruldu Bhatta 17.34%, and Phagli 11.02%. Kanlog 4.81% and Khalini 3.7% and the rest of 20 wards covered <3% HHs.

(Source: Base Line survey 2012-13, Researcher worked as a Team Leader with SAMIKSHA Organization)

**Table 1:** Position of Slum in Shimla City

Total Households	37756
Total Slum households	2658
Slum BPL Households	482
Total Illiterates in Slums	1697
Total Earning Members in Slums	3620

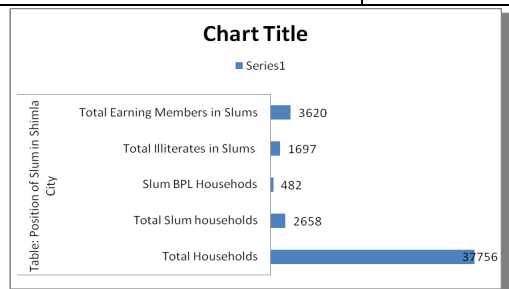


Fig.1

Shimla city covered 482 BPL households is the 18.13 % of the total slum population. There are 1697 illiterate members in the slum population i.e. 14.81% of the total population of the slum. There are 3620 earning members in the slum population i.e. 31.61% of the total population of the slum.

**Structure of Houses in Shimla City**

**Table 2:** City Level No. of dwelling units by type of structure of houses

City	Total Slum houses	Pucca	Semi pucca	kutcha
Shimla	2658	723	1255	680

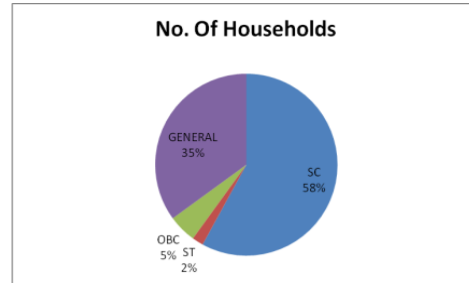


Fig.2

There are 2658 number of houses in the slum area. The 680 houses are Katcha, 1255 semi-pucca and 723 pucca which are 25.58%, 47.21% and 27.20% of the total population of the slum respectively.

**ACTIVITIES & FINDINGS**

**Activities during summer training are as follows:**

**Survey:** For the data collection the field worker used the survey method and found socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers as follows:

**Table 3:** No. of households

Category of Households	No. Of Households	Percentage of Households
SC	58	58%
ST	2	2%
OBC	5	5%
GENERAL	35	35%

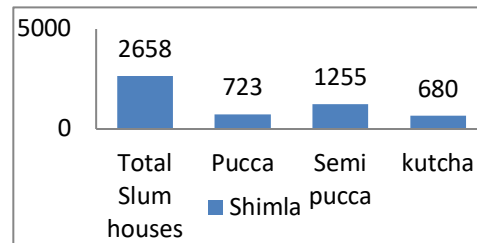
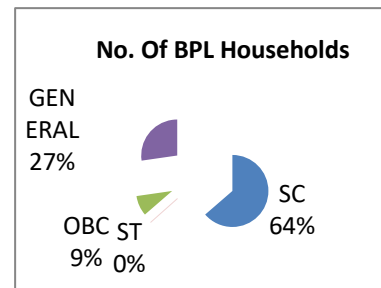


Fig.3

In Krishna Nagar researcher covered 100 households. In which the field worker find that 58% of the households are SC's, 2% of the ST's, 5% of the OBC's and 35% households of the General category. Hence it shows that the maximum populations are from SC community in Krishna Nagar.

**Table 4:** Total no. of BPL households

Category of Households	No. Of BPL Households	Percentage of Households
SC	7	64%
ST	0	0
OBC	1	9%
GENERAL	3	27%



In Krishna Nagar the researcher covered 11 BPL households out of 100 households. In BPL households the field worker finds that 64% households in BPL are belong to the SC community, 9% of the OBC and 27% belongs to the General category.

Fig.4

**Table 5:** Total Population Covered in the study

Category of Households	Population of Households	Percentage of Population
SC	275	63%
ST	8	2%
OBC	22	5%
GENERAL	132	30%

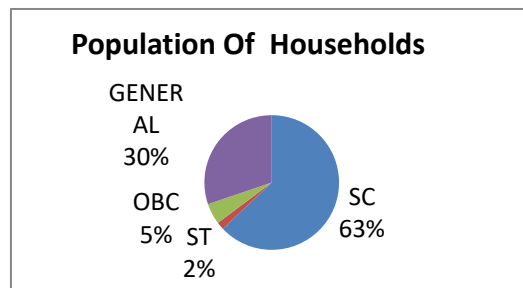


Fig.5



In Krishna Nagar the researcher covered 437 members in 100 households which have 225 males and 212 females which are 51.48% and 48.51% respectively. Total covered population possessed 63% SC's, 2% ST's, 5% OBC's and 30% General members.

