

CHAPTER: II

INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND THE URBAN POOR: A STUDY OF URBAN SLUMS AND SQUATTERS IN SOUTH ASIA

2.1: Introduction:

Rapid urbanization has been accompanied by the steady growth of slum and squatter settlements in developing countries like India. It is evident from various literature sources that positive relationships exist between urbanization and migration, migration and incidence of slums and squatter settlements and development. The primary objective of the present chapter is to highlight the recent trends in urbanization and incidence of slums, the socio-economic conditions of the slum inhabitants in the developing regions with special reference to South Asian countries in the light of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The chapter also highlights the urban poverty situation and amenities among the slum and non-slum residents in developing countries. The success and failure regarding the improvement of slum conditions according to the targets set by Millennium Development Goals has also been discussed in this chapter.

2.2: Demographic and Economic Features in the Developing Regions of the World

The developing region comprises with all the regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan) and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The term “developing countries” is used to designate countries in the developing region. The developing region in the globe are characterised by wide variations in their physical, demographic and socio-economic characteristics, in which at present (2011) around 82 percent of the world’s population and 74.45 percent of the world’s urban population reside. Among the developing regions, Asia has housed the largest number of population around 4.21 billion in 2011, as against 4.16 billion in 2010. Based on world urbanization prospects 2011 revision, it has been projected that by the year 2020 the projected population in Asia will 4.56 billion. In Asian region, South Asia alone contributed 1.7 billion in 2010 and if the current trend continues, it is expected that the population will increase to around 1.9 billion by 2020. The rate of

growth of population in the developing region was approximately 1.55 percent, with population in Sub-Saharan Africa growing at an average rate of 2.57 percent annually during the period of 1990-2010, followed by South Asia at 1.79 percent, Latin America and the Caribbean at 1.44 percent. During the period 2000-2010, South Asia has been able to achieve high macroeconomic growth relating to GDP, which increased from 4.23 percent in 2000 to 8.69 percent in 2010, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa and the Latin America and the Caribbean (Table-2.2.1).

Table 2.2.1: Demographic and Economic Features in the Developing Regions of the World.

Indicators/ Country	South Asia		Sub-Saharan Africa		Latin America and the Caribbean	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Total population (in Billions)	1.5	1.7	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6
Urban Population (in Millions)	423	549	206	298	394	465
Slum Population (in Millions)	194	191	143	198	115	110
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.468	0.575	0.401	0.460	0.680	0.728
GDP Growth (Annual %)	4.23	8.69	3.63	4.95	3.98	6.00
GNI Per Capita PPP (Current International \$)	1450	3078	1311	2146	6721	10946

Source: World Development Indicators, database, <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog> accessed on 16.10.1012. Urban and rural population figures taken from World Urbanisation Prospects 2011 Revision, slum population figures taken from the State of the World's Cities 2012/13: Prosperity of Cities, UN-HABITAT.

According to UN-HABITAT, urbanisation is positively correlated with the process of economic development. Most of the nations with high per capita incomes and human development index are among the most urbanized and vice-versa. This correlation between urbanisation and economic development is clearly evident in Asia, where rapid urbanisation has been the major factor behind the growth dynamics, and the process of urbanization has also aided in bringing about overall reductions in poverty.

The economic data (Table-2.2.1) clearly indicates that Latin America and the Caribbean and the South Asian region was relatively better off than the African region particularly the sub-Saharan region. In general, various studies and reports evidenced that the Human Development Index is strongly correlated with the proportion of slum population i.e., the higher the percentage of slum population in any region, the lower is the Human Development Index (HDI). In the developing region, it is observed that

with the higher level of GNI per capita and HDI, the slum incidence is comparatively lower than that of the slum population in South Asia.

As per as the report of the World Bank, it is found that in 2008, 1.29 billion people lived in poverty below \$1.25 a day that is equivalent to 22 percent of the population in the developing world. Nearly three quarters lived in South Asia (571 million) and Sub-Saharan Africa (396 million). Another 284 million lived in East Asia, and less than 50 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia combined.

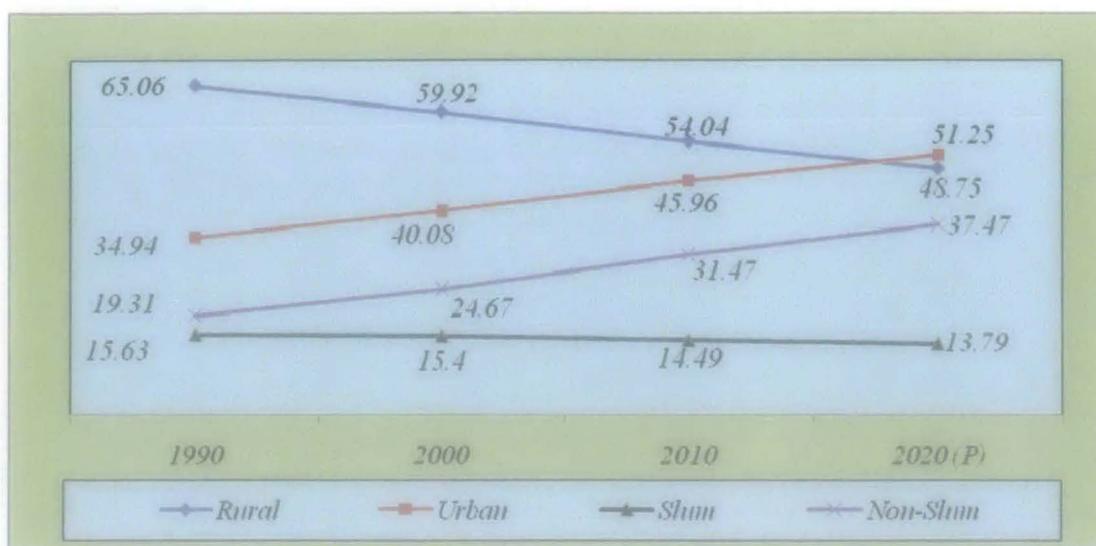
On the other hand, the study of Ravallion et al (2007) concerning urban poverty shown that as an absolute number and the proportion of urban population living below poverty line (using a poverty line of \$ 1 per day) in the developing regions have increased sharply during the period 1993-2002. In the sub-regions of the developing world, the highest percentage of urban population living below poverty line has been recorded by sub-Saharan Africa (40.38 percent), followed by south Asia (34.61 percent), Latin America and the Caribbean (9.49 percent) and middle east and northern Africa (0.75 percent) in 2002. Various studies also stated that South Asia is the only region in the developing world where the percentage of population living below poverty line has reduced sharply because some of the countries in South Asia like India have made significant progress in poverty reduction through its various poverty alleviation programmes.

