

Population Characteristics of Slums: A Study of Faridabad City in Haryana

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DOI: [10.36347/sjahss.2022.v10i05.002](https://doi.org/10.36347/sjahss.2022.v10i05.002)

| Received: 09.04.2022 | Accepted: 12.05.2022 | Published: 17.05.2022

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Abstract

Original Research Article

Slums are the most deprived areas of the city with congested households, narrow streets and lack of basic amenities and facilities. These slum areas are more susceptible to all kinds of physical, social and economic vulnerabilities. In case of any hazardous situation, more damage occurs in these habitats. In Haryana state, the Faridabad has highest concentration of slum population. At present, Faridabad has 64 slums. The growth of industrialization and urbanisation after the post-Independence period has resulted in the development of slums in this city. Therefore, in the present study an effort has been made to study the population characteristics of slum population of the Faridabad city. This research paper also includes a comparison of Faridabad slums to the overall number of slums in Haryana. Findings of the study highlights that the percentage of Scheduled Caste people in slum settlements is greater than on-slum settlements. In terms of literacy rate and sex ratio, Faridabad city slum households have lower literacy rate and sex ratio than the state average.

Keywords: Change, Demographic Characteristics, Faridabad city, Households, Slum population.

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INTRODUCTION

Slums are defined as informal communities situated inside or on the outskirts of cities that have poor housing standards and a deplorable living environment. These are clusters of buildings with less sturdy foundations, shared bathroom facilities, and inadequate waste disposal systems that are situated on territory that is prone to significant catastrophes. Social and health problems are more prevalent among people who live in slums than among those who live in urban areas, small towns, or rural areas. According to the Census definition, a slum is a confined area with at least 300 people or around 60-70 families of badly constructed packed tenements in an unsanitary environment with insufficient infrastructure and a lack of basic sanitary and drinking water services.

Slums have always been a component of practically all industrialised cities in India. Urbanization and industrialisation have drawn rural jobless people to cities in search of work and better living circumstances. However, urban infrastructure (housing, water supply, drainage, and sanitation) has not evolved at the same rate. The continuing flood of rural migrants worsens the

quality of living, expanding the divide. Due to uncertain land tenure and a lack of essential utilities, the migrating rural poor are driven to seek out unofficial alternatives, leading to the emergence of slums.

The characteristics of slums vary depending on their site, situation and socio-cultural factors. Thus, Slum populations in any location are not uniform; they vary according to a variety of physical, socioeconomic, and cultural reasons. The degree of deprivation differs amongst slums, which may result in inequalities in health outcomes even within the same city (Osrin *et al.* 2011; Subbaraman *et al.* 2012).

OBJECTIVES

In view of the above discussion, the main aim of this research is to study the Demographic characteristics of the slums of Faridabad City. Total slum population, scheduled caste population of slums, literacy rate, and household size of slums have been included in this study. A comparison of Faridabad slums with the total slums of Haryana state has also been drawn in this research paper.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This chapter is majorly based on secondary data sources. Data on demographic aspects such as the number of slums, slum households, total population and availability of basic amenities etc. have been collected from the Directorate of Census, Haryana. Various slum survey reports of the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad and the Department of Town and Country Planning have also been consulted for the study. Various research papers and reports have been employed to describe the evolution of slums.

The data obtained have been analysed and shown using tables and graphs due to their distinct classification. In addition, the location, spatial patterns, and distribution of slums have been illustrated using maps created using the software ArcGIS 10.2.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of slums in every location may be traced back to the city's functional nature. In general, industrial cities have a larger concentration of slums when compared to those with other types of employment. The evolution of Faridabad from a small rural hamlet to a major industrial metropolis in the nation has resulted in significant changes in the fundamental nature of this location. Over 400 big and

medium-scale firms, as well as approximately 10,000 small-scale industrial units, are located in Faridabad, and they collectively create a diverse variety of goods. While this transformation into an industrial metropolis has ushered in a slew of beneficial developments, it has also resulted in the expansion of a vast number of slums in this region. Slum formulation is comparatively a recent phenomenon in Faridabad, majorly occurring after growth of urban and industrial centres. Before independence, slums were absent in this region due to dominance of agricultural activities and agro-based cottage industries. After independence, the town became a centre for resettlement. Starting 1950, in order to rehabilitate the refugee population (displaced from North-west Frontier Provinces of Pakistan) a new urban centre namely 'New Township' was established. To provide employment and basic facilities to them, the government provided industrial infrastructure in New Township and adjoining regions. With the establishment of new industries in this region, it was renamed as N.I.T. i.e. 'New Industrial Township'.

