

Krishnaiah, Dr. K. "Tirupati City With Many Slums ; An Ill Health Environment To The Piligirim Centre" in Martin J. Bunch, V. Madha Suresh and T. Vasantha Kumaran, eds., *Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Environment and Health, Chennai, India, 15-17 December, 2003*. Chennai: Department of Geography, University of Madras and Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. Pages 226 – 232.

TIRUPATI CITY WITH MANY SLUMS ; AN ILL HEALTH ENVIRONMENT TO THE PILIGIRIM CENTRE

Dr. K. Krishnaiah

Associate Professor, Department of Geography, S.V.University, Tirupati- 517 502

Abstract

Industrialisation results in increasing urbanization. The accumulation of wealth and availability of more economic and job opportunities in the urban centres have resulted in the concentration of the population in the congested metropolitan areas and thus the formation and growth of big slum areas. These slum centres, when combined with industrial sectors, become more hazardous from the stand point of environmental degradation and pollution. If these slum centres are many, it is hazardous and causes ill health to the city like Tirupati, an important pilgrim centre in the country. In the present study the emphasis was on the ratio of the total number of slums. 42 were identified in the small area 0.715 sq. km as per 2001 census in Tirupati. The author makes a caution that the higher the density of slums in the pilgrim centre, the more will be the ill health environment in terms of spread of diseases.

Introduction

The phenomenon of rapid urbanization in conjunction with industrialization has resulted in the growth of slums. The sprouting of slums occur due to many factors, such as the shortage of developed land for housing, the high prices of land beyond the reach of urban poor, and a large influx of rural migrants to the cities in search of jobs etc. The existence of 'urban slums' is one of the major problems faced by almost all the metropolitan cities throughout the world and Indian cities are no exception. These slums are known by different names in different regions of India such as 'Katrass' or 'Jhuggi-Jhonpari' in Delhi, 'Jhopadpatti' or 'Chawls' in Mumbai, 'Bustees' in Kolkata, 'Cheris' in Chennai and 'Keris' in Bangalore. The basic characteristics of these slums essentially remain the same.

As the author lives in Tirupati, an important pilgrim centre, his experience in the city motivated him to do research on slums in Tirupati.

Objectives of the present study

- To identify the number of slums in Tirupati city.
- To know the city area and its population size.
- To collect population information of the different slums in Tirupati.
- To identify the denser slums.
- To assess future implication of the ill health environment of the town.
- To make cautions and give suggestions to future developments.

Materials and Methods

The present investigation is based on both secondary and primary data. The secondary data pertaining to slums, land use and population have been collected from the Tirupati Municipal Authority office and Tirupati Urban Development Authority office. The secondary data was also collected from the census hand books of Chittoor district (1971, 1981 1991 and 2001).

The primary data relating to the structure, pattern and growth of slums and socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers have been collected with the help of schedules.

In the present study statistical techniques are applied to describe the significance of slums in Tirupati.

Location and Topography

Tirupati is a sacred place of pilgrimage and is situated in the latitudes of 13°40'N and longitudes of 79°27'E and at a height of 500 feet above the mean sea level in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. Tirupati rests in the midst of an amphitheatre encircled by a range of eastern ghats. The Tirumala hills form the northern part of this chain and the city is about two kilometres to the south of the hills.

Tirupati city is easily accessible by train and road. Renigunta junction on the way to Tirupati is on the way of Mumbai-Raychur - Chennai broad gauge line. Tirupati city, in the name of Tirupati east railway station, is connected to Renigunta junction. It is also connected to the three state capitals of the southern states by road and it is about 580kms from Hyderabad; 137 kms from Chennai and 248 kms from Bangalore. The district head quarter Chittoor is about 69 kms south west of Tirupati.

Tirupati city is not a district head quarter but a mandal head quarter. It is the seat of the administration of Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanams' management as several of its offices are located here. It derives its importance and growth mainly due to its location as a pilgrim centre. It has also grown up as an important centre of education with the location of Sri Venkateswara University, Sri Padmavathi Mahila University, N.G. Ranga Agriculture University, Veterinary, Medical and several engineering and educational colleges and also famous hospitals such as SVIMS, BIIRD etc.

The data related to slums in Tirupati were presented in the form of Tables.

Results

The data collected from the above methods were analysed for further study of Tirupati city with special reference to slums (Table-1).

Table-1
Slums in Tirupati as per 2001 census

S.No	Name of the slum	Ward No.	Population per Hectare	Area in Hectares	Population Density
1.	Sapthagiri Nagar	2	3520	4.80	733
2.	Suraiah Katta	2	1121	0.20	5605*
3.	Sivajyothi Nagar	3	4586	2.40	1910
4.	Yerramitta	3	3691	2.00	1845
5.	Korlagunta, Maruthi Nagar	4	8444	4.40	1919
6.	Sanjay Gandhi Colony	4	6422	1.20	5351
7.	Chandrasekhar Reddy Colony	5	527	2.40	219
8.	Kothapalli	5	551	0.80	688
9.	Yerukula Colony	5	97	0.80	121
10.	Ashok Nagar	6	5377	1.20	4480*
11.	Scavengers City	7	314	2.00	157