2.2.1: Share of Urban, Rural and Slum Population in the Developing World

According to the world urbanization prospects, 2011 revision, for the first time in human history, the proportion of urban population in the globe reached at 52.08 percent in 2011, as against to 51.60 percent in 2010, i.e. there are one urban resident in every two persons in the world. If the current trend continues almost all of the world's demographic growth over the next four decades will be concentrated in urban areas. This global trend driven mostly by the dynamics of rapid urban growth in the developing world, where the urban population is expected to increase from 2.6 billion in 2010 to 3.27 billion in 2020 and 5.12 billion is likely to reach around 2050. In contrast, the world urban population is expected nearly double by 2050, increasing from 3.56 billion in 2010 to 4.28 billion in 2020 and 6.25 billion in 2050 (67.18 percent). At the same time, globally and regionally the rural population in absolute

number is increasing but their proportion is decreasing continuously (computed from World Urbanization Prospects 2011, revision).

Figure (2.2.1): Trends in the Share of Urban, Rural and Slum Population in the Developing World



Source: Computed from World Urbanization Prospects, 2011 Revision and State of the World's Cities 2012/13: Prosperity of Cities, UN-HABITAT.

Note 1: Share of Rural urban population is to the total population and share of slum and non-slum population to the total urban population of the developing region. Projected Rural urban proration of population based on urbanization prospects 2011 revision figure. The computed projection of Slum population based of annual increase of the slum population.

Note 2: According to UN-HABITAT the estimate of slum population based on either lacking one or more of the following five amenities:

- (1) Durable housing (a permanent structure providing protection from extreme climatic conditions)
- (2) Sufficient living area (no more than three people sharing a room)
- (3) Access to improved water (water that is sufficient, affordable and can be obtained without extreme effort)
- (4) Access to improved sanitation facilities (a private toilet, or a public one shared with a reasonable number of people) and
- (5) Secure tenure (protection against forced eviction). Since information on secure tenure is not available for most countries included in the UN-HABITAT database, however, only the first four indicators are used to define slum households, and then to estimate the proportion of the urban population living in slums.

Various studies reveal that most of the world's population growth in the coming decades will be absorbed by the urban areas in the developing economies. From Figure (2.2.1), it is observed that the share of urban population to the total population in the developing region increased from 34.94 percent in 1990 to 45.96 percent in 2010 and projection based on world urbanisation prospects the estimated share will increase to 49.48 percent in 2020. Whereas, the proportion of rural population decreased from 65.06 to 54.04 percent during the period of 1990-2010 and the projection was that it will further reduce to 48.75 percent by 2020. The share of urban population in the sub-regions of the developing world namely, Africa and Asia is expected to increase to 24.68 and 64.58 percent respectively by the middle of the century (2050) (Computed from World Urbanization Prospects, 2011 Revision).

The urban population living in slums as an absolute number in the globe is increasing, but its proportion to total urban population is decreasing. In 1990, there were 650 million (15.63 percent of the total population) slum dwellers in the developing region and it increased to 820 million (14.49 percent of the total population) in 2010 i.e., one in every seven human beings is a slum dweller and for every three urban persons, one is a slum dweller. If the current trend continues (annual increase) the slum figure is expected to reach around 880 million (13.79 percent of the total population) by 2020. The significant point is that 170 million new slum dwellers have been added to the world's urban population during the period of 1990-2010, i.e. around 8.5 million of slum dwellers are adding every year in the developing region.

2.2.2: Slum Population in the Developing World

With the rapid pace of urbanization, slums are also growing as a dominantly in the cities of the developing world. According to the latest data available in the State the World's Cities 2012/13), it is observed that Asia dominated the global picture, having a total of 499 million slum populations in 2010, followed by Africa (210 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (110 million) and if the annual increase of slum population during the period of 2000-2010 remains same the projected figure will be 512 million in Asia, 262 million in Africa and 105 million in Latin America and the Caribbean 105 by 2020. Among the developing regions (Northern Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Caribbean and South Asia) in the world, the highest number of slum population in 2010 has been housed by Sub-Saharan Africa (198 million), where, for every two urban dwellers one is a slum resident, followed by South Asia (191 million), where, for every three urban dwellers one is a slum dweller, Latin America and the Caribbean (110 million), where, for every four urban residents one is a slum dweller and northern Africa (12 million). It has also been projected on the basis of annual increase that during the period of 2010-2020, the slum population will decrease by 3 million in northern Africa, 5 million in Latin America as against the increase in slum population by 55 million in sub-Saharan Africa (Table 2.1, Appendix A). The fact is that with the rapid growth of urbanisation, the majority of urban and slum population in the world are living in the developing region and the above analysis conformed to the view of Dwyer (1975) that the urban growth is spatially related to the growth of slums.

2.2.3: Level of Urbanisation (LOU) and Proportion of Slum & Non-Slum Population

From the statistical data (World Urbanization Prospects 2011 revision), it has been found that 63.18 percent of the global urban population and 86.43 percent of the developing world's urban population were concentrated in Asia and Africa taken together in 2010, and the computed projection of global and developing world's population will reach at 66.58 and 87.31 percent in 2020. At the same time, these two regions (Asia and Africa taken together) have housed 86.47 percent of the total slum population in the developing region and it can be predicted if the annual increase of slum population during the period of 2000-2010 remains same, the proportion of slum population will increase marginally to 87.95 percent by 2020.

Table (2.2.3): Level of Urbanisation (LOU) and Proportion of Slum & Non-Slum Population to the total Urban Population in developing Regions

Region/ LoU, Slum & Non-Slum Population	Proportion of Slum and Non-Slum Population											
	1990			2000			2010			2020 (P)		
	LOU	Slum	Non-Slum	LOU	Slum	Non-Slum	LOU	Slum	Non-Slum	LOU	Slum	Non-Slum
Developing Region	34.94	44.73	55.27	40.08	38.43	61.57	45.96	31.52	68.48	51.25	26.9	73.1
Northern Africa	45.64	31.46	68.54	48.41	18.34	81.66	51.25	11.96	88.04	54.08	7.52	92.48
Sub-Saharan Africa	28.16	73.62	26.38	32.16	69.43	30.57	36.27	66.41	33.59	40.74	59.34	40.66
Latin America & Caribbean	70.34	33.63	66.37	75.49	29.21	70.79	78.84	23.69	76.31	81.46	19.84	80.16
South Asia	26.45	57.42	42.58	28.97	45.94	54.06	32.24	34.7	65.3	36.02	26.73	73.27

Source: Computed from World Urbanization Prospects, 2011 Revision and State of the World's Cities 2012/13: Prosperity of Cities, UN-HABITAT.

