

IOBAL
INSTITUTE
POLICY STUDIES

کچی آبادی KACHHI ABAADI OF PAKISTAN

ORIGIN, CHALLENGES, AND A PATH TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little”

- *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Preface

While urbanisation is taking place rapidly around the globe, the plight of informal settlements has come to the forefront. This report addresses the critical necessity for a focused research endeavor centered around Pakistan's marginalised Katchi Abadis. These settlements, long ignored and neglected, possess a reservoir of untapped potential that, if harnessed effectively, could usher in substantial economic growth while uplifting residents' living standards. The objective of this paper is to determine the challenges endured by Katchi Abadis, spotlight their latent promise, and chart a viable course toward their sustainable development. Beyond makeshift housing, these communities pulse with resilience and resourcefulness. The potential for their meaningful contributions to both the economy and society at large cannot be overstated.

Disregarding these settlements sustains inequity and forfeits a golden opportunity for transformative progress. In the context of Pakistan's ongoing urbanisation, addressing the needs of Katchi Abadis is not just a moral imperative but a strategic one. By directing efforts toward enhanced living conditions, essential services, and integration, substantial positive change can be achieved. An endeavor has been made to analyze the current state of Katchi Abadis, encompassing living conditions, access to services, and education. Through this comprehensive review, we aim to build a compelling case for urgent action. Moreover, the report will underscore the potential for economic growth achievable by investing in these settlements, resulting in improved living standards and increased economic activity.

Based on these insights, the report will offer a set of recommendations and a path forward. Collaboration between government bodies, NGOs, urban planners, and most crucially, the community members, will be pivotal for success. Involving residents, understanding their needs, and empowering them in the development process will ensure sustainability.

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Introduction

In this modern era of technology, we are still among the nations that strive for necessities. There is a significant number of people in our country that live in slums or Katchi Abadis. To simplify, it is where people below the poverty line live.

Katchi Abadi, an informal settlement, is an unplanned and informal urban settlement typically located on land owned by the government or private individuals. These settlements are often characterised by inadequate housing, a lack of basic facilities such as clean water, sanitation, electricity, and legal recognition. Katchi Abadis are usually inhabited by low-income families who cannot afford formal housing and often violate zoning and building codes. This is a common phenomenon in many cities in developing countries, and their growth is often fueled by rapid urbanisation and a lack of affordable housing options. Efforts to address the problems of Katchi Abadis typically involve:

- Upgrading existing housing and infrastructure.
- Providing legal recognition to residents.
- Promoting affordable and accessible formal housing options.

The Phenomenon of Slums

Slums are formed by rapid urbanisation, poverty, and inadequate housing policies. The initial concept of slums emerged in the 18th century during the industrial revolution in Europe. The cities experienced rapid population growth because of the rural-to-urban migration in which various factories were hiring. The people were seeking work to better their living conditions, but due to overcrowding, slums were created to facilitate everyone.

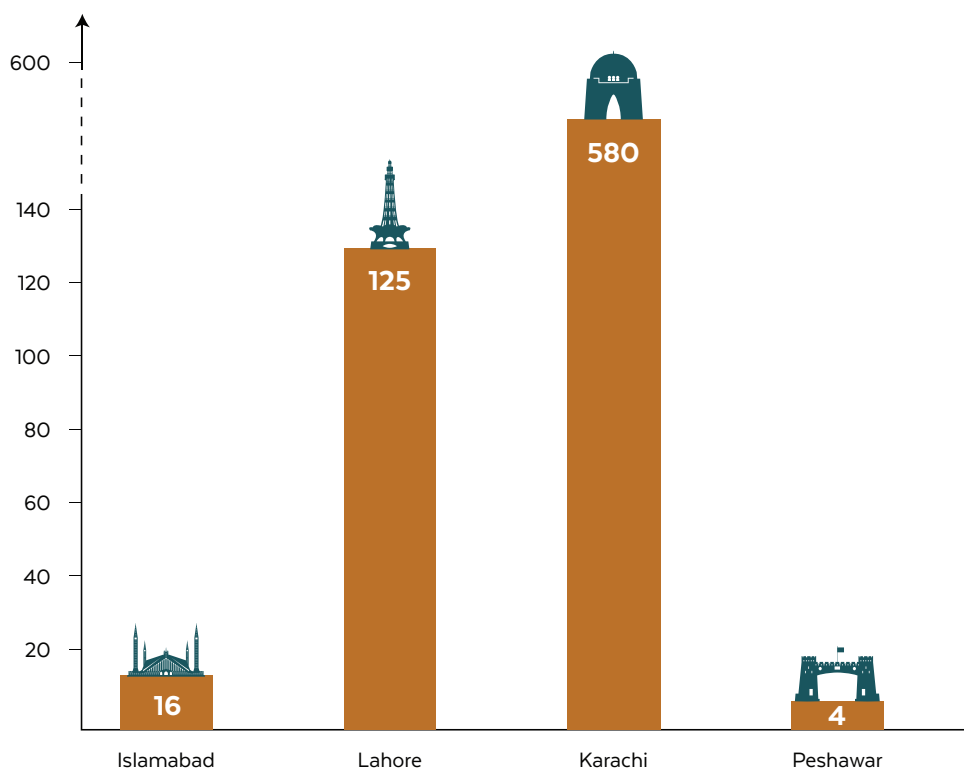
Slums in Pakistan – How it Began?

