

# SLUM POPULATION – CENSUS 2001

## Introduction

---

The twenty-first century is expected to witness not only sustained population growth but also more of urbanization. Economic vibrancy of large urban centers in offering diverse employment opportunities and means of livelihood is the chief cause of migration to these areas. In India, migration has played an important role in accelerated urban growth. However, it concomitantly results in transfer of rural poverty to urban areas. Rural migrants are attracted to the urban areas for economic reasons regardless of the fact that physical infrastructure in terms of housing, drinking water supply, drainage etc. is not so adequate in the cities. Cities have been the hubs of economic growth. But planned urbanization has been marred to an extent by the excessive demand for basic amenities resulting in deterioration in the physical environment. The quality of life has thus suffered due to continuing influx of migrants and, consequent, widening of the gap between demand and supply of essential services and other infrastructure in these areas. Unchecked migration, particularly, aggravates housing problem resulting in increase in the land prices. This forces the poor to settle for informal solutions resulting in mushrooming of slums and squatter settlements. The problem of urban slums has been faced at some point of time by almost all the major cities throughout the developing world. Indian cities have not been an exception.

2. Sociologists, economists, environmentalists and town planners have perceived slum and problems of slum dwellers from their own point of view. But there is no denying the fact that the slums have become an integral part of the phenomenon of urbanization and are, in a way, manifestation of overall socio-economic policies and planning in the states and in the country. But this should not discount the fact that the slum dwellers have been contributing significantly to the economy of the city by being a source of affordable labour supply for production both in the formal and informal sectors of economy. Comprehensive information on the slums is essential for formulation of an effective and coordinated policy for their improvement/rehabilitation as they have not received due attention in urban planning and have remained an area of neglect. Piecemeal efforts in the past have brought about some improvement in the lives of the slum dwellers, but this is not enough. A lot more is required to be done to improve the quality of life in slums.

3. It is in this background that in the 2001 Census, an innovative attempt was made to collect detailed demographic data about slum areas across the country, particularly, in cities and towns having population of 50,000 or above in 1991. Formation and identification of slum enumeration blocks prior to the conduct

---

of 2001 Census has made it possible to compile and prepare special tables for slums. It is for the first time in the history of census in the country that the slum demography is being presented on the basis of the actual count. The systematic delineation of slums for collection of primary data on their population characteristics during population enumeration itself may perhaps be the first of its type in the world. What is significant is that this did not bring large additional burden on the financial resources or the manpower resources. The information on different characteristics of the slum dwellers has been collected through the same census questionnaire of 'Household Schedule' which was canvassed for the population enumeration in the county at the 2001 Census.

4. The concept of slums and their definition vary considerably across the states depending upon the socio-economic conditions or local perceptions prevailing in the society. There are regional differences in the names by which these slums are known in India. In Delhi, slums are commonly called 'Jhuggi-Jhonpari', whereas in Mumbai 'Jhopadpatti' or 'Chawls' are the names for slums, it is 'Ahatas' in Kanpur, 'Bustees' in Kolkata, 'Cheris' in Chennai and 'Keris' in Bangalore. But physical characteristics in most of these slums are essentially the same. They are usually a cluster of hutments with dilapidated and infirm structures having common toilet facilities, suffering from lack of basic amenities, inadequate arrangement for drainage and for disposal of solid wastes and garbage. These inadequacies make the living conditions in slums extremely suboptimal, unhygienic and results in usually higher incidence of air and water borne diseases for the dwellers.

5. Under Section-3 of the Slum Area Improvement and Clearance Act, 1956, slums have been defined as mainly those residential areas where dwellings are in any respect unfit for human habitation by reasons of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangements and designs of such buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation, light or sanitation facilities or any combination of these factors which are detrimental to safety, health and morals. Thus, conceptually slums are compact overcrowded residential areas (and not isolated or scattered dwellings) unfit for habitation due to lack of one or more of the basic infrastructure like drinking water, sanitation, electricity, sewerage, streets etc.

### **Identification of slum Enumeration Blocks at the 2001 Census**

6. For the Census of India 2001, following definitions of slums have been adopted for enumeration :

- (i) *All specified areas in a town or city notified as 'Slum' by State, UT Administration or Local Government under any Act including a 'Slum Act'.*
- (ii) *All areas recognized as 'Slum' by State, UT Administration or Local Government, Housing and Slum Boards, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act;*
- (iii) *A compact area of at least 300 population or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities.*

---

7. The Charge Officer identified all areas as per clause (iii) above and these were approved by the Directorate of Census Operations. These enumeration blocks were later duly recorded in the urban charge register, which is the basic control register for identifying enumeration blocks under the control of Census Officer in charge of a town.

8. Slum areas in the municipal towns of each State/Union territory, having population of 50,000 or more at the 1991 Census, only were selected for tabulations, as the slum is an urban phenomenon confined to big towns and cities. These towns account for more than three fourths of the urban population of the country. Most Municipalities have lists of notified or non-notified slums. This made it easy to identify the 'Slum Enumeration Blocks' during the formation of the Enumeration Blocks in wards of a town at the house listing stage as well as the population enumeration stage. Care was taken to see that blocks carved out of 'slum areas' were co-terminus with the ward boundaries and no non-slum area was tagged to a Slum Enumeration Block.

9. Though the criteria adopted for formation of slum EBs were largely confined to municipal towns having population 50,000 and above, a few non-municipal towns which reported to have slum areas were also included and slum EBs were carved out in these areas by the local authorities. There were thirteen Census Towns in the National Capital of Delhi and one each in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh in this category.

10. The identification and location of slum enumeration blocks in each city and town was done by the respective local authority whose employees were also the census functionaries in their areas. Clusters of 60-70 households with at least 300 population were carved out as separate slum enumeration blocks. In states and union territories where notified slums or slum development authority did not exist (despite there being slum like settlements), the conceptual definition was provided to the local town authority to include all areas, which met the criteria of slums under a statute.

11. The analysis of the data in this report provides an overview of the population characteristics of slums and squatter settlements and is expected to serve as a benchmark for pragmatic and realistic town planning while dealing with the issues of slums and slum dwellers. Slum population has been reported from 640 cities and towns of twenty-six states/union territories. More than 72,000 Enumeration Blocks (EBs) have been identified as slum EBs in these cities/towns which constitute nearly 22 per cent of the total EBs in urban areas. In the remaining nine states/union territories which includes Himachal Pradesh Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram and the union territories of Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Laksha-dweep, no separate slum enumeration blocks were identified by the local administration at the Census 2001. Consequently, there is no identified slum population in these states/union territories.

## Salient features

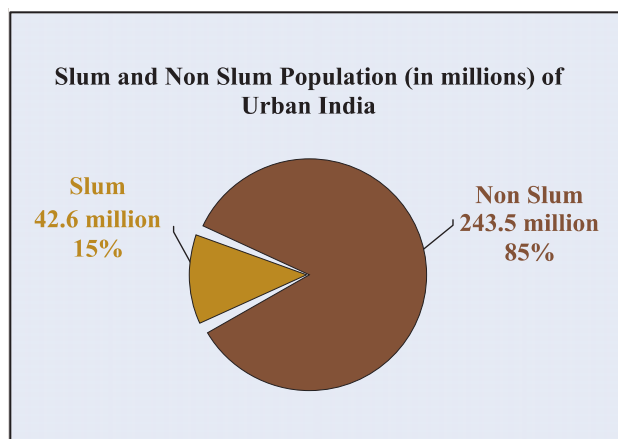
### Size and distribution of the slum population

12. A total of 42.6 million people living in 8.2 million households have been enumerated in slums of 640 cities/towns spread across 26 states and union territories in 2001 Census. The slum population constitutes 4 per cent of the total population of the country. The slum dwellers in the country constitute nearly a seventh of the total urban population of the states and union territories reporting slum population and 23.1 per cent of the population of the 640 cities/towns reporting slums. Statement below gives population profile of the contry and *Chart-1* provides slum, non-slum population in urban India.