Latin America and the Caribbean recorded as the second largest urbanised region in the world. Showing an increasing trend, Latin America and the Caribbean recorded significantly higher level of urbanization from 1990 to 2010, followed by Northern Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. As evident, the level of urbanization in South Asia was relatively much lower during the same period under study. In terms of the proportion of slum and non-slum population, it is also seen that instead of a declining trend, the proportion of slum population has been sky high in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern Africa between 1990 and 2010. The computed projection of slum population based on simple annual increase between the periods of 2000-2010, the proportion of slum population

in 2020 shows the similar trend i.e. the concentration of slum population will also be highest in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern Africa.

2.3: Informal Sector Employment in Developing Regions

In terms of economic activity, majority of the urban poor in developing countries earn their living from informal sector activities located either within or outside the slum areas and this sector also plays a very significant role not only in the national economies but more significantly for the livelihood of many urban slum dwellers. According to the State of the World's Cities, 2006/07, around 85 per cent of all new employment opportunities in the world occurs in the informal economy. In developing countries, informal employment comprises 50 to 70 percent of non-agricultural employment. In the developing region and their sub-regions, a large portion of GDP comes from informal sector, for example, the share of informal sector in the GDP of sub-Saharan Africa was about 41 percent, followed by Asia (31 percent), Latin America (29 percent) and 27 percent in Northern Africa. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 7 out of 10 new jobs in urban areas are created in the informal sector. In sub-Saharan Africa, the informal sector accounts for about 78 percent of all non-agricultural employment. In Latin American and Northern Africa, it is 51 and 48 percent respectively. It is common to all the developing regions and countries that the maximum percentage of informal sector workers are migrant unskilled workers from rural to urban areas. However, it is true that the skilled and educated youth, who are unable to be absorbed in the formal labour market, the informal sector is the only available option to them.

2.4: Access to Basic Amenities of Urban Population in the developing Regions

The locus of poverty is moving from the countryside to cities and this process is presently recognised as the 'urbanization of poverty' (The Challenge of Slums, 2003). Poverty in the developing world is highly associated with rural areas which have increasingly become urbanized. About 40 to 80 percent of urban dwellers in the world live in poverty with little or absolutely no access to shelter, basic urban services and social amenities (Slums of the World, 2003, UN-HABITAT). Urbanization in developing countries have already shown a red signal, particularly due to increasing number and proportion of city residents who live in informal settlements either in the

heart of the cities or in the peri-urban areas. Evidences also indicated that it will increase continuously in the most developing countries due to structural adjustment problems, economic mistakes and the poor performance of formal housing and basic services. Projection made by Slums of the world, 2003, found that by the year 2020, the level of urban poverty in the world could reach 45 to 50 percent of the total population living in cities.

2.4: 1 Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

Inadequate sanitation, hygiene and water lead not only to sickness and deaths, but also to higher health care costs, lower school enrolment and retention rates, and lower labour productivity among slum dwellers than their non-slum counterparts (State of the World's Cities, 2010/11). Sustainable access to basic services is the key determinant of the human well being especially for the urban poor. Various studies (Mcgee, 1967; Satterthwaite, 1997) have revealed that as illegal squatting is a common phenomenon in the cities of the developing world particularly in Asia, the people living in slums suffer mostly from the lack of public amenities i.e. safe drinking water and sanitation are almost non-existent with the common health hazards.

Table (2.4.1) Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation of Urban Population in developing Regions

Indicators/ Region	Developing Region		Sub-Saharan Africa		Latin America and the Caribbean		South Asia	
	1990	2010	1990	2010	1990	2010	1990	2010
Percentage of urban Population lacking Safe Drinking Water	7	5	17	17	5	4	10	4
Percentage of urban Population lacking improved Sanitation.	35	27	57	57	20	16	43	36
Relative change in Safe Water (%) (1990-2010)	-28.57		0.00		-20.00		-60.00	
Relative change in Sanitation (%) (1990-2010)	-22.86		0.00		-20.00		-16.28	

Source: Millennium Development Goals, 2012, Note: Negative relative change implies the decrease in the percentage of lacking safe drinking water and sanitation). Web site: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/data.aspx>, Accessed on 16.10.12.2012

Table (2.4.1) shows the access to some basic amenities available to the urban population. Despite the high degree of urbanisation and substantial decrease in the percentage of informal settlers in the developing world, currently, 5 percent of the urban population does not have any access to safe drinking water. Among the sub-regions in the developing world, the highest percentage of urban population lacking in

improved water facilities has been recorded by sub-Saharan Africa (17 percent), followed by South Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (4 percent each) in 2010. In terms of relative change in the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation of the urban population, South Asia has made significant improvement in access to safe drinking water compared to other developing regions shown in Table (2.4.1).

From table, it is also clear that in the developing region, the proportion of urban population lacking improved sanitation (32 percent) is worse off than access to safe drinking water (5 percent). The highest percentage of urban population lacking in improved sanitation at present (2010) in sub-Saharan Africa (57 percent), followed by south Asia (36 percent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (16 percent). In terms of improvement in access to sanitation, it is also observed that Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant progress with 20 percent relative decrease, followed by South Asia with 16.28 percent relative decrease but in sub-Saharan Africa no improvement in access to sanitation is found.

Poor sanitary conditions and poor water quality can cause sickness and diseases like diarrhea and other water borne diseases among children and adults and thus can have an impact on the life expectancy of the affected population. Among the sub-regions in the developing world, South Asia has shown impressive improvement, where, between 1990 and 2010, the percentage of urban population without access to safe drinking water decreased from 10 to 4 percent with 16.28 percent relative decrease, as against the reduction from 35 to 27 percent with 22.86 percent relative decline in the developing region. In contrast, the proportion of urban population remained the same during the period 1990-2010 in sub-Saharan Africa. On the other hand, Latin America and the Caribbean have made comparatively good progress in providing access to safe drinking water to their urban population. But, over the same period, the percentage of urban population lacking in safe drinking water in Latin America and the Caribbean decreased from 5 in 1990 to 4 percent in 2010 with 20 percent relative decrease to achieve the MDG's target (by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers). South Asia has made significant progress in access to safe drinking water, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean and in African region practically the sub-Saharan Africa has failed to meet the target of MDG.

On the other hand, in these sub-regions of the developing world shown in Table (2.4.1), the percentage of urban population lacking improved sanitation was

highest in sub-Saharan Africa (57 percent) in 2010, followed by south Asia (36 percent), and the Latin America and the Caribbean (146 percent). The proportion of population lacking sanitation in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa is around 3 and 4 times higher than that of the proportion in Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite, Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant progress in access to sanitation with 26.32 percent relative decrease during the period of 1990-2010 in the light of MDGs. In contrast, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa have made marginal gain with 2.27 percent and 1.75 percent relative decrease in sanitation. In the developing region as a whole, access to safe drinking water among the urban population was much better than the access to improved sanitation.