In Pakistan, Katchi Abadis first came into existence during the late 1940s and early 1950s due to migration from India following the independence of Pakistan. The unorganised land invasion led to the establishment of Katchi Abadis in mainly Karachi and open urban areas. Slums in Pakistan are common; they are not addressed simply due to bad governance and non-vigilance. The government focuses on developing new housing societies while the slums are neglected.

The population is proliferating in Pakistan, and planned development needs to be done as required. The migrants who migrated from India to Pakistan during the independence had one of two options to settle, either in Katchi Abadis, an illegal occupation of land, and the other being an informal yet legal subdivision of privately owned agricultural areas, or wastelands. This concept of Katchi Abadi is not just in Pakistan but in many countries, such as India, Afghanistan, Brazil, South Sudan, and Chad. The names may vary, such as favela, slums, and katchi abadi, but the concept behind them is the same.

Slums are also formed due to natural disasters like earthquakes, landslides, and floods. When a disaster strikes, people may lose their homes and become displaced, creating informal settlements or slums. In some cases, people may be forced to live in areas prone to disasters due to a lack of alternatives. After a disaster, reconstruction efforts may be slow or inadequate, and people may have to resort to building their own homes in informal settlements. In addition, natural disasters can exacerbate poverty and inequality, as those already living in precarious situations are often the most affected by the disaster and its aftermath. Natural disasters can sometimes lead to social conflict as people compete for resources in a chaotic and uncertain environment. Addressing the underlying vulnerabilities and the root causes of poverty and inequality can help reduce the risk of slum formation after a natural disaster.

Number of Katchi Abadi in Major Cities



Source: PropSure Digital Solutions

The Characteristics of Slums

The characteristics of slums are as follows.

1. Poverty

Poverty is the leading cause of the formation of slums, along with it being a pervasive issue in slums around the world. Slum dwellers often lack primary resources such as clean water, adequate sanitation, and healthcare, further exacerbating the poverty cycle. The economic and social exclusion of slum dwellers also limits their opportunities for education and employment, making it difficult for them to escape poverty. The informal nature of slum settlements and the lack of property rights for slum dwellers also make it challenging to access credit. This further constrains their ability to start businesses or invest in their communities.

2. Overcrowding

Overcrowding is a crucial aspect to consider, as it is the leading cause of the formation of slums. If the population is not controlled, it can lead to the expansion of slums, and with that, more and more challenges can arise.

3. Health

The health conditions of slum dwellers are not good; there is no sanitation, cleanliness, or hygiene. Due to these poor conditions, there is a high chance of diseases such as dengue, malaria, hepatitis, tuberculosis, diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, and many others.

4. Education

Access to education is often limited in slums, where poverty and inadequate infrastructure can make it difficult for children to attend school. Many slum residents lack the financial resources to pay for school fees, uniforms, and supplies. Additionally, schools in slums often lack adequate facilities, trained teachers, and primary resources such as textbooks and teaching aids. As a result, children in slums are more likely to drop out of school, leading to a cycle of poverty and limited opportunities.