#### POPULATION PROFILE

	Population
India	1,028,610,328
Rural	742,490,639
Urban	286,119,689
States/Uts reporting slums	283,741,818
Towns reporting slums	184,352,421
Slum	42,578,150
Non slum (640 cities)	141,774,271

CHART-1



13. Among the states, Andhra Pradesh has the largest number of cities and towns (77) reporting slum population followed by Uttar Pradesh (69), Tamil Nadu (63), Maharashtra (61), West Bengal (59), Madhya Pradesh (43) and Gujarat (41). On the other hand, in seven states/union territories, namely, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry and Goa, slums have been reported from less than six towns each. In the remaining states/union territories, the number ranges from 6 in Uttaranchal to 35 in Karnataka (*Statement 1.1*). *Map-1* shows spatial distribution of towns in India having slum population in 2001. Statement given below shows distribution by population size of Cities & Towns reporting slum and percentage of slum population living therein at the aggregate level.

#### DISTRIBUTION BY POPULATION SIZE OF CITIES/TOWNS & SHARE OF SLUM POPULATION

Pop. Size of cities/towns (in lacs)	Number of cities/towns	Population of cities/towns (in lacs)	%	Slum population in cities/towns (in lacs)	%
40 +	5	350.8	19.0	110.6	26.0
20-40	8	212.4	11.5	37.6	8.8
10-20	14	170.3	9.2	28.8	6.8
5-10	42	310.5	16.9	58.1	13.7
1-5	309	605.1	32.8	139.4	32.7
Less than 1	262	194.4	10.6	51.3	12.0
Total	640	1843.5	100	425.8	100

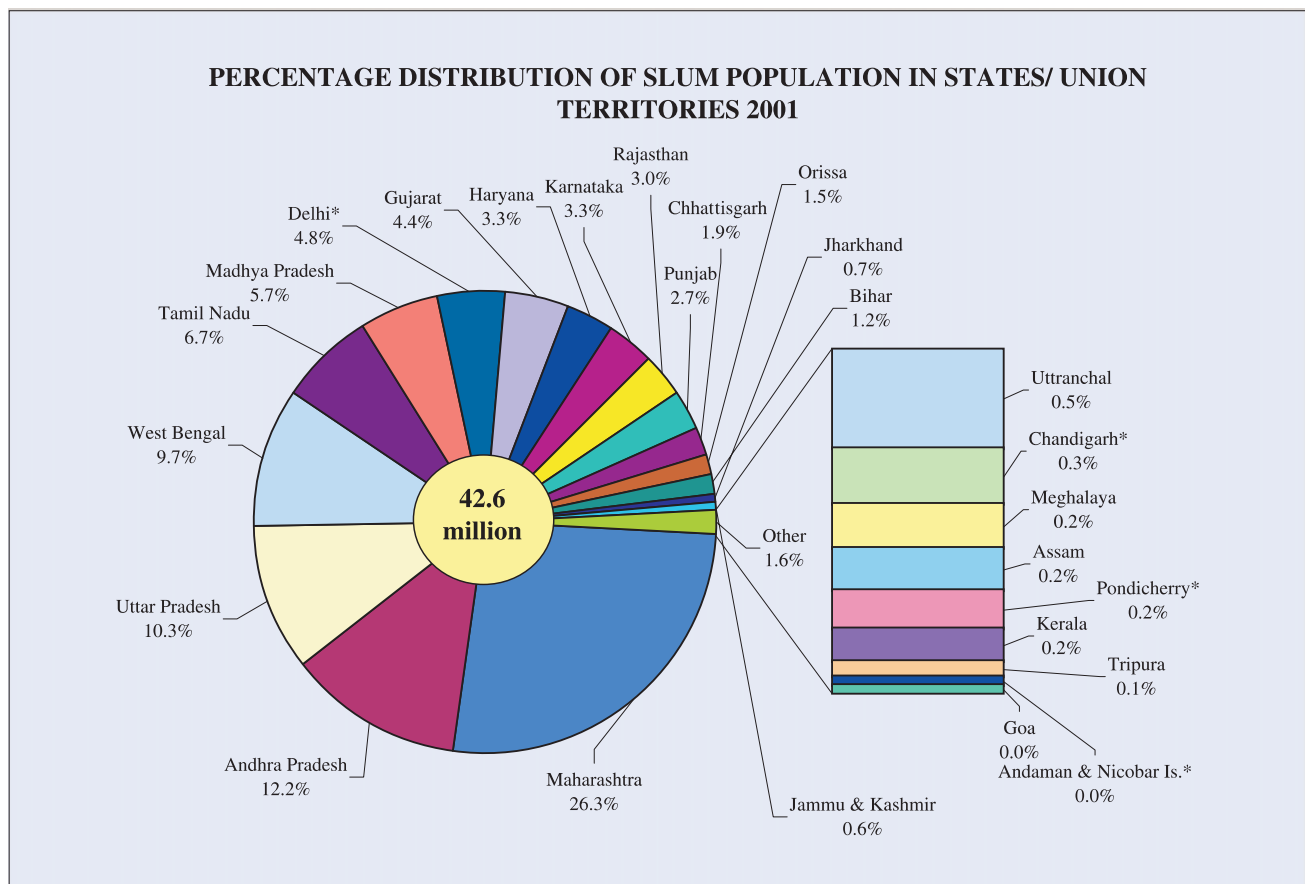
14. Slums in the 61 towns of Maharashtra account for 11.2 million people, which is more than one fourth of the total slum population in the country. This is followed by Andhra Pradesh (5.2 million), Uttar Pradesh (4.4 million), West Bengal (4.1 million) and Tamil Nadu (2.9 million). In fact, these 5 states account for about two thirds (65.3 per cent) of the total slum population of the country. Among other states/union territories,

Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have reported more than 1 million slum dwellers each in the cities and towns in 2001. (*Statement 1.1 column 6*) provides total slum population enumerated by states and union territories. *Map-2* presents distribution of 78 towns spread across 16 states and union territories having more than 100,000 slum population in 2001.

15. As percentage of the total urban population, Maharashtra has the highest proportion of slum population (27.3%) followed by Andhra Pradesh (24.9%) and Haryana (23.2%). In thirteen

States/Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands 10-20 per cent of the urban population lives in slums. Kerala has the lowest percentage of slum population in the urban areas at 0.8 per cent while Goa (2.2%) and Assam (2.4%) have also a very low proportion of the slum population. (*Statement 1.1 column 7*). Percentage distribution of the 42.6 million slum population among states and union territories is presented in *Chart 2*.

CHART-2





16. In terms of percentage of slum population to the total population of cities/towns reporting slums, Meghalaya has the highest proportion (65.0%), followed by Maharashtra (33.3%), Haryana (33.1%), Andhra Pradesh (32.2%) and Chhattisgarh (31.4%). In Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, more than 20 per cent urban population lives in slums. Kerala (2.0%) has the lowest proportion of urban population living in slums, with Goa (8.3%) and Assam (6.0%) being the only other states with less than 10 per cent of the urban population living in slums.