2.5: Demographic and Economic Characteristics of South Asian Countries

Focusing our attention on some of the countries of South Asia, it is clear from Table - 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 that, in terms of latest data available on demographic and economic characteristics, India dominates all other countries in South Asia and it has housed majority of the urban and slum population (about 356 and 105 million respectively) in 2009, where, for every three human beings, one is urban and for every three urban persons, one is a slum dweller. Pakistan on the other hand, registered the 2nd highest urban and slum population (64 million and 30 million respectively), where for every two urban residents one is a slum dweller. Similarly, Bangladesh recorded the 3rd highest urban and slum population (45 million and 28 million respectively, where out of two urban persons one is slum dweller. Nepal, at the extreme end, shows relatively lower urban population (5 million) with 3 million slum population, while for every five urban human beings two are slum residents at the same time.

With the current annual increase during the period of 2000-2009, the projected slum population in 2020 will reduce significantly only in India, as against the increase in slum population among the other countries. In 2020, the expected slum population will reach about 86 million in India, 37 million in Pakistan, 30 million in Bangladesh, 4 million in Nepal. Based on actual urban and slum population, it has been observed that in India, during the period 2000-2009, about 64 million new urban residents (about 7 million every year) have been added to the country's urban population as against the reduction of 15 million (1.7 million every year) slum population. In Bangladesh, an additional about 14 million (1.6 million each year) urban and 2 million (0.2 million each year) new slum population have been added with the

country's urban and slum population, while in Pakistan, about 16 million (1.8 million every year) urban and 6 million (0.7 million every year) new slum population have been added. In Nepal, more than 2 million new urban and 1 million new slum populations have been added during the same period.

Table (2.5.1): Urban & Slum Population (in millions) in South Asian Countries

Country/Population	1990		2000		2009		2020 (P)	
	Urban	Slum	Urban	Slum	Urban	Slum	Urban	Slum
India	223	121	292	120	356	105	483	86
Nepal	2	1	3	2	5	3	7	4
Bangladesh	21	20	31	26	45	28	55	30
Pakistan	34	18	48	24	64	30	81	37

Source: State of the World's Cities 2012/13, UN-HABITAT, Note 2: urban population in 2020 is the projection of world's urbanization prospects 2011 revision. The slum figure for 2020 based on yearly increase of slum population between the year 2000 & 2009. Note (3): The remaining countries in South Asia have been excluded due to non-availability of slum figure.

2.5.1: Human Development Index (HDI) and Macro Economic Indicators

Statistical evidences indicate that despite some improvement over the past ten years, South Asian average for human development index (HDI) remains far below the average for developing countries. This is primarily due to the lower level of public expenditures on health and education as percentage of GDP for improving human development of the general population (Haq, 2009).

The story behind the economic growth in the south Asian region is quite uneven probably due to liberalization policies undertaken by these countries in 1990s.

Among the four south Asian countries, the last decade has witnessed significant increase in GDP growth rates in India and Bangladesh as against the decrease in Pakistan and Nepal (Table 2.5.2). Even with the global financial crisis, with a current GDP growth of 9.55 percent, India leads the region followed by Bangladesh (6.07 percent per cent), Nepal (4.82 per cent) and Pakistan (4.14 percent) in 2010. On the other hand, according to a World Bank report published in 2012, the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity is highest in India, followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Labor force participation rate is the proportion of the population ages 15 and above who are economically active during a specified period. It is found from the table (2.5.2) that during the period of 2000-2010, Labor force participation rate is significantly higher in Nepal, followed by Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

Table (2.5.2): HDI and Economic Indicators in South Asian countries

Indicators/ Country	India		Bangladesh		Pakistan		Nepal	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Human Development Index	0.461	0.542	0.422	0.496	0.436	0.503	0.398	0.455
GDP Annual Growth Rate (%)	3.98	9.55	5.94	6.07	4.26	4.14	6.20	4.82
GNI Per Capita PPP (Current international \$)	1510	3340	890	1810	1620	2780	800	1210
Labor Participation Rate (% of Total Population ages 15+)	59.50	55.60	70.50	70.80	50.80	53.20	85.90	83.90

Source: World Development Indicators, 2012, www.worldbank.org, accessed on 18.10.2012

It has been mentioned earlier that higher the value of HDI, the lower would be the incidence of slums. But practically, it was seen that among the four south Asian countries, the number of slum population has been increasing even with the increase in the value of HDI. In this region, India is the only country, where, the absolute number of slum population decreased sharply even with marginal increase in the value of the HDI. This is indicative of a possible transition of a certain magnitude of slum dwellers out from the conditions of slums due to effective slum development programmes and a possible declining trend in rural-urban migration. But, in contrast, with the increase in HDI, the number of slum population among the countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal is also increasing indicating that these countries have failed to make substantial improvement in slum conditions (measured on the basis of income, education and health) and may be due to unabated flow of rural migrants to the urban centers. In terms of living conditions, the slum dwellers in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal are much worse than India, drawing attention to the lack of government initiatives and interventions in improving the socioeconomic conditions of this segment of the population.

2.5.2: Urban and Rural Population below National Poverty Line

With no significant improvement in economic indicators and demographic characteristics, the World Bank stated that the proportion of world's poor in India living below international poverty line of \$ 1.25 per day (PPP) is 34.50 percent in 2008 and on the other hand, Bangladesh and Pakistan taken together has registered around 8 percent of the world's poor people (5.30 and 2.70 percent respectively). According to Millennium Development goals Indicators in 2010, the country level data shows that the highest percentage of population living below international poverty line of \$1.25 (PPP) per day was the highest in Bangladesh (43.30 percent),

followed by India (32.70 percent), Nepal (24.80 percent) and Pakistan (21.00 percent in 2008)

Table (2.5.3): Percentage of Population below National Poverty Line in South Asian Countries

Rural/ Urban/ Country	Bangladesh		India		Nepal		Pakistan	
	1996	2010	1994	2010	1996	2011	1999	2006
Rural	54.50	35.20	50.81	33.80	43.30	27.40	34.70	27.00
Urban	27.80	21.30	31.80	20.90	21.60	15.50	20.90	13.10
Relative Change (%)	1996-2010		1994-2010		1996-2011		1999-2006	
Rural	-35.41		-33.48		-36.72		-22.19	
Urban	-23.38		-34.28		-28.24		-37.32	

Source: Millennium Development Goals indicators, data base, Web site:<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>, Accessed on 20.10.12, Note: National Poverty Line is Internationally Adjusted