5. Crime & Violence

Poor living conditions can create an environment that fosters crime and violence. Lack of economic opportunities, poor living conditions, and gang activity are some of the factors that contribute to the prevalence of criminal activities in slums. In most cases, the police may not have a stronghold in these areas, leading to further lawlessness.

6. Social Issues

Social issues such as gender inequality, domestic violence, and child labor are also prevalent in slums. Furthermore, the lack of economic opportunities and social mobility can contribute to a sense of hopelessness and frustration among residents.

7. Lack of Political Inclusion

In many urban areas worldwide, slums often lack political inclusion. Slum dwellers often find themselves marginalised and excluded from participating in decision-making that affects their daily lives. This exclusion stems from various factors, including their lack of formal property rights, informal status within the larger city, and economic and social vulnerability. As a result, slum dwellers are often denied access to basic facilities. They are frequently subject to eviction and displacement without any say. This lack of political inclusion perpetuates the cycle of poverty and exacerbates the already precarious living conditions in slums.

Pakistan's Housing Crisis

With the ongoing situation of the economy, Pakistan is facing an unprecedented housing crisis. Around a third of the country's population faces urban challenges, the leading cause of informal settlements. According to the World Bank report of 2022, in Pakistan, more than 56% of the urban population lives in slums. According to PropSure Digital Solutions, in Karachi, a total of 580 different slums are present, consisting of 60% of the city's overall population. In Sindh alone, a total of 1,448 slums are present. In Lahore, 125 slums are present, consisting of approximately 586,040 residents, whereas, In Islamabad, there are over 16 slums with a population of 182,969 residents.

Most slums in Pakistan are in the middle of major cities in posh areas. The land there can be utilised for other purposes, such as building a few projects to benefit the economy. Other than that, the government needs to make efforts towards educating the people living in those areas so they can better provide for their families and live better lives, which can also benefit the economy.

The government used to draft policies and plans but could not implement them successfully. Formulating policies and developing strategies is not a solution, but successful implementation followed by vigilant monitoring is.

Government Policies & Programs in the Past

Multiple governments and NGOs have shown interest in improving the living standard of slum dwellers. Most of the plans could have been more practical, but the government failed to deliver what it promised. At the same time, a few of them were practical and went successful.

Post-Independence Policies for Katchi Abadis: (1947-71)

In the 1950s and 1960s, removing squatter communities and relocating their people to the same site or elsewhere (clearing and resettlement) was a top priority. However, most re-housing schemes needed to be within reach of low-income people (Nawaz, 2002).

Government's Policies for Katchi Abadis: (1971-1977)

The government recognised the potential support it might garner by capitalising on the growing number of poor people living in squatter colonies, who had occupied a permanent position in political discourse since then. The party leadership constantly informed the slum dwellers that they had ownership rights. Awami Rehaishi Tanzeem (ART), a government-sponsored NGO, received approximately 10 million Pkr to support the inhabitants of katchi abadis and improve their living situations. Illegal colonies on privately held land were given special attention, and 26 were designated katchi abadis. Political turmoil developed throughout the country in June 1977. Prime Minister attempted to appease it by using the katchi abadis card. He said that "proprietary rights would be provided to all katchi abadi's residents throughout the country." Nevertheless, it was too late by then (Hasan & Mohib, 2003).

Government's Policies for Katchi Abadis: (1977-84)

After taking office, Gen Zia declared that katchi abadi would be a principal focus of his administration. The government decided to take steps to formalise and upgrade katchi abadis so that they might be included in the housing stock. Martial law order No.110 was issued in 1978, mandating all local governments to adopt the Katchi Abadi Improvement Programme (KIP). However, the residents of the katchi abadis had to bear the entire cost of the settlement improvement initiative. The local government started the work on KIP. Various solutions were used, such as improvement, in-situ resettlement, and off-site relocation, i.e., constructed quarters, flats, and developed plots. The plan was not launched on a big scale, and only a few katchi abadis were improved. (Nawaz, 2002).