**Table 6:** Total BPL Population

Category of Households	Population Of BPL Households	Percentage of Population
SC	38	70%
ST	0	0%
OBC	2	4%
GENERAL	14	26%

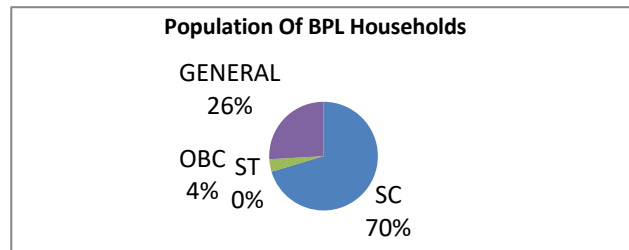


Fig.6

In Krishna Nagar the researcher covered only 54 BPL members out of 437 members. In BPL Population the field covered 70% population of SC's community, 4% OBC's and 26% members of the General category.

**Table 7:** Housing Status

Housing Status	Total Households	With Electricity	Without Electricity
Pucca	58, (58%)	47	11
Semi-Pucca	29, (29%)	26	3
Katcha	13, (13%)	8	5

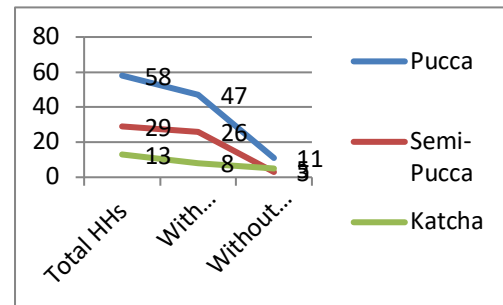


Fig.7

In Krishna Nagar the researcher covered the 100 households and found that 58% households are pucca; 29% are semi-pucca and remaining 13% are katcha households. In the pucca households; 47 households are with electricity and 11 are without electricity. In the semi-pucca houses; 26 are with electricity and 3 are without electricity. In katcha houses 8 are with electricity and 5 are without electricity.

**Table 8:** Land Tenure Status

Codes	No. Of Houses	Percentage
01	5	5%
02	5	5%
03	3	3%
04	60	60%
05	24	24%
49	3	3%

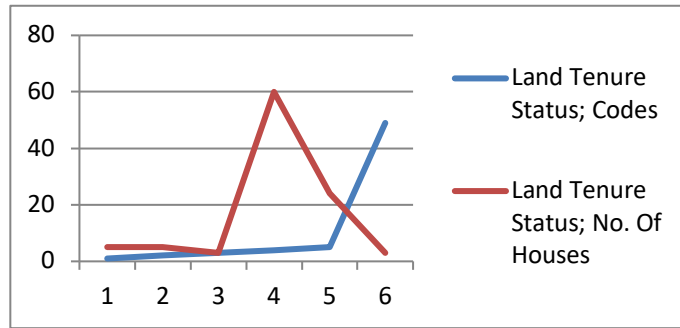


Fig.8

**Note:** 01=Patta, 02=Possession certificate/Occupancy Right, 03=Private Land Encroached, 04=Public Land Encroached,05=Rented,49=Others.

In Krishna Nagar the researcher find that the 60% houses are on the public land encroached area, 24% are rented, 5% are patta and possess the certificate, 3% are private land encroached and others.

**Table 9:** Economic Status of Households

Economic Status	No. Of Households	Percentage (%)
<500	2	2%
500-1000	0	0
1000-1500	1	1%
1500-2000	1	1%
2000-3000	6	6%
>3000	90	90%

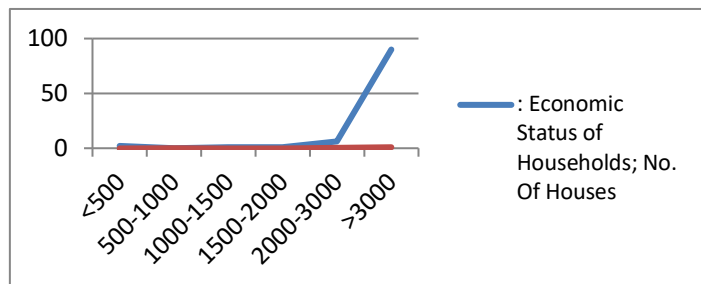


Fig.9

In Krishna Nagar the researcher found that the economic status is good. The 90% houses earn more than Rs.3000 monthly income, 6% earn between Rs.2000-3000 and 4% earn less than Rs.2000.