Table 2.5.3 represents the proportion of population below national poverty line in both the rural and urban areas of 4 South Asian countries at different points of time. It is evident that the percentage of urban population living below national poverty line by the latest year (shown in the above table) was highest in Bangladesh (21.30 percent), followed by India (20.90 percent), Nepal (15.50 percent) and Pakistan (13.10 percent). In contrast, at the same time, the percentage of rural population living below national poverty line was also highest in Bangladesh (43.8 percent), followed by India (33.80 percent), Nepal (27.40 percent) and Pakistan (27.00 percent). If we analyse the performance of urban poverty alleviation among the four south Asian countries, it is amply clear that Pakistan has made significant improvements in poverty alleviation with 37.32 percent relative decrease, followed by India with 34.28 percent relative decrease, Nepal with 28.93 percent relative decrease and Bangladesh with 23.38 percent relative decrease

2.5.3: Share of Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Population to total Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Population in South Asian Countries

The incidence of urban poverty resulting from rapid urban growth is visibly indicated by the proliferation of squatter and slum settlements, especially in metropolitan areas. In many of the slums, overall conditions in housing and health services were worse than those in the rural areas (Choudhury 1978). Since 1990, in terms of share of urban, slum and non-slum population to the total urban, slum and non-slum population in south Asia presented in Table (2.5.4) found that India has dominated all other countries in south Asia. In 2009, the share of urban and slum population in India

was about 8 and 4 times more than that of the share of Bangladesh, about 67 and 34 times more than that of Nepal and around 6 and 3 times more than that of Pakistan.

Table (2.5.4): Percentage Share of Population to total Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Population in South Asian Countries

Country	1990			2000			2009			2020 (P)		
	Urban	Slum	Non-Slum	Urban	Slum	Non-Slum	Urban	Slum	Non-Slum	Urban	Slum	Non-Slum
India	70.56	66.62	75.87	68.93	61.58	75.17	64.81	54.91	70.08	69.08	46.18	77.43
Nepal	0.53	0.66	0.37	0.77	1.08	0.51	0.96	1.61	0.62	1.02	2.28	0.56
Bangladesh	6.59	11.01	0.63	7.23	13.28	2.08	8.14	14.45	4.79	7.91	15.86	5.01
Pakistan	10.81	9.94	11.98	11.32	12.29	10.50	11.71	15.72	9.59	11.61	20.00	8.55

Source: Computed from world urbanization prospects 2011 revision and State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of city, UN-HABITAT

If the current trend of slum population between the periods of 2000-2009 remains continues, the share of slum population in India to the total slum population in south Asia is expected to reach about 46.18 percent in 2020, followed by Pakistan (20 percent), Bangladesh (15.86 percent) and Nepal (2.28 percent). The significant point is that when the share of urban and slum population in south Asia is increasing then at the same time the share of urban, slum and non-slum population in India is continuously declining indicating that other countries or at least one country other than India is urbanising at a faster rate than India, with higher slum incidence. From the statistical evidences, it is also seen that the share of non-slum population in all the countries except India was much lower than that of the share of slum population.

2.5.4: Level of Urbanisation (LOU) and Proportion of Slum & Non-Slum Population in South Asian Countries

So far as level of urbanization is concerned, from Table 2.5.5 it has been observed that since 1990, the degree of urbanization increased steadily in all the countries of south Asia, while, Pakistan recorded significantly higher level of urbanization, followed by India, Bangladesh and Nepal. In contrast, the proportion of slum population from 1990-2009 was highest in Bangladesh, followed by Nepal, Pakistan (except the year 1990 in which the percentage of slum population in Pakistan was lower than India) and India. Based on current annual increase (between the periods of 2000-2009) in slum population, the computed projection is that with the reducing

trend the proportion of slum population will be highest in Nepal, followed by Bangladesh, Pakistan and India by 2020.

Table (2.5.5): LOU and Percentage of Slum & Non-Slum Population in South Asian Countries

	1990			2000			2009			2020 (P)		
	LOU	Slum	Non-Slum	LOU	Slum	Non-Slum	LOU	Slum	Non-Slum	LOU	Slum	Non-Slum
India	25.55	54.21	45.79	27.67	41.05	58.95	29.72	29.40	70.60	39.44	17.87	82.13
Nepal	8.86	70.65	29.35	13.43	64.08	35.92	18.06	58.05	41.95	23.79	59.87	40.13
Bangladesh	19.81	95.90	4.10	23.59	84.46	15.54	27.56	61.60	38.40	37.22	53.58	46.42
Pakistan	30.58	52.79	47.21	33.14	49.88	50.12	35.59	46.57	53.43	46.76	46.06	53.94

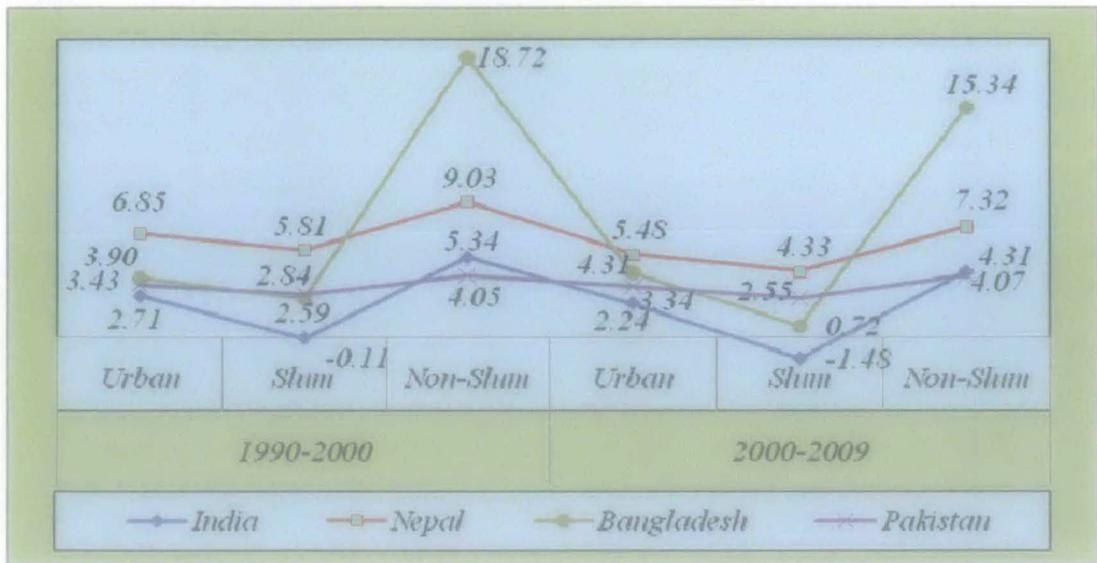
Source: Computed from World Urbanization Prospects 2011 Revision and State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of City, UN-HABITAT

A significant change in relation to the degree of urbanization and proportion of slum population is observed in south Asian countries. The level of urbanization in India increased from 25.55 to 29.72 percent during the period of 1990-2009, whereas, the proportion of slum population decreased from 54.21 to 29.40 percent and the reduction was the highest among the other countries in south Asia. In Bangladesh, the percentage of slum population (highest in south Asian countries) decreased from 95.90 to 61.60 percent. In Nepal, percentage of slum population decreased from 70.65 to 41.95 percent. Pakistan with higher level of urbanization, show a decrease in the proportion of slum population from 52.79 to 46.57 percent during 1990-2007. The higher level of urbanization along with relative lower proportionate decline in the slum population implies that the government has failed to improve the lives of slum dwellers may be due to the weak implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes, lack of scaling up the programmes and increasing in-migration. From the above discussion, one can conclude can be made that India is far better than other countries in terms of improvement the living conditions of the slum dwellers.