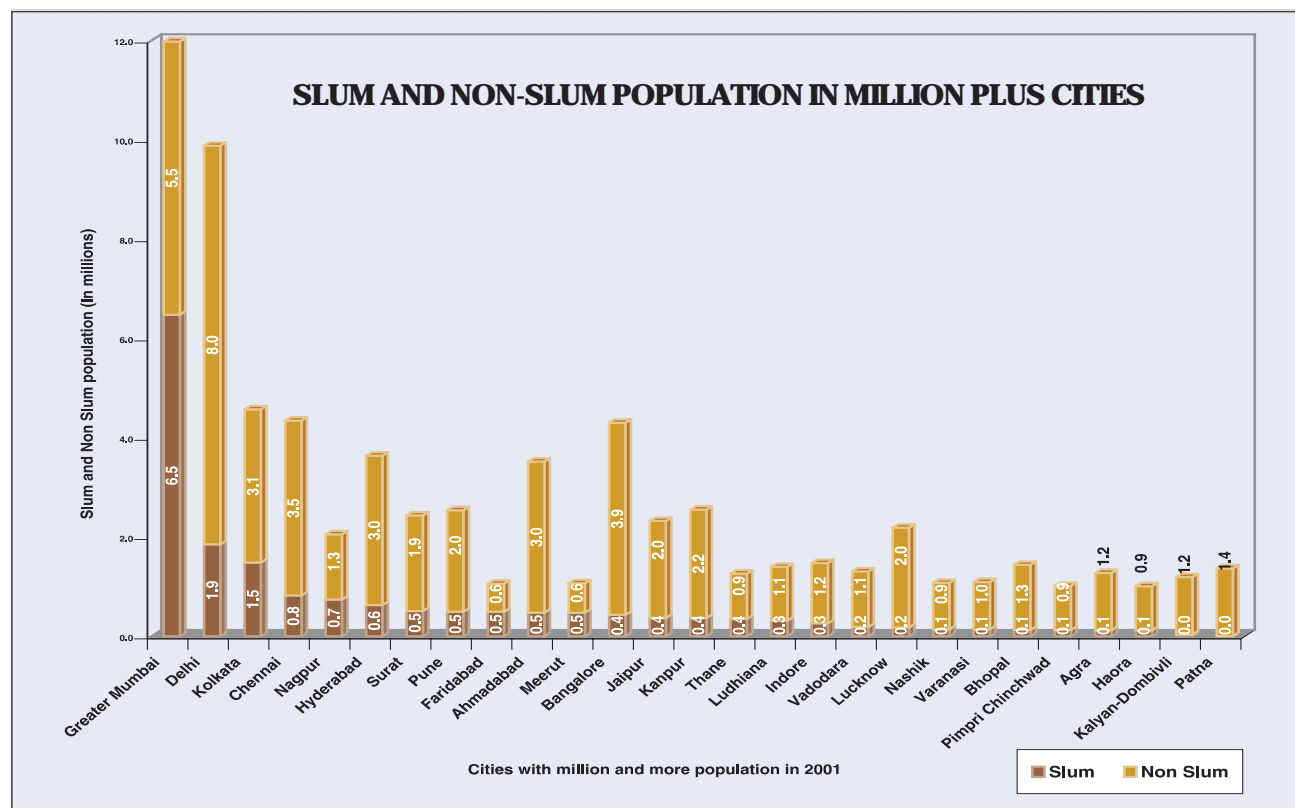
### Slum population in million plus cities

17. The large urban cities are centres of economic growth and contribute significantly to the GDP of the country. Cities with population above 100,000 account for 60 per cent of country's urban population in 2001. Rapid growth of cities in the post independence period, however, has been associated with emergence and growth of slum and squatter settlements, characterized by

overcrowding and lack of sanitation and basic infrastructure. There are 27 cities having more than one million population in the 2001 Census in the country. (Refer Statement 1.2 and Map-3). Slum enumeration blocks have been delineated in all these 27 cities.

18. As may be discerned from the Statement 1.2, about 17.7 million population lives in slums in the cities with population above one million, which is about 41.6 per cent of the total slum population in the country. In absolute numbers, Greater Mumbai has the highest slum population of around 6.5 million followed by Delhi (1.9 million) and Kolkata (1.5 million) (Maps-4 to 7). The slum areas of Surat, Hyderabad, Chennai and Nagpur have more than half a million population each. Except Patna (3,592) and Kalyan Dombivli (34,860), all cities have slum population above 100,000. Chart-3 depicts distribution of slum and non slum population in million plus cities. The size of the slum population in these cities is an indicator of the scale of migration which has taken place.

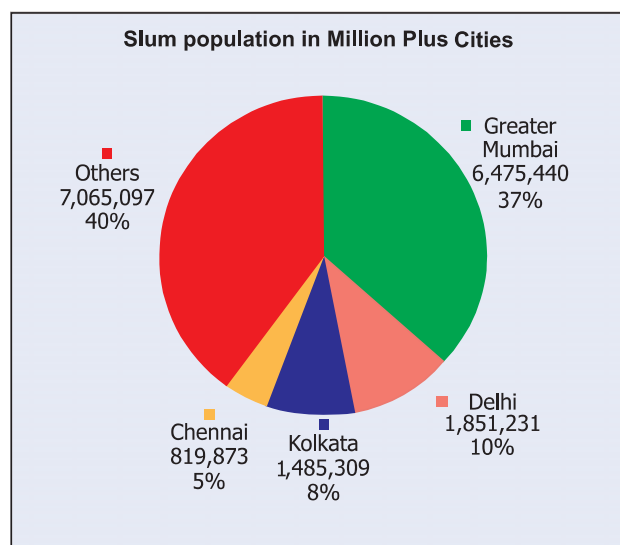
CHART-3



19. *Statement 1.2 column 6* shows that 54.1 per cent of population of Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation live in slums, which is the highest among the cities followed by Faridabad (46.5%) and Meerut (44.1%). Patna (0.3%) has the lowest proportion of slum population. The slum population is more than a quarter of the total population in Kolkata (32.5%), Nagpur (35.9%) and Thane (27.8%). Ludhiana (22.5%) and Surat (20.9%) have more than 20 per cent of their population living in slums. In Lucknow, Bhopal, Patna, Agra and Kalyan-Dombivli, the proportion of slum population is below 10 per cent.

20. The concentration of slum population in the 27 large cities is evident from the fact that 41.6 per cent of the total slum population of the country resides in these cities. Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation alone accounts for about one seventh (15.2%) of the total slum population of the country and more than one third (36.6%) of the total slum population of the million plus cities. Four Municipal Corporations, namely, Greater Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai together account for 25.0 per cent of the total slum population of the country and around 60 per cent of the total slum population of the million plus cities as depicted in *Chart-4* below.

CHART-4



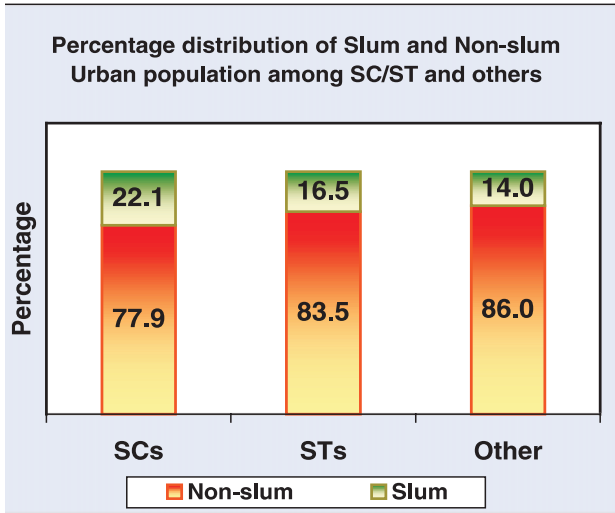
*Maps 4(i), 5(i), 6(i) & 7(i)* succinctly illustrate the concentration of slum population in wards of four major cities; Greater Mumbai, Delhi Municipal Corporation, Kolkata and Chennai and *Maps 4(ii), 5(ii), 6(ii) & 7(ii)* show the percentage distribution of slum population in these mega cities.

### Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the slums

21. Out of the total 42.6 million people enumerated in the slum areas in 2001 Census, 7.4 million are Scheduled Castes and one million Scheduled Tribes. They constitute 17.4 per cent and 2.4 per cent of the total slum population. The proportion of Scheduled Castes is higher in the slum areas if compared to the population of Scheduled Castes in non slum areas (10.8%), and urban areas of the country (11.8%). In case of Scheduled Tribes, it is at par with the urban areas (2%) but far lower than the national average of around 10.9 per cent for rural areas.

22. Distribution of Slum and non slum urban population among the Scheduled Castes, Schedules Tribes and other than Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes of 26 states and union territories brings out the fact that percentage of Scheduled Castes population is notably higher in the slums when compared with corresponding percentage of Scheduled Tribes and other populations. Of the total Scheduled Castes in the urban areas, 22.1 per cent are in the slums. This percentage is 16.5 per cent for Scheduled Tribes only 14 per cent for other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the 26 states and union territories as seen from the *Chart-5* given below.

CHART-5



23. *Statement 1.3* gives population, percentage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the slums and urban areas of states and union territories. In absolute terms, Maharashtra has the largest number of Scheduled Castes living in slums at around 1.3 million followed by Uttar Pradesh (0.9 million), Andhra Pradesh (0.8 million), Tamil Nadu (0.7 million) and West Bengal (0.6 million). In Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka and Gujarat, more than 2,00,000 Scheduled Castes population each has been enumerated in their slum areas in 2001.

24. The concentration of Scheduled Castes population can be gauged in terms of their percentage to total slum and urban population in the states/union territories. The slum areas of Chandigarh have the highest percentage of Scheduled Castes (39.1%) followed by Punjab (28.6%). In slums of Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry also more than one fourth of the population belong to the Scheduled Castes. In 23 out of 25 states and union territories where the Scheduled Castes are notified, the percentage of Scheduled Castes population living in the slum is

higher as compared to the non slum urban areas of the respective states/union territories. In slum areas of Chandigarh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the percentage of the Scheduled Castes population is almost twice that of the total urban population.

25. The Scheduled Tribes population in the slums at the state level presented in (*Statement 1.3 column 4*) shows that numerically Maharashtra has the highest number of Scheduled Tribes (2.8 lakh) living in its slum areas followed by Andhra Pradesh (1.3 lakh). In Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Karnataka they number more than 50,000. The Meghalaya, a predominantly tribal state has the highest percentage (50.8 per cent) of tribal population among slum population followed by Jharkhand (16.7%), Orissa (11.5%) and Chhattisgarh (7.9%). In the remaining states/union territories their percentage ranges from the lowest 0.1 per cent in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to 4.6 per cent in Karnataka. Expectedly Scheduled Tribes are far and few in numbers in the urban slums as compared to Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes population. However, it is worth noting that their proportion in slum areas is relatively much higher than in non slum urban areas. This may be indicating as in the case of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes migrants to cities also end up in slums more often.

26. *Statement 1.4* gives the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the slum and their percentage in slum and non slum areas of million plus cities. Delhi with 4.8 lakh Scheduled Castes slum dwellers tops the list followed



---

by Greater Mumbai (3.9 lakh) and Chennai (2.7 lakh). In the Bangalore, Pune, Nagpur and Meerut more than one lakh slum dwellers have been returned as Scheduled Castes. In the slum areas of Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmadabad, Kanpur, Jaipur, Indore, Faridabad and Pimpri Chinchwad more than 50,000 Scheduled Castes each were enumerated in slum areas.

27. The proportion of the Scheduled Castes population at 14.6 per cent in the slum areas is higher against 10.3 per cent in urban areas of million plus cities. In 16 cities the Scheduled Castes population is more than 20 per cent and in 6 cities it is between 10-20 per cent while in only 5 cities it is below 10 per cent. The proportion of Scheduled Castes among slum population is significantly higher than non slum areas in all cities.

28. Individually Pimpri Chinchwad with 40.8 per cent has the highest proportion of Scheduled Castes population followed by Chennai (32.8%), Bangalore (32.5%) and Agra (32.1%). Surat with only (5.9%) has the lowest Scheduled Castes population in its slums followed by Mumbai and Kolkata (6% each). In the slum areas of Chennai, Bangalore, Agra, Nashik and Pimpri Chinchwad, the percentage of the Scheduled Castes population is far higher as compared to their percentage among the non slum population of the respective cities. These cities are perhaps able to absorb more rural Scheduled Castes migrants.

29. As regards Scheduled Tribes population, Nagpur Municipal Corporation accounts for more than one lakh Scheduled Tribes in the slums followed by Greater Mumbai (56,567) and Surat (36,236). Jaipur, Vadodara, Thane and Nashik are the other cities where the slum areas have

more than ten thousand Scheduled Tribes population. (*Statement 1.4 Col.5*) provides city wise Scheduled Tribes population in the slum areas and brings out the fact that their number in the remaining cities is rather small.

30. The percentage of the Scheduled Tribes population in slums to all areas of million plus population cities, in states where Scheduled Tribes population is notified, reveals that Nagpur (14.6%) has the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes population in its slum areas followed by Nashik (12.1%), Surat (7.1%), Vadodara (6.9%) and Jaipur (5.4%). In 2 cities no Scheduled Tribes population has been enumerated in the slums while in the remaining 17 cities their percentage is low and ranges between negligible in Agra to 4.6 per cent in Bhopal. It is worth noting that as in the case of Scheduled Castes, slum areas have higher proportion of Scheduled Tribes compared to non slum areas.

### **Sex composition of the slum population**

31. Sex composition, i.e., the distribution of population among males and females, of slum population can be better understood in terms of sex ratio. Sex ratio of population is number of females per thousand males. There is preponderance of male population in the slum areas. The sex ratio of population in slums is 876 females per 1000 males, which is lower than that of the non-slum urban area of (904) of state/union territories reporting slums. The slum areas of Meghalaya, Pondicherry and Kerala have the distinction of having more females than males. The lowest sex ratio in case of slum population has been recorded in the slums of union territory of Chandigarh

(707). In the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Gujarat, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Maharashtra the sex ratio in slum areas is less than 900. (*Statement-1.7*).

32. The sex ratio of slum population is lower than non-slum urban population in 9 states/union territories, namely, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kerala while in the remaining 17 states/union territories the sex ratio of slum population is higher than the non-slum urban areas of the respective states. Contrary to the expectation that migration to slum areas would be of males initially and is followed by their families which would give a lower sex ratio in slum areas, the higher sex ratio in slums for many states is suggestive of the migration to slums more often of the complete families.

33. In the population of the 27 million plus cities, the sex ratio of slum population stands at 820 females per thousand males against 874 recorded for total non-slum population. A glance at the distribution of population by sex in the slums of million plus cities (Municipal Corporations) reveals that Surat Municipal Corporation in Gujarat has recorded the lowest sex ratio of 701 followed by Ludhiana (759) in Punjab, Greater Mumbai (770) in Maharashtra, Haora (779) in West Bengal, Faridabad (795) in Haryana and Delhi (780). Preponderance of males in the slums of million plus cities is evident by the fact that sex ratio in slums is less than that in the non-slum areas of the 13 cities including the large cities of Delhi, Greater Mumbai and Kolkata. Interestingly the sex ratio is more balanced in the slums of Chennai,

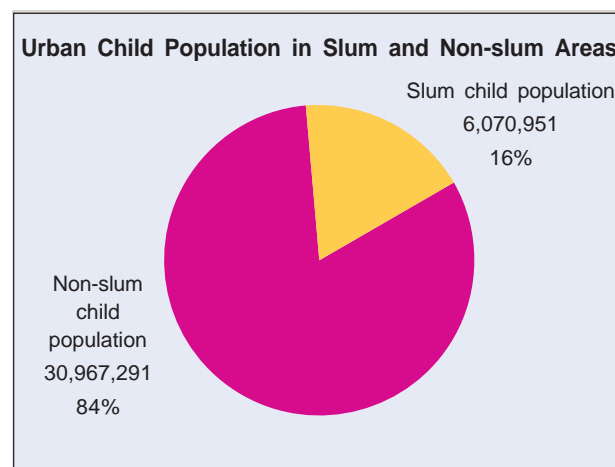
Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Bhopal, Patna, Agra, Varanasi, Pimpri Chinchwad and Nashik as compared to non-slum population of these cities. Kanpur has registered identical sex ratio of 857 both for non-slum population as well as slum population (*Statement-1.8*).