**Table 10:** Earning Members; Total=140

Employment Status	No. of Persons	Percentage of the Earning Members
Casual Labour	32	23%
Regular Wages	27	19%
Salaried	27	19%
Self-Employed	29	21%
Others	25	18%

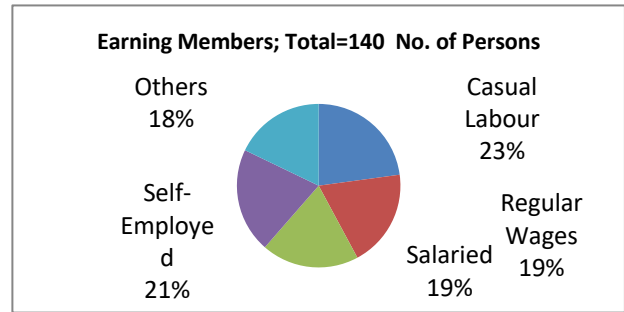


Fig.10

In Krishna Nagar the researcher find that the 23% houses belongs to labourer family, 19% houses got regular jobs, 19% houses got salaried job (private job), 21% are self employed persons and 18% houses have the other sources of earning.

**Group Discussion with people of Krishna Nagar Slum**

**Group Discussions with Slum Dwellers:** For the data collection, the researcher also participated in Group Discussions. The researcher has done group discussions with community people on employment status, sources of earning, livelihood, main reasons for unemployment, drug addiction, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and sanitation.

**Discussions**

The following problems of slum dwellers have been identified in the present study of Krishna Nagar slum in Shimla city:

- i) First of all, we have focused on the sanitary condition of the ward. There were 34 members who were present in the discussion from the different parts of the ward. In this ward, the sanitary condition was very poor. The people said that the drainage system should be managed properly by the Government. They also favored the collection of garbage otherwise it creates problems for the people.
- ii) Secondly, we have to focus on alcoholism. Most females were present in the discussion. We discussed the harmful effects of the intake of drug addiction. In this ward, we have found that most of the people were indulged in drug addiction. They responded that females were

mostly tortured in their houses due to drug addiction and domestic violence occurred if they deny the male candidates. They expressed that drug addiction should be banned in this ward because they have faced so many problems due to such kind of activities done by anyone else.

iii) Thirdly we focussed of the problem of child labour and child marriage. Child labour is also a problem in this ward. Mostly children indulged in garbage collection and other work with their parents i.e. selling newspapers, peddling drugs, or begging and they also drop school for this. They picked the bottles and other materials from garbage and sell them in the market. They are at risk of exploitation as well as all the health problems that accompany their lifestyles. Incest and abuse can occur and child marriages are still encouraged in this area.

iv) At last, we have discussed about the importance of the Self-Help Groups. In this discussion the 27 females were present in the discussion. In this regard we have told them the benefits of the Self-Help Groups, how the Self-Help Groups also maintain the economic status of the people as well as women especially.

In all the above group discussions there were many people took part in the initiatives of the upliftment of ward Krishna Nagar and discussed the different problems facing this ward and also discuss their solutions in these group discussions.

## **Conclusion**

It is concluded that the all over living conditions of slums residing in Krishna Nagar, Shimla City have very poor in nature. Most people have to go to face so many problems in this area of Shimla City. In this ward the sanitary condition was very poor, mostly people are indulging in drug addiction and alcoholism. Also find that most children are indulged in garbage collection, newspaper selling, peddling drugs and wine as well as indulging in begging and they also drop school for this. In Krishna Nagar, we have found that the maximum number of households belonged to the SC community. The maximum population in this area belongs to the labourer family. In this ward, some people are also self-employed as well as a regular employee. It is found that the maximum population comes from out of state for the search of employment. In this area, the maximum number of people encroached on the public land i.e., 60% of households (random sample). The socio-economic conditions of the identified area are approximately good. The maximum population has earned more than

Rs.3000 i.e. the 90%. There are several solutions to improve the living conditions of marginalized groups living in slums, tenements, and squatter settlements. From the forced removal of slum dwellers and self-construction programs to the different approaches to the improvement of infrastructure in slums – known as slum upgrading – the alternatives are many, but not always appropriate to the circumstances of each settlement.

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