Government's Policies for Katchi Abadis: (1985-1988)

The Junejo government, established in 1985, further changed the policies for low-income housing and squatter areas. The prime minister altered the decisions of the previous government.

The number of recognised katchi abadis was overestimated following a local government study; for example, there were 33 katchi abadis in Faisalabad in 1978, but according to updated criteria, there were 73 katchi abadis in 1985. All provincial administrations initiated the KIP to carry out the government's directions. This initiative was carried out until 1990, and nearly all katchi abadis were improved. This was the largest katchi abadis development initiative (Nawaz, 2002).

Government's Policies for Katchi Abadis: (1990-1999)

Both political governments during this decade were committed to confirming ownership rights for the residents of katchi abadis. Therefore, confirming proprietary rights on the dwellers of katchi abadis continued during both new governments in the early 1990s and late 1990s. However, the improvement works were carried out on a minimal scale.

Government Policies for Katchi Abadis: (1999-2002)

The KIP program initiated in 1985 and legalised in 1992 was to be continued in the same direction, but the granting of proprietary rights was to be expedited. Residents were asked to share the developmental cost. The policy stated that the government would carry all the external development, such as main lines of water, sewer, gas and telephone, and roads, and the residents would carry all the internal development on street level on a self-help basis.

The National Housing Policy 2001

One of the goals of the National Housing Policy 2001 is to provide affordable homes for middle and low-income groups. The strategy also began regulating katchi abadis, including requirements to build new master plans, streamline regulation and administrative processes, regularise taxes, and develop new towns. However, the institutional framework has remained the same for years, and difficulties have persisted (Raza, 2017).

Government-Initiated Housing Schemes

Several low-cost housing initiatives have been launched at the national and provincial levels—the federal Apna Ghar Scheme, established in 2013, aimed to provide 500,000 low-cost housing units nationwide. The project was never completed, and it was claimed in 2017 that it had been shelved. The Punjab government began the Ashiana Housing Scheme, while the Sindh government initiated the Benazir Housing Programme and the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Town Scheme. While these projects may help to alleviate the housing crisis to some extent, they are reactionary strategies aimed at mitigating the problem after it has occurred rather than focusing on institutional and administrative change (Raza, 2017).

National and Provincial Policies on Katchi Abadis

Katchi Abadi Improvement and Regularisation Programme (KAIRP) is a government program that began in 1978 to provide katchi abadi's residents with leases and infrastructure. KAIRP, on the other hand, has several flaws. KAIRP has only been able to regularise and develop a small fraction of katchi abadis. Its extensive procedures mean that residents can only profit if they have technical and legal support, which is difficult to obtain. Furthermore, katchi abadis on prime land are not legalised and are either dismantled or face eviction.

The 2001 National Policy on katchi abadis, urban renewal, and slum upgradation' includes katchi abadi regularisation, development, and resettlement measures. However, both KAIRP and the 2001 National Policy applied to katchi abadis formed before a 1985 cutoff date, which is exceedingly antiquated, and settlements have developed faster than the rate of regularisation.

Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa all have passed legislation to legalise and upgrade katchi abadis. The Sindh Katchi Abadi Act of 1987 established the Sindh Katchi Abadi Authority, which has established and developed around 600 katchi abadis. The Punjab Katchi Abadi Act of 1992 established the Directorate of Katchi Abadis, which has legalised over 300 katchi abadis (Raza, 2017).

Action Taken by CDA

Islamabad’s Capital Development Authority (CDA) demolished the city’s largest katchi abadi in sector I-II in July 2015, which housed approximately 2000 working-class families, and planned to demolish 43 other informal communities. The supreme court ordered the government to stop the eviction without any resettlement plan (Malik, 2015).