### Child population in the age group 0-6

34. *Statement-1.5* gives population aged 0-6 years in slums and its percentage to urban child population and total slum population by states and union territories. This data is presented with a view to help planners and administrators for health, hygiene and educational planning of the young population living in the slums exposed to environmental and social hazards. This also provides broad proxy indicator of recent fertility in the slum areas of these states and union territories.

35. More than 6 million children are living in the slums in the country and they constitute 16.4 per cent of the total child population of the urban areas of the 26 states/union territories reporting slums (*Chart-6*). In other words, every sixth urban child in the country in the age group 0-6 is a slum dweller.

CHART-6



---

36. At the state/union territory level around 1.6 million children (0-6) are residing in the slum areas of Maharashtra followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh with around 0.7 million each. 10 states/union territories namely West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Chhattisgarh have more than 1,00,000 children in the slum areas. More than 25 per cent of the urban children live in slums in the states of Maharashtra (30%), Andhra Pradesh (26.8%) and Haryana (25.7%). In other words every fourth child living in the urban area of these states is a slum dweller.

37. At the aggregate level 14.3 per cent of the total slum population is in the age group 0-6, while this proportion is 13.1 per cent for all urban areas of the country. In the 26 states/union territories, the percentage of child population in the age group 0-6 is more than (13.1%) that observed for all urban areas of the states. The highest proportion of population (20.9%) in this age group is in the slum areas of Chandigarh followed by Bihar (17.6%) and Rajasthan (17.5%). Besides these, in Uttaranchal, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat the percentage of child population in the age group 0-6 is more than 15% perhaps due to higher fertility among slum dwellers and also due to more migration of complete families to slums. Of the 7 states/union territories recording comparatively low child proportion in the slums, the north eastern state of Tripura has the lowest proportion of 0-6 child population at 10.3 per cent preceded by Jammu and Kashmir 10.7 per cent probably due to higher migration of individuals than families to the slum areas.

38. Around 2.5 million children in the age group 0-6 are living in the slum areas of million plus cities, which constitutes 27.3 per cent of the total child population of these 27 cities (*Statement 1.6*). In Greater Mumbai alone, number of children in the age group 0-6 are 0.86 million followed by 0.3 million in Delhi and 0.15 million in Kolkata. Thus, these 3 cities together account for more than half of the total child population in the slums of the million plus cities.

39. The proportion of child population in these cities brings out that more than 50 per cent child population of Greater Mumbai (62.8%) and Faridabad (50.6%) are living in slum areas followed by Meerut (48.5%) and Kolkata (38.3%). On the other extreme, Patna (0.3%) followed by Kalyan-Dombivli (4.0%) and Lucknow (8.8%) has less than 10 per cent of the total child population in the slums.

40. The percentage of population in the age group 0-6 in the slum areas of million plus cities stands at 13.9 per cent, which is slightly higher than that of all non slum urban areas. Jaipur has 18.7 per cent of the slum population in the age group 0-6 followed by Bhopal (18.0%) and Nashik (17.0%). In addition to these cities, the proportion of population in 0-6 age group in the slum areas of Delhi, Patna, Agra, Kalyan-Dombivli, Varanasi, Ahmadabad, Surat, Meerut, Faridabad and Pimpri Chinchwad is more than 15 per cent. The lowest proportion of population in age group 0-6 to the total slum population has been recorded in Kolkata (10.1%).

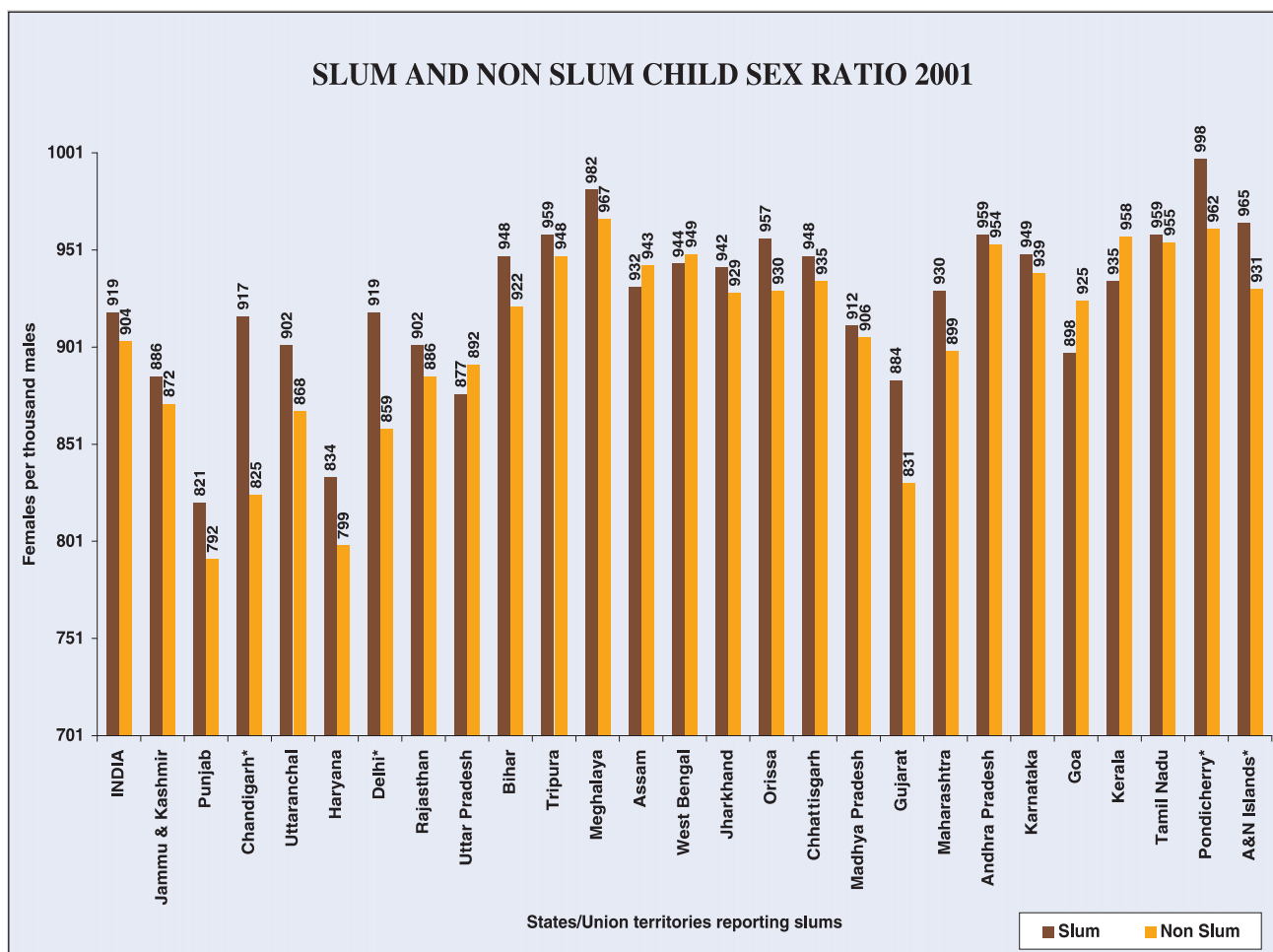
### **Child sex ratio in the age group 0-6**

41. As stated earlier, children in the age group 0-6 account for 14.3 per cent of the

population residing in the slums. The child sex ratio at 919, in the slum areas of 26 states/union territories where slum population has been reported, is higher than 904, recorded for non-slum urban areas of these states and union territories. The highest child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 is observed in the slums of Pondicherry (998) followed by Meghalaya (982) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (965). *Chart-7* brings out differentials in the slum and non slum child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 in the states and union territories reporting slum. It is interesting to note that in 12 states and union territories slum child sex ratio is above 943, a figure which is regarded as average

natural sex ratio at birth. The reasons for this need further investigation. In 21 out of 26 states and union territories, the child sex ratio in slum areas is higher than the corresponding child sex ratio in non slum urban areas of the respective states/union territories. Exceptions to this are Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Goa and Kerala where it is lower than the overall urban child sex ratio. Whether it suggests heterogeneity of the composition of the slum dwellers and/or incidences of differentials infant and child mortality is an issue that requires further research (*Statement-1.7 column 5 and 6*).