2.5.5: Annual Growth Rate Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Population in south Asia

Already, it has been shown that there was a declining trend in the growth rate of urban, slum and non-slum population in the developing regions. Yet, south Asia and northern Africa were exceptions, where slum growth rates were negative.

Figure (2.5.6): Annual Growth Rate of Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Population in South Asian Countries



Source: Computed from State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities, UN-HABITAT

Among the four countries in south Asia, the annual growth rate of urban population was significantly higher in Nepal, followed by Bangladesh, Pakistan and India during the periods of 1990-2000 and 2000-2009. In contrast, the slum growth rate was also highest in Nepal, followed by Pakistan and Bangladesh at the same period of time. Among the south Asian countries shown in Table (2.5.6) India is the only country recorded the negative growth rate of slum population over the same periods (1990-2000 and 2000-2009).

2.6: Access to Basic Amenities among Slum/Non-slum Population in South Asian Countries

2.6.1: Types of Shelter Deprivation in Slums

Not all slums are homogeneous and not all slum dwellers suffer from the same degree of deprivation. According to UN-HABITAT, the degree of deprivation depends on how many of the five conditions that define slums (poor access to improved water, poor access to sanitation, non-durable housing, insufficient living area and insecure tenure) are prevailing within a slum household. Shelter deprivation is measured in terms of living area of the slum household. A house is considered to provide a sufficient living area for the household members if not more than three people share the same room (State of the World Cities, 2006/07).

Table (2.6.1): Shelter Deprivation of Slum households in South Asian Countries

Country	Percent of Slum Population by Shelter Deprivation (2005)				
	All types	One Shelter Deprivation	Two Shelter Deprivation	Three Shelter Deprivation	Four Shelter Deprivation
Bangladesh	70.8	27.5	29.7	13.4	0.2
India	34.7	27.8	6.9	---	NA
Nepal	60.7	34.4	12.3	14	---
Pakistan	---	---	---	---	---

Source: Computed from the "State of the World's Cities 2010/11": Bridging the Urban Divide, UN HABITAT

Table (2.6.1) illustrates the degree of shelter deprivation among the slum population in the four south Asian countries in 2005 based on the reports of the state of the world cities 2011/12. It is apparent from the above table that shelter deprivation of the slum households was highest in Bangladesh (70.80 percent), followed by Nepal (60.7 percent) and India (34.70 percent). On the other hand, in terms of different types of shelter deprivation, 57.20 percent of the household had one and two types of shelter deprivation taken together in Bangladesh as against 46.70 in Nepal and 34.70 percent in India. Three and four types of shelter deprivation taken together were significantly higher in both the Bangladesh and Nepal at about 14 percent. In terms of degree of shelter deprivation, the condition of slum households in India were much better compared to Bangladesh and Nepal.

2.6.2: Enrolment in Primary Education in Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Population by Shelter Deprivation

Education is one of the most important social assets that impact the well being of human society and its impact on the livelihood strategy is reflected by the socio-economic status of the people, particularly for the urban poor. Access to education is always greater in cities rather than rural areas, but as far as the enrolment in primary education of the urban poor is concerned, it is also a fact that social, cultural and economic barriers hinder the slum dwellers to enroll their children in schools and to complete primary education. According to UN-HABITAT reports 2010/11, the net enrolment ratios in the non-slum areas has increased but decreased in the slum areas in countries like Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. On the other hand, in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, less than 40 percent of the children in the poorest socio-economic quintile completed primary education compared to 70-80 percent in the richest quintile. In Nigeria, children are 35 percent less likely to attend school than those from non-slum areas. Similarly, in Bolivia, only 10 percent of children in poorest

quintile complete primary school as compared with 40 percent of those in non-slum areas.

In terms of net enrolment ratio in primary education among the South Asian countries (Table-2.6.2), India dominates not only the regions of the developing world but also the other South Asian countries. According to MDGs reports 2010 and 2012, the net enrolment ratio in primary education in India was 98.2 percent, followed by Bangladesh (88.4 percent) in 2008, Pakistan (74.1 percent) in 2010 and a lower percentage of net enrolment ratio has been registered by Nepal (61.6 percent) in 2008.

Table (2.6.2): Enrolment in Primary Education in Urban, Slum & Non-Slum by all types of Shelter Deprivation in South Asian Countries

Country	Year	Urban			Non-Slum			Slum		
		M	F	Gender Gap	M	F	Gender Gap	M	F	Gender Gap
Bangladesh	1996	77.70	74.90	2.80	87.00	75.80	11.20	66.20	73.70	-7.50
	2004	79.00	80.90	-1.90	92.50	78.40	14.10	77.70	81.10	-3.40
India	1998	91.00	88.20	2.80	96.60	95.20	1.40	86.80	83.20	3.60
	2005	80.10	80.50	-0.40	86.50	86.50	0.00	77.70	78.40	-0.70
Nepal	1996	83.80	85.50	-1.70	93.50	97.40	-3.90	80.70	81.50	-0.80
	2006	93.50	89.40	4.10	98.50	97.70	0.80	91.60	85.80	5.80
Pakistan	1990	75.00	69.90	5.10	83.00	83.50	-0.50	73.70	67.70	6.00
	2006	78.10	76.40	1.70	83.40	87.10	-3.70	76.90	73.70	3.20

Source: Computed from the "State of the World's Cities 2010/11": Bridging the Urban Divide, UN-HABITA

So far as enrolment in primary education among urban, slum and non-slum population is concerned, the latest data available from the state of the world cities 2011/12 for the four south Asian countries presented in Table (2.6.2), it has been seen that the primary enrolment in urban areas for both male and female were highest in Nepal (93.5 and 89.4 percent respectively) with the gender gap of 4.1 percentage points, followed by India (80.1 and 80.5 percent respectively) with gender gap of 0.4 percentage points, Pakistan (78.1 and 76.4 percent respectively) with gender gap of 1.7 percentage points and Bangladesh (77.7 and 74.9 percent respectively) with the gender gap of 2.8 percentage points. The statistical data clearly indicate that there exists wide variation in the gender disparity in primary enrolment in urban, slum and non-slum areas among the South Asian countries. But India and Bangladesh are the only countries, where gender disparity in enrolment in primary education is negative in the year 2004 and 2005 respectively, i.e., in these countries, the proportion of urban female enrolment in primary education was higher than the male counterpart.