According to Census (2011), there are as many as 75 towns in Haryana which have reported the presence of slums. These slums constitute 3.25 lakh households which is almost 18.6 percent of the total urban households in the state (Table 1).

Table-1: Slum Reporting Towns and Slum Households in Haryana

| State | Number of Slum Reporting Towns | Urban Households | Slum Households | |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | | | Absolute | Percentage |
| Haryana | 75 | 1751901 | 325997 | 18.6 |

Source: HH- Series Slum Tables, Census of India 2011

Faridabad, in the south-eastern part of Haryana State, is one of India's most populous cities. It was created in 1979 as a distinct Haryana district from Gurgaon. This district is now part of the NCR (NCR). It is flanked on three sides by the UT of Delhi, Gurugram (Haryana) and Agra (UP). The City of Faridabad is Asia's seventh biggest industrial estate. Haryana's industrial centre, with over 15,000 small, medium, and big businesses, generates around 60% of the state's

income. Nearly half a million people rely on the city's industries for direct and indirect employment.

Among 35 million-plus cities across the country, Faridabad has 46 percent of its population living in slums, second only to Mumbai with 54 percent of the population as slum dwellers (Census 2001). These numbers have shown a decreasing trend over the years both at the state level as well as in Faridabad city. A comparison of the urban and slum populations of Haryana and Faridabad City is given in Table 2.

Table-2: Urban and Slum Population in Haryana and Faridabad City

| | Urban Population | | Slum Population | | Percentage | |
|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|------------|-------|
| | 2001 | 2011 | 2001 | 2011 | 2001 | 2011 |
| Haryana | 6115304 | 8842103 | 1681117 | 1662305 | 27.49 | 18.80 |
| Faridabad | 1055938 | 1414050 | 490981 | 215053 | 46.50 | 15.21 |

Source: Census of India 2001 & 2011

Table-3: Schedule Caste Population in Urban Areas and Slums

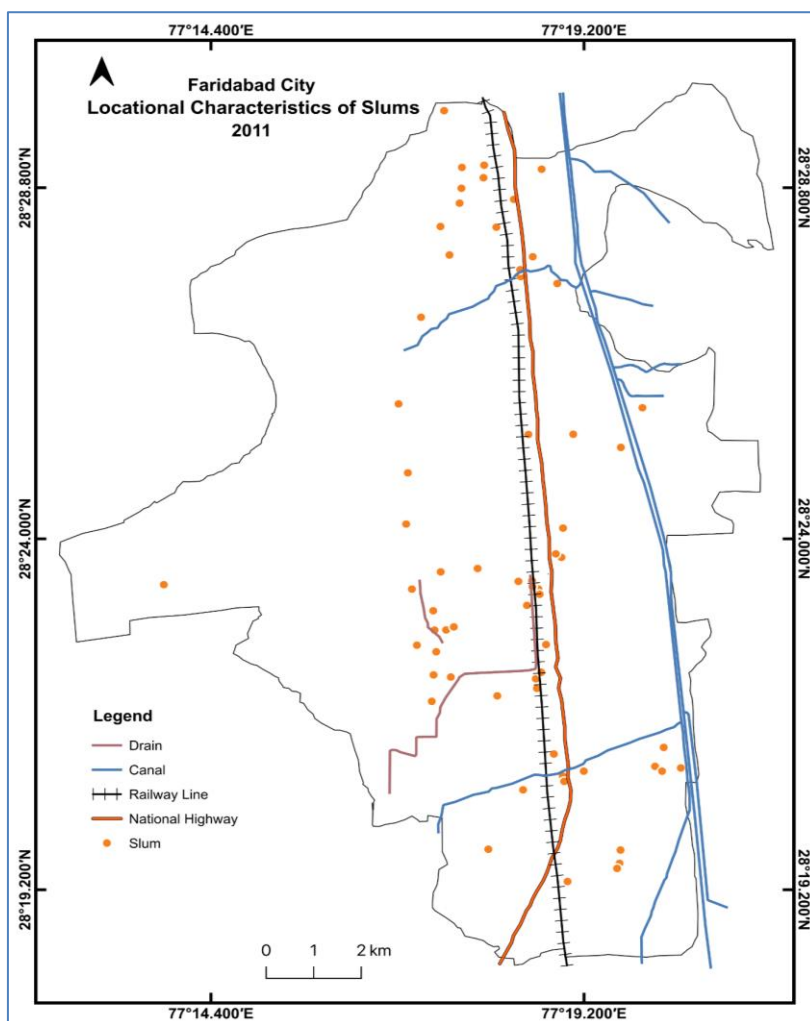
| State/City | Urban Population | SCs Population | SCs % to Urban Population | Slum Population | SCs Population in Slums | % of Slum SCs in Slum Population |
|------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Haryana | 8842103 | 1393506 | 15.76 | 1662305 | 497042 | 29.90 |
| Faridabad | 1414050 | 149475 | 10.57 | 215053 | 58055 | 27.01 |