CHART-7



---

42. Child sex ratio in the slum areas of million plus municipal corporations exhibits a similar pattern. Chennai, Patna, Nagpur and Nashik have returned a high child sex ratio of above 950 in the slum areas. Besides these Bangalore, Hyderabad, Bhopal and Haora have child sex ratio of slum areas above 940, which is more or less equal to the natural sex ratio at birth. The lowest slum child sex ratio of 827 is reported in Ludhiana, followed by Agra (860), Faridabad (867) and Meerut (868). It is further observed that child sex ratio is higher in the slum areas than the one recorded for the non-slum population in 22 out of 27 million plus cities. Indore (897) and Lucknow (909) have recorded identical child sex ratio for slums and non-slum population. Thus it is seen that the child sex ratio in the slum areas is apparently nearer to the biological sex ratio at birth in 2001 Census when compared to the non slum population. (*Statement-1.8 columns 6 and 7*).

## Literacy

43. Literacy is an important social indicator, which throws light on the quality of life. It has long been recognized that social environment cannot improve much without attaining higher literacy levels. Hence, the prime focus here is to analyse the basic literacy pattern among the slum dwellers in the 26 states/union territories of the country and observe the degree of inequality in the levels of literacy of the slum dwellers.

44. It is noteworthy that in absolute terms only 26.7 million slum dwellers are literate. Expectedly males are quite ahead of females in terms of literacy with 15.8 million male and 10.9 million female literates being recorded among the slum dwellers in Census 2001. The corresponding literacy rates are 73.1 per cent for all slum

dwellers, 80.7 per cent for males and 64.4 per cent for females. The gender inequality in the level of literacy is well noticed with comparatively higher literacy rate for males and a gap of 16.3 percentage points.

45. *Statement-1.9* illustrates that regional heterogeneity in literacy levels exist also among slum dwellers. Overall the literacy rate in slum areas of the 26 states/union territories, which have reported slums, varies from a low of 54.8 per cent in Chandigarh to 88.3 per cent in Meghalaya. In all the 26 out of 27 states/union territories, which have reported slums, literacy rate among the slum dwellers is lower as compared to the urban literacy rates of their respective states/union territories, Meghalaya being the only exception. In addition, Tripura, Kerala and Maharashtra also recorded literacy rates above 80 per cent. All these 26 states/union territories have registered higher literacy rate among males as compared to females. In case of males, Meghalaya is again at the top spot with literacy rate of 91.1 per cent. Significantly besides Meghalaya, 13 states/union territories have recorded more than 80% male literacy rate among slum dwellers. In the slums of Chandigarh male literacy rate is only 64.9 per cent which is the lowest among these 26 states/union territories. As far as females are concerned, only 3 states, viz., Meghalaya (85.5%), Tripura (81.0%) and Kerala (80.2%) have reported literacy rate above 80 per cent among slum dwellers. Chandigarh is at the other extreme with only 39.5 per cent of its slum females as literates. The low literacy among slum dwellers in Chandigarh is attributable to migration from area with low literacy areas.

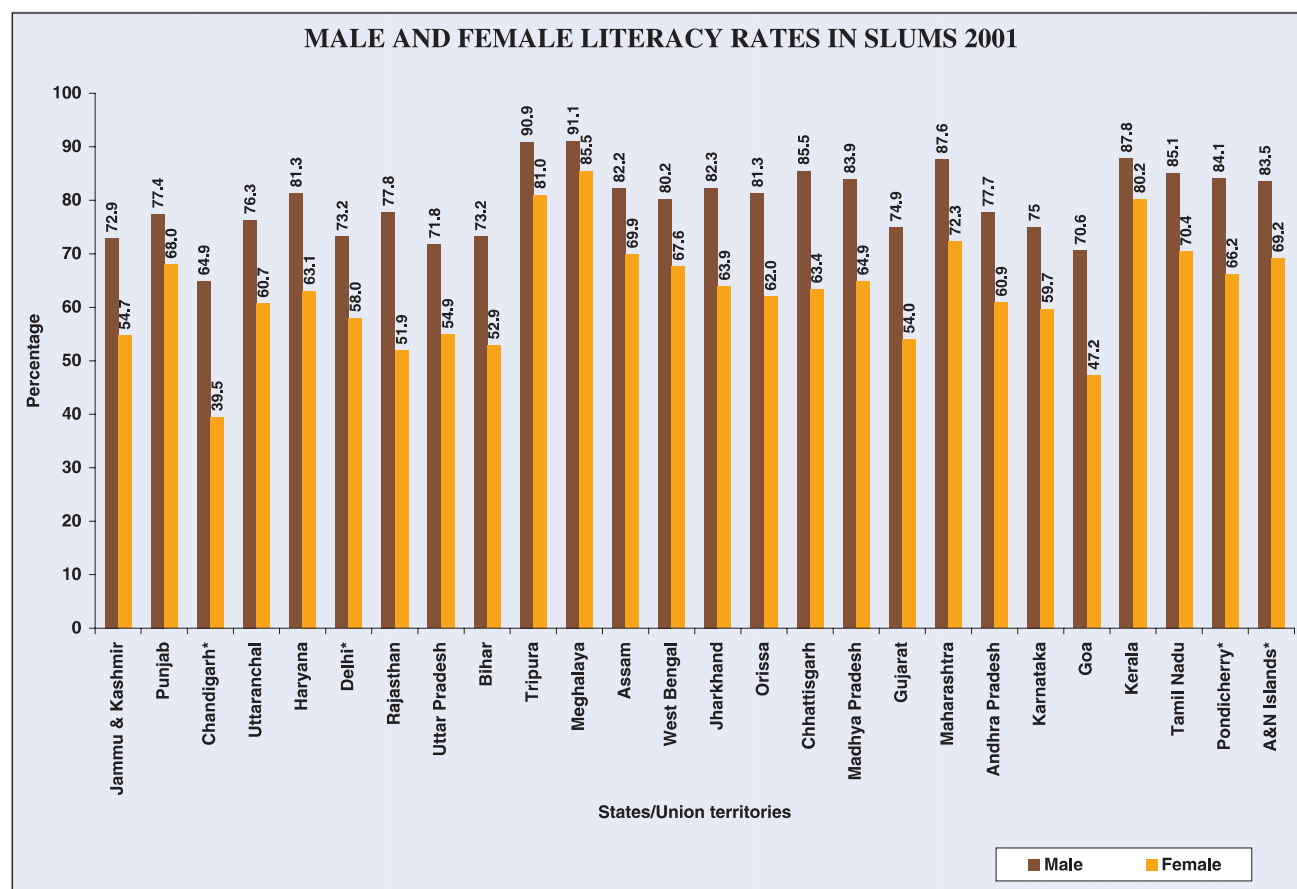
46. It would be worth analyzing the male-female gap in literacy that prevails in the slums of



these states/union territories. The statement clearly reveals that male-female gap is highest in Rajasthan state (25.9). Meghalaya has the credit of recording the lowest gap (5.7) closely followed

by Kerala (7.6). *Chart-8* depicts differentials in the male-female literacy rates among the slum population in the states and union territories in 2001.