As expected, slum enrolment in primary education was lower than the non-slum enrolment. Following the MDGs target, the enrolment in primary education for both male and female slum population in the latest available year among the countries shown in Table (2.6.2) was highest in Nepal (91.6 and 85.8 percent respectively), followed by Bangladesh (77.7 and 81.1 percent respectively), India (77.7 and 78.4 percent respectively) and Pakistan (76.9 and 73.7 percent respectively). When compared to India, the position of Bangladesh was far better in case of primary enrolment in urban, non-slum and slum areas. If we turn our attentions to the gender disparity in the enrolment of primary education among slum dwellers in South Asian countries, it is apparent that the female enrolment ratio in primary education among the slum dwellers in Bangladesh and India was higher than that of the male counterpart. In other countries namely, Pakistan and Nepal, the enrolment of male slum population in primary education was marginally higher than the female counterpart. Whatever be the progress and achievements, India is the only country in South Asia, where the enrolment in primary education has decreased substantially. But, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal have made significant progress in the enrolment of primary education among the slum dwellers.

2.6.3: Malnourished Children (under5) in Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Population by Shelter Deprivation.

Demographic and health survey data between 1990 and 2007 shows that serious malnutrition has been widespread in urban slums of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Children in the poorest income groups are malnourished at twice the rate of their counterparts in the richest ones (State of the World's Cities, 2010/11).

Table (2.6.3): Percentage of Malnourished Children (under 5) in Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Population in South Asia by Shelter Deprivation at different points of time

Country	Year	Total	Urban	Non-Slum	Slum
Bangladesh	1996	54.60	39.40	22.70	44.00
	2007	36.00	30.60	11.20	37.20
India	1992	51.80	44.50	39.00	52.60
	2005	42.50	34.30	21.00	39.50
Nepal	1996	48.40	35.40	15.70	38.10
	2006	42.70	29.00	15.00	34.80
Pakistan	1990	49.60	40.40	37.20	50.70
Relative change (%)					
	Year	Total	Urban	Non-Slum	Slum
Bangladesh	1996-'07	-34.07	-22.34	-50.66	-15.45
India	1992-'05	-17.95	-22.92	-46.15	-24.90
Nepal	1996-'06	-11.78	-18.08	-4.46	-8.66

Source: Computed from the "State of the World's Cities 2010/11": Bridging the Urban Divide, UN-HABITAT

From Table 2.6.3, it is found that in the 1990's, the proportion of malnourished children (under 5) in urban areas was highest in India (44.5 percent), followed by Pakistan (40.4 percent), Bangladesh (39.4 percent), Nepal (35.4 percent) and in the first decade of 21st Century, the proportion of malnourished children (under 5) reduced substantially to 34.3 percent in India, followed by Bangladesh (30.6 percent), and Nepal (29 percent). The percentage of malnourished children under five was substantially higher in slum areas compared to non-slum areas in all the countries of South Asia, where India and Pakistan have dominated all other countries. Focusing our attention to the progress in arresting the increase in malnourished children under 5 in both the slum and non-slum areas, it is clear from the Table 2.6.3 that the highest improvement in slum areas has taken place in India with 24.90 percent relative decrease, followed by Bangladesh with 15.45 percent relative decrease and comparatively slower improvement has taken place in Nepal with 8.66 percent relative decline. Thus, to narrow the gap between slum and non-slum areas, upgradation of slum and squatter settlements should effectively be linked with the health and nutritional programmes.

2.6.4: Cooking medium in Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Households by Shelter Deprivation

Statistical evidences show that among the countries of South Asia, there existed wide variations in types of fuel use among the slum/non-slum households. Among the South Asian countries as seen from Table (2.6.4), 43.70 percent of the slum household in India use LPG/Natural gas which was about 10 times higher than that of the slum household in Bangladesh (4.40 percent) and more than double in the slum household of Nepal (21.20 percent). Similarly, 78 percent of the non-slum population in India use LPG/Natural gas, followed by Nepal (59.90 percent) and Bangladesh 44.80 percent).

In terms of the use of non-solid fuel items in both the urban and non-slum areas, India recorded the highest percentage (about 60 and 80 percent respectively), followed by Nepal (about 44 and 65 percent respectively), Bangladesh (about 20 and 46 percent respectively). On the other hand, in these countries, the highest percentage of slum households in Nepal use wood as primary energy source at about 52 percent, followed by 49 percent in Bangladesh and 33 percent in India.

Table (2.6.4): Types of Energy used for Cooking in Urban, Slum & Non-Slum Households by Shelter Deprivation in South Asian Countries

Country	Year	Household	Electricity	LPG/Natural Gas	Kerosene	Wood	Coal	Other
Bangladesh	2006	Urban	0.50	19.30	0.60	55.00	...	24.60
		Slum	0.10	4.40	0.10	49.30	...	46.10
		Non-Slum	1.00	44.80	1.00	42.90	...	10.30
India	2006	Urban	0.90	58.70	8.20	22.00	4.80	5.40
		Slum	0.90	43.70	9.70	32.80	5.90	7.00
		Non-Slum	1.00	78.00	6.30	8.10	3.40	3.20
Nepal	2006	Urban	0.40	40.40	15.80	35.60	0.10	7.70
		Slum	...	21.20	15.60	52.40	0.10	10.70
		Non-Slum	0.80	59.90	16.00	18.20	0.20	4.90
Pakistan	2006	Urban	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Slum	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Non-Slum	...	...	...	...	...	...

Source: Computed from the "State of the World's Cities 2010/11": Bridging the Urban Divide, UN-HABITAT

Bangladesh, the only country in South Asia, where about 95 percent of the slum household use solid medium of cooking that includes traditional energy sources like straw, grass, dung, agricultural crop residue, sawdust etc., followed by 63 percent of the household in Nepal. In contrast, in India, about 54 percent of the slum household use commercial energy sources namely, electricity, LPG/Natural Gas, biogas and kerosene. Urban and non-slum residents also showed a similar picture, where about 80 and 53 percent of the households used traditional fuel in Bangladesh, followed by Nepal (about 23 and 43 percent respectively) and India (about 32 and 15 percent respectively). Among the traditional sources of solid fuel, maximum percentage of the households uses wood to meet the cooking energy needs.