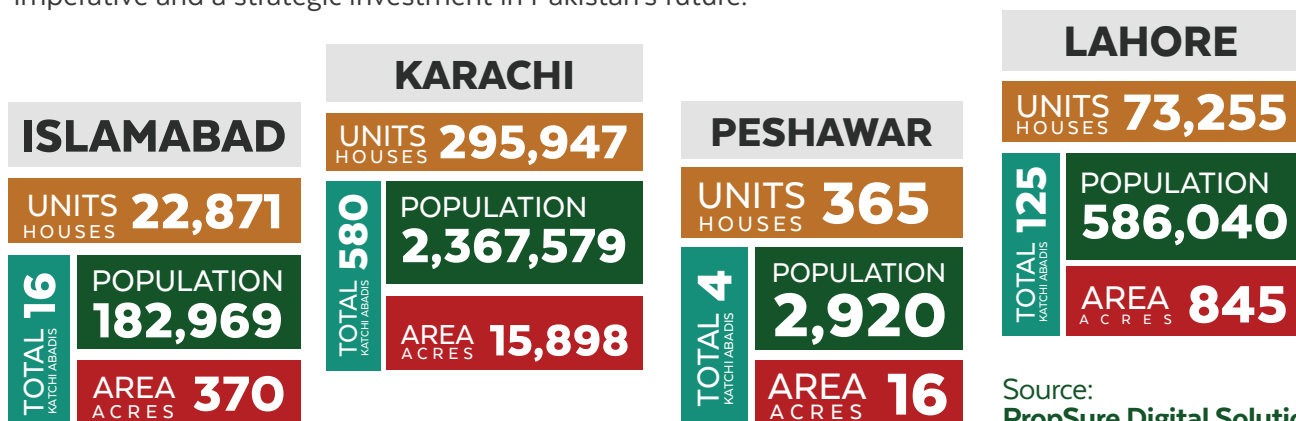
Work Done by NGOs

Over the last two decades, the Orangi Pilot Project - Research and Training Institute (OPP-RTI) has pioneered a community self-help program transforming the sanitation and housing of Karachi’s Orangi settlement. Improvements in the quality of locally produced building materials, the training of locals as masons and barefoot architects, and the development of simple new-build and rehabilitation plans have allowed for the construction and improvement of 2,500 homes every year. Residents pay for all improvement expenditures, and it is believed that over 1.5 million individuals have benefited from the replication of this strategy in other towns and nations.

The NGO ‘Saiban’ focuses on land distribution for people in need. Khuda Ki Basti (KKBIII & IV), located on Karachi’s outskirts, is their third and fourth project. One hundred acres of land purchased from the government in 1998 with 2,910 home plots were designed and settled. With the development charge (included in the land cost), Saiban has encouraged the provision of social and physical infrastructure and is regularly in charge of system maintenance (OPP, 2023).

Addressing Slums - Why is it important?

Addressing the issue of slums in Pakistan is crucial for several reasons. First and foremost, it is a matter of social justice and human rights. Slum dwellers are often denied access to essential services such as clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and education, severely affecting their health and well-being. Furthermore, slums can become breeding grounds for crime, violence, and social unrest, undermining stability and security in the country. Addressing slums can also have a positive impact on the economy. Slum residents are often among the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. Improving their living conditions can help lift them out of poverty and create opportunities for economic growth. Upgrading housing and infrastructure in slums can also create jobs and stimulate local economies. Additionally, by providing access to education and skills training, slum dwellers can become more productive and contribute to the country’s human capital. In summary, addressing the slums is a moral imperative and a strategic investment in Pakistan’s future.



Source: PropSure Digital Solutions

Strategising Improvements

Improving the conditions of slum dwellers is a complex challenge that requires comprehensive policies and programs which can benefit all stakeholders. Following are the future guidelines that can aid in addressing this issue while also gaining maximum benefit from the land occupied by informal settlements:

Formalising Katchi Abadis

First and foremost, to improve the living conditions of the people residing in Katchi Abadis, we need to formalise them, which can be done through various approaches, such as providing security for land tenure. The creation of legal frameworks is also vital that recognise these informal settlements.

Infrastructure Development

One of the most significant issues that the residents of these informal settlements face is that they need the basic infrastructure, which should be upgraded to facilitate them better. Improving access to clean water, sanitation, healthcare facilities, road connectivity, and electricity is vital. The government can and should invest in upgrading the infrastructure in these settlements to improve dwellers' quality of life and create economic growth opportunities.

Government Support

Many informal settlement residents are entrepreneurs who run small businesses such as local grocery shops, barber shops, etc. Governments can aid and support them via training programs, access to financial aid, and other forms of support to help them grow their businesses and create more job opportunities.