Source: Teotia and Kumar, 2015

Table 3 shows that Haryana has almost 8.8 million persons residing in the urban areas among which almost 15 percent belong to the scheduled caste categories. On the contrary, Faridabad has an urban population of 1.4 million persons among which the population belonging to the scheduled caste categories holds a share of 10.5 percent. As far as the slum

population is concerned, Haryana and Faridabad have 1662305 and 215053 persons living in the slum areas respectively.

At present, Faridabad has 64 slum clusters. The location of the slums has been shown in Figure 1.



Source: The Slum Free City Plan of Faridabad (GCRD 2013)

Fig-1: Faridabad City: Location of Slums (2011)

In contrast to non-slum settlements, slum settlements have a higher percentage of scheduled castes and a lower literacy rate i.e. 73.1 percent vs. 85 percent for the rest of the urban population (Planning Commission, 2011). Faridabad has a nearly equal urban literacy rate as Haryana, at 83 percent, although the disparity between the two regions worsens when just

the slum population is included. The literacy percentage in Haryana's slum regions is 75.87 percent overall, but when just the slums of Faridabad city are considered, the literacy rate drops to 67.4 percent (Table 4). As a result, literacy rates in slum regions are much lower than the state average.

Table-4: Literacy Rates in Urban Areas and Slums

| State/ City | Literacy Rate in Urban Population (Percent) | Literacy Rate in Slum Population (Percent) |
|-------------|---|--|
| Haryana | 83.14 | 75.87 |
| Faridabad | 83.83 | 67.4 |

Source: Census of India, 2011

The sex ratios of Haryana and Faridabad are similarly almost equal, with 873 females per 1,000 males in the former and 874 females per 1,000 males in the latter state. In contrast, the sex ratios in Haryana's slums and Faridabad's slums are vastly different, with 872 women per 1,000 men in Haryana and 823 women

per 1,000 men in Faridabad (Table 5). The gap can be attributed to the fact that most of the slums in Faridabad cater to the slum dwellers employed as industrial labour which is further mostly comprised of the male population.

Table-5: Sex Ratio in Urban Areas and Slums

| State/City | Sex Ratio in Urban Area | Sex Ratio in Slum |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Haryana | 873 | 872 |
| Faridabad | 874 | 823 |

Source: Teotia and Kumar, 2015

Broadly, the slums of Faridabad are located in three administrative zones of the city i.e. New Industrial Township (N.I.T.), Old Faridabad and Ballabgarh township. Most of the large slums are located along the transport lines and one of the old slums of Faridabad city. N.I.T. encompass almost two-thirds of the total slum households and as much slum population in

Faridabad. There are almost 34655 households in this zone having a consolidated population of 164260 (Table 6). In comparison, Old Faridabad has just 6081 households with a population of 27540 persons. The Ballabgarh zone is the smallest zone out of the three. It comprises just 5231 households and a population of 23253 slum dwellers.