CHART-8



47. *Statement-1.10* gives literacy rates of slum and non-slum population in million plus cities (Municipal Corporations). Among these core million plus cities, Nagpur is the only city, which has recorded literacy rate among the slum dwellers above 85 per cent. Most of the cities fall in the range of 60 to 80 per cent of the literacy rates of which four cities have registered literacy rate between 75-80 per cent. Jaipur, Agra and Meerut have comparatively low literacy rate among the slum dwellers. Male and female literates among the slum dwellers in Nagpur have been recorded as 91.5 per cent and 78.9 per cent respectively,

which are also the highest male and female literacy rates among the million plus cities. Patna which is at the bottom end of the list with only 52.5 per cent of its slum dwellers being literate, also registers the lowest slum male literacy rate of 56.9 per cent. Jaipur city in Rajasthan has female literacy rate of 47.0 per cent which is the lowest among the slums of the million plus cities. As far as the differential between male and female literacy among the slum dwellers in these million plus cities is concerned, Jaipur has registered the highest differential (26.0) while the lowest (6.3) is registered by Ludhiana.

---

48. *Statement-1.10 Columns 7 to 9* present literacy rate of non slum population in the million plus cities. It may be seen that while the male literacy in the non slum areas is higher by 7 percentage points the female literacy is higher by almost 13 percentage points. At the city level also, the levels of male and female literacy in slum areas is distinctly lower than the non slum population, particularly, in Patna, Agra, Meerut and Ahmadabad.

49. *Statement-1.11* depicts the distribution of slum population and literate slum population by range of percentage of slum literate population of cities/towns reporting slums. This statement shows that out of 640 cities/towns, the highest number of cities/towns (249) with 38.2 per cent of slum population have literacy rates in the range 70 to 80 per cent. Among the males the highest number of towns (266) has literacy rates in the range of 80-90 per cent while only 21 towns have the distinction of female literacy in this range. On the other hand 210 cities/towns have female literacy in comparatively lower range of 60 to 70 per cent. It is worth mentioning that in the case of males as many as 42 towns have literacy rates above 90 per cent among slum population with 6.7 per cent share of literate slum population whereas in case of females there is only one town in this range. It may be further observed that only two towns have returned literacy rate in slum areas below 30 per cent among the males whereas eleven towns are in this range of female literacy. Thus, the disparity in the male and female literacy rates among the slum population is pronounced in almost all cities and towns.

### **Work participation rate (WPR)**

50. *Statement-1.12* gives out work participation rates among the slum dwellers in

2001. Nearly one third of the slum dwellers are workers which is quite near to the urban WPR of 32.3 per cent. Sex wise pattern reveals that every second male in the slums is a worker (51.3%) while female WPR is low at 11.9 per cent, though it is slightly higher than that of the non slum areas (10.5%) of towns reporting slums.

51. In 15 states and union territories male WPR is above 50 per cent. Chandigarh slums have recorded highest WPR for total (39.6%) as well as male workers (58.3%). Bihar slums have returned the lowest WPR for total (25.8%) and males (42.0%). Meghalaya has returned the highest female WPR of 20.9 per cent followed by Karnataka (19.4%) and Goa (18.6%). Uttar Pradesh has registered the lowest female WPR at 6.1 per cent.

52. One of the most striking features of the slum population is the preponderance of main workers in these areas similar to the urban areas of the country. The main workers in slum form 90.0 per cent of the total workers. In 13 states/union territories, main workers are above 90 per cent and in 12 it is between 80-90 per cent while in only one state (Goa) it is below 80 per cent. Slum areas of Chandigarh seem to be economically more vibrant with 96.2 per cent main workers followed by Andaman & Nicobar Islands 95.3 per cent. Conversely, Goa has the highest marginal workers (28.5%) followed by Jharkhand (16.4%).

53. *Statement-1.13* provides similar information for 27 million plus cities in the country. Among the million plus cities total work participation rate varies between the highest in Surat (42.1%) to the lowest in Agra (25.3%). Surat also has the highest male WPR of 63.8 per cent in slum areas followed by Haora (58.0%) while Agra has the lowest male WPR of 42.1 per cent. Bangalore has the highest female WPR of 23.1 per cent

---

followed by Nashik 17.8 per cent and Pune 17.7 per cent. Patna has returned the lowest female WPR of 4.0 per cent followed by Meerut 4.3 per cent. Main workers in the million plus cities range from the highest 97.5 per cent in Surat and the lowest 79.0 per cent in Bhopal.

### Categories of workers

54. *Statements-1.14 & 1.15* present distribution of working population in slums among four broad industrial categories by State/Union territories and million plus cities respectively. As expected almost the entire work force in slum areas are engaged in non-agricultural activities with 91.1 per cent workers engaged in other work (OW) followed by household industry (5.1%), agricultural labourers (2.9%) and cultivators (only 0.9%). In fact, percentage of other workers in slums is far higher than that of all urban areas together at the national level which is 87.4 percent. At the state/union territory level except Bihar which has the lowest proportion of other workers (78.6%), it is higher than the national average in this category. In nine states other workers are more than 95.0 per cent.

55. In the million plus cities also, preponderance of workers in the category of OW is pronounced as 95.3 per cent workers are engaged in this category. Among the million plus cities the percentage of other workers ranges from the highest 98.4 in Kalyan-Dombivili and the lowest in Varanasi (68.2%). Varanasi has the highest percentage (29.6) of household industry workers followed by Patna (9.5%) and Agra (8.2%). In the remaining cities the household industry workers ranges from the lowest 1.2 per cent in Surat and 7.5 per cent in Lucknow. Agricultural labourers and cultivators constitute less than 5.0 per cent in all the cities.

### Summary and conclusions

56. To sum up 4 per cent of the country's total population live in slum areas of which one fourth are in Maharashtra. Greater Mumbai, the economic capital of the country, with a slum population of 6.5 million has the highest number of slum dwellers and Delhi Municipal Corporation in the national capital Delhi is a distant second, with 1.9 million slum dwellers. The four large metropolises of Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai together have 11 million population living in slums. Concentration of slum population is seen in those states/union territories which are industrialized and have higher level of urbanization like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi and Chandigarh. There is higher concentration of slum population in the large urban centres. Conversely in comparatively less developed states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the phenomenon of slums is not as pronounced.

57. The data suggests sex selective migration of males to the slum areas of the towns. Sex ratio of slum population as a whole is very masculine and almost 29 points lower than that of the non slum urban population of these towns though the regional variations exist. In majority of the states, on the other hand, child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 is higher in the slum population as compared to the non-slum and urban population.