Education

Education is an essential element for everyone; no one should be deprived. With the help of quality education, the residents can acquire the skills they require to succeed. Therefore, the government needs to provide quality education and training to the residents of informal settlements. Addressing the education gap in slums requires a multi-pronged approach, including improving access to education, providing financial support and incentives for families, and investing in teacher training. Furthermore, community-based education initiatives that involve parents, teachers, and community members can help promote education and create a more supportive learning environment in slums.



Community Development

Slum dwellers should engage in community development and participation, which means they should be involved in the decision-making process regarding the policies and programs as it will ultimately affect their lives. The government can encourage community participation by simply creating a platform or various platforms for residents to express and state their views, opinions, and ideas. Addressing these social issues requires a multifaceted approach that includes improving access to essential services, promoting gender equality, providing education, and promoting community development and social integration.

Developing Affordable Living Options

The government can promote affordable housing by incentivising developers to build affordable housing spaces and drafting policies to make it easier for slum dwellers to access affordable housing. Addressing poverty in slums requires targeted efforts to improve access to essential services and education, increase economic opportunities, and provide secure land tenure for slum dwellers.

Community Engagement

Public spaces like parks and community centers should be made to help bring the residents together and promote social cohesion. The government can invest in developing such areas in informal settlements to create opportunities for the residents to come together and interact.

Crime & Violence

Addressing the root causes of poverty and improving living conditions is crucial in reducing crime and violence in slums. Effective law enforcement strategies, community policing programs, and social and economic development initiatives can help improve safety and security in these areas.

Health

It is essential to address the underlying causes of poverty and improve living conditions to reduce the risk of infectious diseases in these areas.

Ultimately, improving the living conditions of slum dwellers requires a long-term comprehensive approach to address various challenges that their communities face as a whole and as individuals. By investing in policies and programs promoting quality of life for the residents, and economic growth, the government can create a much better future for these residents, unlocking the economic potential of said areas.



Challenges Faced while Addressing Issues of Slums

Millions of people have occupied the so-called Katchi Abadis in Pakistan. Therefore, it has become a major issue. The challenges in addressing these issues are multifaceted, requiring a comprehensive approach to the problem's root causes. Some of the challenges include:

Land Tenure

One of the biggest challenges is the lack of clear land tenure and ownership, which leads to difficulties in obtaining essential services and limits the ability of residents to improve their living conditions. Some slum dwellers even pay rent of their slums to the mafias (Ali & Khan, 2017).

Infrastructure and Services

Most informal settlements lack the basic infrastructure and services required to live a decent life, such as water supply, electricity, and sanitation. Providing these services is a significant challenge due to the informal nature of these settlements, which means that until and unless the residents obtain legal ownership, they will not be provided with these services, or the government will facilitate them.

Socio-Economic Issues

Poverty and lack of access to education and employment opportunities are significant contributors to the growth of Katchi Abadis. Limited resources and a lack of infrastructure also contribute to this claim. Such issues require targeted solutions to address the underlying socio-economic factors that lead to informal settlements.

Political Will

The lack of political will is a significant challenge, as some local governments are reluctant to take action due to political considerations or a lack of resources.

Resistance to Relocation

Over the years, the residents of these Abadi have spent several years trying to build a home and a community; therefore, they are reluctant to relocate even if allowed to have a better life.

Coordination & Implementation

To address the issues of Katchi Abadis adequately, a coordinated effort is required between government agencies, NGOs, and community groups. However, communication and implementation can be difficult due to bureaucratic obstacles, competing priorities, and lack of resources.

In conclusion, to address the issue of Katchi Abadis in Pakistan, a comprehensive approach has to be taken which addresses the underlying causes of these settlements. The approach should include all measures to address land tenure, provision of essential services, address socio-economic issues, and develop political will. Coordination and implementation are also critical to the success of any solution.

Opportunities for Economic Development in Slums

Economic development in slums refers to creating economic opportunities and improving the living conditions of slum dwellers by promoting sustainable livelihoods and the growth of the local economy. It involves supporting informal businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, and providing access to financial services and markets. Economic development in slums aims to reduce poverty, increase incomes, and improve the overall quality of life of slum residents while also promoting inclusive and sustainable growth in these communities.