Table-6: Faridabad: Zone wise Slum Population

| Zone | Households/Huts | Population |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| N.I.T. | 34655 | 164260 |
| Old Faridabad | 6081 | 27540 |
| Ballabgarh | 5231 | 23253 |

Source: The Slum Free City Plan of Faridabad (GCRD 2013)

The social composition of the slum population shows that the majority of the population belongs to Hindu religion. According to a GCRD survey report 88 percent slum population are Hindus followed by 9.1 percent are Muslims, 1.3 percent Sikhs and only 0.3 percent are Christians. Large majority of slum households fall into the impoverished SC and OBC categories.

Some of the most important factors that drive the growth of slums in Faridabad city include physical, socioeconomic and environmental factors. Slum populations tend to grow in specific locations, such as along major roads, railway lines or canals, or in areas designated for specific purposes in the city's master

plan. Nearby Badarpur, Gurgaon canal, crushing zone, NIT Zone and the whole region between Old Faridabad and G.T. Road, various unoccupied sites bought by HUDA for residential or industrial uses are the primary locations for the majority of the slums.

The 64 slums of the city have variations in the number of households. On the basis of variations in number of households, Faridabad slums have been classified into four clusters:

1. Small clusters (less than 500 Households)
2. Medium clusters (500 to 1000 Households)
3. Large clusters (1000 to 2500 Households)
4. Very Large dusters (More than 2500 Households)

Table-7: Faridabad: Slums on the basis of Number of Households (2001 - 2011)

| Category | Number of Slums | Percentage | Number of Slums | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Small (Less than 500) | 11 | 16.4 | 36 | 56.3 |
| Medium (500 to 1000) | 24 | 35.8 | 11 | 17.1 |
| Large (1000 to 2500) | 27 | 40.3 | 13 | 20.3 |
| Very Large (More than 2500) | 5 | 7.5 | 4 | 6.3 |
| Total | 67 | 100 | 64 | 100 |

Source: The Slum Free City Plan of Faridabad (GCRD 2013)

Table 7 clearly shows that nearly 58 percent of slums fall in the small category of households (less than 500) with a minimum of 24 households to a maximum of 468 households. Most of these slums are located in the N.I.T. area of Faridabad. Most of the slums of this category are newly established. The share of slums in this category was only 16.4 percent in 1998. Only 14.9 percent of slums are having medium-size households whereas this percentage was 35.8 in 2001. These slums are located in Ballabgarh and Old Faridabad zones. Nearly 21 percent of slums have households between 1000 to 2500 and only 4 slums (Nehru Colony, Indira Colony, Patel Colony) have more than 2500 households. Most of the large and very large slums are found in the New Industrial Township area. Most of these slums are established in the initial phase of the industrial township. With the growth of the industrial sector, more people migrated to this zone resulting in an increase in the number of households.

CONCLUSION

To summarise, the slum population in Faridabad varies based on physical, social, and cultural reasons. The city's slum population grew along with its industry. Rural people migrating to cities in search of work is a primary cause of slum growth. According to the 2011 census, there are slum families in 75 municipalities in Haryana, with Faridabad having the second highest slum population after Mumbai. Slum households make up 18.6% of all urban households in the state. Slum settlements and non-slum settlements are compared and it is found that the percentage of Scheduled Caste people is greater in slum settlements than in non-slum settlements. In terms of literacy rate and sex ratio, slum families in Faridabad city have lower literacy rates and sex ratios than the state average, respectively. As a whole, a majority of large slums are found in the N.I.T zone, established along the railway lines and National Highway. In terms of social composition, the majority of slum population belongs to the Scheduled Caste population and the share of the general caste population is comparatively less.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our thanks to the Department of Geography at Panjab University in Chandigarh for providing software assistance in the finalisation of the study maps. We are also thankful to Directorate of Census, Haryana and Department of Town and Country Planning, Faridabad for providing the required data to conduct this study.

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