58. 9.8 million persons consisting of 3.8 million males and 6 million females in the age group 7+ are illiterate giving literacy rates of 80.7 per cent for males and 64.4 per cent for females. This is indicative of types of human resources in the slums. The male-female differential in literacy is higher in the slum areas as compared to the urban areas of respective states and union territories. The literacy rate of the slum population is lower

as compared to the urban population of the respective states and union territories *Chart-9*. A

significant feature is that the literacy rates of slum dwellers in majority of states are higher than their

CHART-9

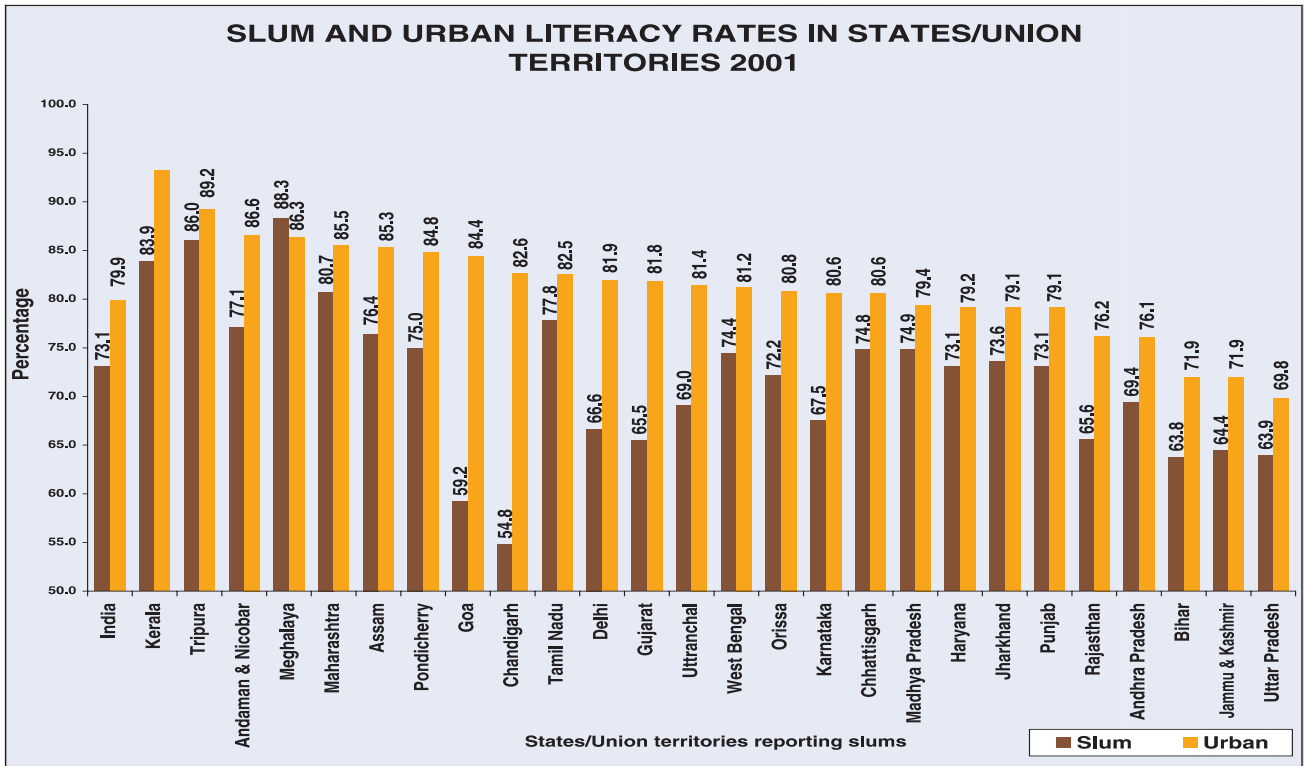
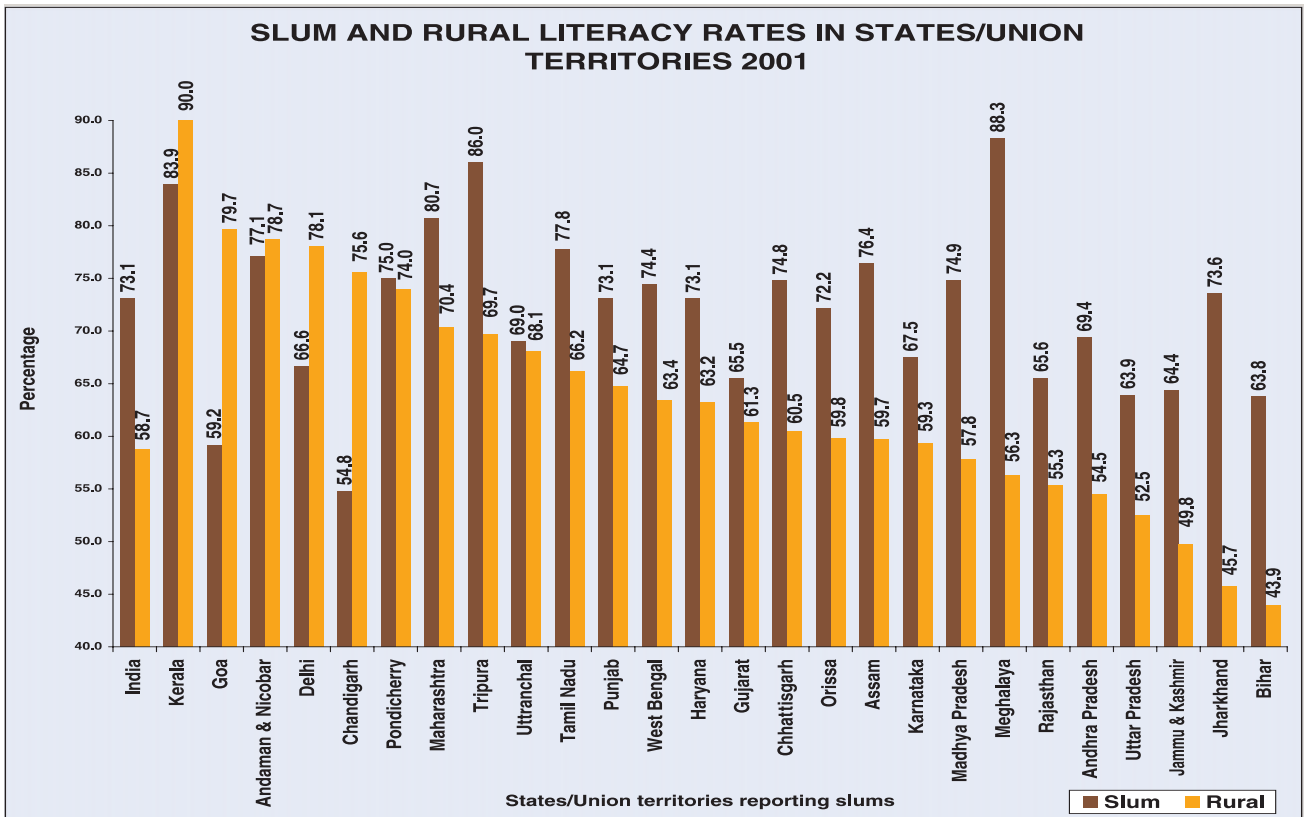


CHART-10



---

rural literacy rates. Exceptions to this are, however, Chandigarh and Delhi (these are more than 90 per cent urbanized) besides Goa, Kerala and A & N Islands. This may be because the slum population of these areas consists perhaps of migrants predominantly from out side. *Chart-10* brings out differentials in the slum and rural literacy rates in the states and union territories.

59. Another characteristic of slum population is that proportion of Scheduled Castes population is quite high in the slums as compared to non-slum and urban areas of majority of the states/union territories. When compared with their proportion with the rural areas at the national level, it is lower by two percentage points. However, in 14 states and union territories percentage of Scheduled Castes population is higher in the slum areas as compared to the rural areas. Significantly, every fourth person in the slum areas of Rajasthan, Chandigarh,

Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Punjab belongs to this segment of population (Scheduled Castes).

60. There are over 6 million children (0-6 age group) living in the slums in the country in unhealthy hygienic conditions and not so conducive environment for their growth and development. This situation is grave in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana where every fourth child in urban area is a slum dweller. The scenario of children in the large metropolitan cities of Greater Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata is that every second or third child in the city is a slum dweller. Male WPR is higher in the million plus cities suggestive of excessive male migration for employment. Slums are service providers of support activities in the form of labour both skilled and unskilled in organized as well as unorganized sector including domestic help or Rickshaw/Cart pullers, Hawkers etc.