Economic development in slums can provide a range of opportunities for the residents, including the following:

Informal Sector Jobs

The informal sector is a significant source of employment in slums, and it offers a wide range of job opportunities in small businesses, street vending, and household services. These jobs can provide a livelihood for slum dwellers and contribute to the local economy.

Microfinance

Microfinance can play a vital role in supporting the economic development of slums by providing access to credit, savings, and insurance to small businesses. Microfinancing institutions can support the growth of informal businesses and create more formalised economies in slums.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Slums can be hotbeds of innovation and entrepreneurship, as residents often develop innovative solutions to their challenges. Encouraging and supporting local entrepreneurs can create opportunities for economic growth in the slum economy.

Tourism

Some slums have become tourist attractions in their own way, with visitors interested in learning about the culture and daily life of slum dwellers. This can allow slum residents to sell local handicrafts, food, and other goods, creating a new market for their products. This practice has been ongoing in India and Brazil, where tourists from many countries like to visit and explore slums.

Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships can effectively boost economic development in slums by leveraging the resources and expertise of both the public and private sectors. Such partnerships can support initiatives that promote economic growth, job creation, and access to services in slums.

Successful Models from Other Countries

Slums are pervasive in many countries and usually arise due to poverty, unaffordable housing options, and inadequate urban planning. However, many countries have been able to successfully address this issue through the implementation of various models that have helped them transform these areas into planned areas that contribute to the country's economy.

A few examples are mentioned below:

Brazil - Favela Bairro Project:

Brazil has a history of informal settlements, which are known as favelas. A project known as the Favela Bairro Project was launched in 1995 by the Brazilian government to address this issue of informal settlements. The project aimed to integrate informal settlements into the formal city by providing basic infrastructure and services. Alongside this, the project also provided funding for community-based initiatives. It encouraged the formation of cooperatives to promote economic development, which will positively impact the economy. This project successfully transformed many favelas into planned neighborhoods with better living conditions and other facilities and services such as clean water, healthcare, etc. Due to this, many job opportunities were created, and small businesses were started, which boosted the economy.



India - Rajiv Awas Yojana

In India, slums can be seen everywhere. In 2009, the government of India launched a program called Rajiv Awas Yojana to address the issue of informal settlements. The goal was to promote sustainable urban development. The project's purpose was to provide basic infrastructure while improving the quality of life for the residents of informal settlements. This program has helped boost the economy by creating job opportunities and small businesses.



South Africa - Breaking New Ground

The township, used for informal settlements in South Africa, has been a significant challenge. With the inauguration of the Breaking New Ground program, launched by the government in 2004, they aimed to provide people in informal settlements with affordable housing while promoting sustainable development. This program focused on integrating informal settlements into the planned city by providing infrastructure, electricity, water, and sanitation. The program also encouraged community-based organisations to be formed to promote economic development and job creation.



Egypt - Informal Settlements Development Facility

Informal settlements in Egypt are known as Ashwa'iyat and have been a significant issue in urban areas. In 2007, a program was launched by the Egyptian government known as the Informal Settlements Development Facility to address this issue. The project aimed at providing infrastructure, water, sanitation, and electricity to informal settlements. This project also funded community-based initiatives and encouraged the formation of cooperatives to promote economic development. The Informal Settlements Development Facility program boosted the economy by creating jobs and small businesses.



How These Models Can Be Applied in Pakistan?

Here are some ways these models could be applied in Pakistan for Katchi Abadis:

Identification of Needs

The first step in implementing the Favela-Bairro Project in Pakistan would be to identify the needs of the Katchi Abadis. A survey could be conducted to assess the condition of the physical infrastructure, the availability of essential services, and the level of access to education and healthcare. In this way, the exact problems of each settlement can be addressed according to their needs.

Provision of Basic Services

The Favela-Bairro Project also focused on providing essential services like water supply, sanitation, and waste management. These services could be improved in Katchi Abadis to improve the living conditions of residents.