12.	Murikineela Gunta	8	2382	6.00	397
13.	Yosodha Nagar	9	4094	1.20	3411
14.	Tataiah Gunta	13	3879	1.20	3232
15.	Mallaiiahgunta Katta	14	1023	1.21	845
16.	Chintalachenu	17	704	1.20	586
17.	Uppanki Harijanwada	17	869	2.40	362
18.	Laxmipuram	18	1178	1.16	1015
19.	Gandhipuram	18	430	0.30	1433
20.	Dasarimatam	18	2158	1.51	1429
21.	New Indira Nagar	19	3173	0.48	6610*
22.	Pedda Harijanawada	20	5742	1.00	5742*
23.	S.T.V. Nagar	20	4164	4.04	1030
24.	Bhagat Singh Colony	21	552	0.50	1104
25.	Pachigunta	26	171	0.24	712
26.	Chenna Reddy Colony	27	5620	2.96	1898
27.	Ambedkhar Colony	27	215	1.45	148
28.	Haridwar Colony	27	60	0.20	300
29.	Singalagunta	28	1922	2.97	647
30.	Sanjeevaiah Colony Beside	28	337	0.58	581

	Maty. Hospital				
31.	Giripuram	29	1172	1.50	781
32.	Sanjeevaiah Colony opp.to Medical College	29	1222	0.60	2036
33.	Nehru Nagar	31	7367	7.28	1011
34.	Bommagunta	32	943	1.40	673
35.	Ramakrishna puram	32	165	0.89	185
36.	Poola Thota	34	1568	0.12	13066*
37.	Kummarathopu	35	3164	0.28	11300*
38.	Indira Nagar	36	3173	3.69	859
39.	Parvathipuram	17	1504	0.56	2685
40.	Lenin Nagar	17	246	0.35	702
41.	Ambedkhar Society Colony	27	66	1.00	66
42.	Chinnagunta	32	144	0.94	153

Table -2
TIRUPATI IN A GLANCE

Tirupati	:	An Important Pilgrim Centre in India
Total Area	:	16.28 sq.kms.
Total Population	:	3.2 lakhs
Total No. of slums	:	42
Floating population	:	50,000 per day

Table -3
Over Crowded Slums in Tirupati

S.No	Name of the Slum	Population Density	Poor Water Supply	Water, air, Soil Pollution
1.	Poola Thota	13066	T	T
2.	Kummarathopu	11300	T	T
3.	New Indira Nagar	6610	-	T
4.	Pedda Hrijanwada	5742	T	T
5.	Suraiah Katta	5605	T	T
6.	Sanjay Gandhi Colony	5351	-	T
7.	Ashok Nagar	4480	T	T

Discussion

The slums are characterised by dilapidated and infirm housing structures, poor ventilation, acute over-crowding, faulty alignment of streets, inadequate lighting, paucity of safe drinking water, water- logging during rains, absence of toilet facilities and non-availability of basic physical and social services. The living conditions in slums are usually unhygienic and contrary to all norms of planned urban growth and are an important factor in accelerating transmission of various air and water borne diseases.

Under these circumstances in the important pilgrim centre Tirupati, there are 42 slums identified within the municipal limits of Tirupati city (Fig-1 & Table-1). Korlagunta slum is the biggest one in terms of population (8444), while Haridwar colony is in the lowest population size with 60 persons. The fourth ward (14866) is having the highest number of slum population while the twenty seventh ward is having the lowest number of slum population with 66 persons. These slums have originated due to rural - urban migrations and the unplanned mushroom growth of slums are a threat to the pilgrim centre.

The total number of slums identified were 42 in a small important area. The total area of the city is 16.28 sq.kms and its population is 3.2 lakhs according to the 2001 census (Table-2). Among 42 slums, the overcrowded slums are Poolathota, Kummarathopu, New Indira Nagar, Pedda Harijanawada, Suraiyah Katta, Sanjay Gandhi Colony and Ashok Nagar as shown in the Table-3. In these slums poor water supply and unhygienic environments of water, air and soil are also observed. Since it is an important pilgrim centre and educational centre with 50,000 floating population per day, the town is elevated to a special grade municipality.

In these slums the socio-economic conditions and quality of life are also very poor. The poor pilgrims coming to the city generally stay in the slum areas, where certain people dwelling in slums give lodging and board to the pilgrims, eg. Nehru Nagar, Parasala Veedi etc.

Summary and Conclusions

The area of the Tirupati city is 16.28 sq.kms. In this small area there are 42 slums. Moreover it is an important pilgrim centre in the country. Its population is 3.2 lakh according to 2001 census and floating population is 50,000 per day. Korlagunta slum is the biggest one in terms of population (8444). Poolathota, Kummarathopu, New Indira Nagar, Pedda Harijanawada, Suraiyah Katta and Ashok Nagar are identified the denser slums. These slums are causing an ill health environment to the town in terms of over crowding, unclean environment, drainage water stagnation, presence of mosquitoes, disease proneness and favourable conditons to the spread of diseases etc. If the situation continues, unknown diseases come with the strangers and go with the strangers if they stay in the unhygienic conditions of the slums. It is more a danger for the city and for the piligrims. If these slums are not developed in a planned way, it becomes a disease spreading centre instead of piligrim centre causing people to be afraid to come to Tirupati, and it loses its sanctity and importance.

Suggestions

1. Apartment type of colonies must be developed with high ventilation in the place of slums.
2. Roads and streets must be spaciouly widened.
3. Hygenic awareness must be created in the slum dwellings.
4. Underground drainage system, toilets must be constructed.
5. Vaccinations must be administrated to the slum dwellers for epidemic and endemic diseases.

References

1. Anupam Singh, (1997) Adolescent Girls in slum problems and prospects, Annol. Pub.Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
2. Maurya, S.D. (1988). Urban Environment Management, Chgugh Pub. Allahabad.
3. Eswaramma, P. (2000) M.Phil Thesis on "Urban Growth in Tirupati city with special reference to slums".