2.7: Conclusion: MDGs and the Progress in the Lives of Slum Dwellers in the Developing World and South Asian Countries

In the light of Millennium Development Goal: 7, Target 11, the proportion of the urban population living in slums in the developing world has declined from 38.43 percent to an estimated 31.52 percent with 17.98 percent relative decrease, as against 14.08 percent relative decrease in the previous decade. According to the reports of the state of the world's cities 2011/12, a total of 227 million people in the developing world have moved out from slum conditions during 2000-2010 i.e. the target of MDG has achieved by 2.2 times before the deadline. Not only the significant numbers of slum dwellers have moved out from slum condition, but more than 200 million slum dwellers are also enjoying better living conditions.

Region wise slum scenario shows the living of 24 million slum dwellers (about 11 percent of the global moved out slum dwellers) in the last decade have been moved out in Africa, where, in Northern Africa the percentage of slum population declined faster than any other region of the developing region with the highest relative decrease of 18.79 percent during 2000-2010 as against 25.20 percent in 1990-2000. The comparative figures in the relative decrease between two decades clearly indicate that in northern Africa, an impressive improvement in the living conditions of slum dwellers has taken place prior to the implementation of the MDG's target. Thereafter, with the MDG target, the region with the effective government policies and implementation has been able to improve the conditions of 8.7 million slum dwellers.

2.7.1: Relative Change in Slum Population of the Developing Regions

In sub-Saharan Africa 16 million slum dwellers have moved out from slum conditions. This region with the highest percentage of slum population and second lowest percentage of urban population has recorded relative increase in the percentage of slum population (38.33 percent) in 2000-10, as against 39.57 percent in 1990-2000 (Table 2.7.1). The report of the state of the world's cities 2010/11 stated that there is no sign of narrowing the urban divide and it has also been predicted that nearly half of the growth in urban population will take place with high poverty and deprivation in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020. Countries in this region namely Benin, Ethiopia, Malawi, where the HDI is lower, the slum incidence is expected to remain very high at about 70 percent. Zimbabwe in particular, the percentage of slum population has increased from 3.3 to 17.9 percent during the period of 2000-2010, mainly because of forced eviction in 2005 and the deteriorating economy of the country (State of the World's cities, 2010/11).

Table (2.7.1): Relative Change in Slum Population of the Developing Regions

Region/ Relative change	Relative Change in Slum Population	
	1990-2000	2000-2010
Developing Region	16.83	7.90
Northern Africa	-25.20	-18.79
Sub-Saharan Africa	39.57	38.33
Latin America and Caribbean	9.73	-4.17
South Asia	6.99	-1.91

Source: State of the World's cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of cities, UN-HABITAT

Among the other major regions of the world, Latin America and the Caribbean have made comparatively good progress to attain the slum target, because four most

populated countries of Latin America namely Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Brazil have significantly improved the living conditions of about 79 percent of the region's slum dwellers. Around 13 percent of the progress in the MDG slum target has been achieved by Latin America and the Caribbean, where 30 million people have moved out from slum conditions since the year 2000. The primary factors behind the success were economic and social policies that have improved incomes of the poor urban households.

On the other end, the report of the state of the world's cities, 2011/12 stated that Asia has been able to make successful efforts to reach the Millennium target during 2000 to 2010, for improving the lives of an estimated 172 million slum dwellers and they will no longer be deprived from adequate housing. In the Asian region, most significant progress has been made by Southern and Eastern Asia, where 145 million urban residents (73 million and 72 million, respectively) moved out from the slum conditions. South-Eastern Asia has also made significant progress with the improvement of 33 million slum residents, representing 22 per cent decrease during 2000-2010. Only Western Asia has shown little progress, where the number of slum dwellers increased by 12 million between 2000 to 2010 due to political disturbance that increased the number of refugees in slums and simultaneously the targeted programmes for the urban poor have been disrupted. Consequently, as an example, the percentage of slum population, particularly in Iraq, increased from 17 percent in 2000 (2.9 million) to 53 percent in 2010 (10.7 million). In contrast, growth of slums has declined significantly in countries like Indonesia, Vietnam and Philippines. Besides, in Cambodia, Myanmar, slum prevalence is also very high because the development parameters for the urban poor could provide only low quality of life. Eastern Asia as a whole has reduced slum incidence by an estimated 25 percent. However, with the continuing and rapid urban growth, it is expected that the number of slum dwellers in the region will increase to about 203 million in 2020 (computed on the basis of annual increase in slum population).

In South Asia, about 55 percent of the slum dwellers (105 million people) are concentrated in India, the most populated country in the sub-region. Based on India's significant reduction in slum prevalence, it has been predicted that the slum population in South Asia will reach 187 million in 2020 (computed on the basis of annual increase in slum population). In Bangladesh, still, slum prevalence remains

very high at 61.60 percent. The global financial crisis is also likely to cut the government revenues and abilities to invest in the delivery of housing and basic services which are most essential to narrow the urban divide. Several countries have made significant progress and are clearly moving ahead not only in slum reduction but also in slum prevention. It is estimated that in absolute numbers, China and India have improved the lives of not less than 125 million people out of slum conditions over the period 2000-2010.

2.7.2: Relative Change in Slum Population in South Asian Countries

As per as report of State of the World's Cities, 2010/11, disparities have increased with rapid economic growth of the countries. China has managed to improve living conditions of slums through economic reforms and modernisation policies. Pro-growth policies with the targeted pro-poor programmes have generally reduced the number of slum dwellers. More importantly, various targeted programmes in the expanding cities as well as among the newly developed slum dwellers (which provide cheap housing for the more than 8 million migrant workers who flock to the cities every year) have been accelerated through development mechanisms and consequently deliver success. In terms of moving out from the living conditions of the slums, it is evident from Table (2.7.2) that the relative deceleration in slum growth has occurred only in India among the Asian countries over the period 1990-2000 to 2000-2010 indicating that the country has more or less successful implemented its programmes to improve the condition of slums.

Table (2.7.2): Relative Change of Slum Population in South Asian Countries

Country/Relative Change	Relative Change in Slum Population	
	1990-2000	2000-2009
India	-1.09	-12.55
Nepal	75.88	46.43
Bangladesh	29.10	6.67
Pakistan	32.33	25.43

Source: Computed from State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities, UN-HABITAT

But among all these countries, India has been successful in improving the lives of about 60 million slum dwellers during the periods of 2000 to 2010 (State of the World's Cities 2010/11) and the resulting proportion of slum population have reduced from 41.05 per cent in 2000 to an estimated 29.40 per cent in 2010, with a relative decrease of 12.55 per cent. This significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers

has been possible for India mainly because of the four significant strategies: (1) increasing the productivity of the urban poor by building skills and providing access to micro-credit, (2) improving the living conditions of the poor through provision of basic services and development of slum settlements, (3) providing security of tenure to poor families living in unauthorised settlements and improving their access to low-cost housing and subsidised housing finance (4) empowering the urban poor through community development and encouraging their participation in decision-making process.

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