Upgrading Physical Infrastructure

The Rajiv Awas Yojana was involved in upgrading the physical infrastructure of the slums by constructing new roads, sidewalks, drainage systems, and public spaces. A similar approach could be taken in Pakistan to improve the condition of the infrastructure of Katchi Abadis.

Community Involvement

Like the Informal Settlements Development Facility (Egypt), involving the community in implementing the project is essential. The ISDF was successful because it involved the residents of the slums in the planning and implementation of the project. Community participation and providing stakes to residents will ensure the project's success.

Improve access to Education and Healthcare

The Breaking New Ground Program aimed to improve access to education and healthcare in slums. A similar model can be implemented in Pakistan to provide better access to schools and healthcare facilities in Katchi Abadis.

The Favela-Bairro Project in Brazil, Rajiv Awas Yojana in India, South Africa's Breaking New Ground, and Egypt's Informal Settlements Development Facility are all examples of successful urban development programs that have improved the living conditions of people living in informal settlements. These programs involved upgrading physical infrastructure, providing essential services like water and sanitation, and improving access to education and healthcare. To implement similar projects in Pakistan, it is essential to involve the community in the planning and implementation process, as community participation is vital to the success of such initiatives. Additionally, government and non-governmental organizations could collaborate to provide funding and technical expertise to ensure the effective implementation of these programs.

The Way Forward

A Comprehensive Approach towards Transforming Katchi Abadis

1

Integrated Development & Relocation Strategy

High-rise Building Development

Collaborate with private entities and NGOs to design and construct high-rise apartment buildings in the existing katchi abadi areas. These buildings should be well-planned and equipped with essential amenities to ensure a reasonable standard of living for residents.

Optimal Space Utilisation

The focus should be on maximizing the number of housing units within a small area, effectively accommodating a larger population. Efficient architectural planning and urban design are crucial to achieving this goal.

2

Resident Relocation & Community Engagement

Informed Decision-Making

Communicate the benefits of relocation to the katchi abadi residents through community meetings, informational sessions, and visual presentations. Clearly explain the advantages of upgraded housing and improved living conditions.

Select Representative Leaders

Identify and elect representative leaders from within the katchi abadi community. Train them on the benefits of the proposed transformation and empower them to engage with fellow residents. Their peer-to-peer communication can foster trust and understanding.

Awareness Campaigns

Initiate awareness campaigns using various mediums, such as workshops, pamphlets, and multimedia presentations. Illustrate success stories of similar transformations in other regions, emphasising the positive impact on residents' lives.

3

Ownership and Economic Empowerment

Property Ownership

Provide legal ownership of the apartments to the relocated residents. Ownership instills a sense of pride, security, and responsibility among the inhabitants, encouraging them to maintain their living spaces.

Skills Development and Employment

Collaborate with local educational institutions and vocational training centers to provide skill development programs. Equip residents with valuable skills that match the emerging job opportunities generated by the upcoming economic developments.

4 High-End Development and Economic Growth

Strategic Land Utilisation

Upon successful relocation, the vacated katchi abadi land should be earmarked for high-end development. Plan the utilisation of this prime real estate for commercial, educational, recreational, and residential purposes.

Job Creation and Business Opportunities

Develop business hubs, educational institutes, recreational facilities, and modern residential areas. The increased economic activity will create job opportunities for local residents and boost economic growth.

Infrastructure and Sustainability

Ensure that the new developments are sustainable, incorporating green spaces, energy-efficient technologies, and adequate infrastructure. A well-planned environment enhances the overall quality of life for both relocated residents and the broader community.

5 Continuous Monitoring & Feedback

Regular Follow-Up

Establish a monitoring mechanism to track the progress of both the relocation process and the subsequent economic development initiatives. Regular assessments will help identify challenges and make necessary adjustments.

Community Feedback

Encourage ongoing dialogue with the relocated residents to address any concerns or suggestions they may have. Creating an open channel for feedback fosters a sense of ownership and inclusion.

Incorporating these structured steps into the approach will contribute to a well-rounded and effective transformation of katchi abadis, creating a win-win situation for the residents, the local community, and the nation's economy. This comprehensive strategy not only improves living conditions but also ensures sustainable economic growth while preserving the residents' dignity and rights.



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