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## **Executive Summary: UGC Minor Research Project**

### **“Socio-economic impact of poor sanitation and housing on urban slum dwellers: A study of Bangalore Urban Slums”**

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“The Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, to which India is a signatory, specifically recognizes the need to improve the lives of slum dwellers. The existence and proliferation of slums is especially acute in developing countries as the pace of urbanization accelerates, and India is no exception” – Dr.Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Government of India Planning Commission.

“The pace of urbanization in India is set to increase, and with it, urban poverty and urban slums” said Kumari Selja, Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Rapid urban population growth, the urbanization of poverty and the proliferation of slums are being driven to a great extent by Globalization, a dominant force in the 20th century’s last decade.

#### **Slums are characterized by:**

- Lack of basic services
- Substandard housing or illegal and inadequate building structures
- Overcrowding and high density
- Unhealthy living conditions and hazardous locations
- Insecure tenure, irregular or informal settlements
- Poverty and social exclusion
- Minimum settlement size

The rapid growth of cities has widened the gap between the demand and supply of essential services and infrastructure, forcing people to live in crowded slums in unsanitary conditions, exposing themselves to pollution and natural calamities.

### **The reasons for the rapid growth of urban slums are:**

- High natural growth rate
- Migration of villagers to cities with multinational retail firms and IT giants producing numerous opportunities of employment
- Changes within a city's economic structures

### **The impact of poor sanitation and housing:**

- On Health, Hygiene and Sanitation
- On Education
- On Social Problems and Moral Apathy of slum dwellers

Slums with inadequate water supply, lighting, housing and sanitation facilities are more prone to communicable diseases and malnutrition. Most of the households are simple one-room structures, with dirt floors and poor ventilation. Such overcrowding can lead to rapid spread of respiratory and skin disease.

The lack of safe drinking water facilitates the spread of water borne diseases. The presence of stored water promotes the breeding of mosquitoes and diseases such as malaria. Primary schooling, through government schools, is a free educational system provided by the Government of India. Most of the slum dwellers do not send their children to schools because of poverty and illiteracy.

Alcoholism leads to moral and economic degradation and also serious health problems. Slum dwellers, migrated from villages, view themselves as 'temporary workers' and they tend to neglect the importance of economic and social advancement.

Findings from the study reveal that the area chosen for the study exhibit slum condition that has adverse impact on the socio-economic lifestyle and the health of the residents, as well as the general outlook of the environment.

Suggestions were made to enhance the lives of the residents of the area through up gradation of urban basic services, improved sanitation facilities, rehabilitation of urban slums and public enlightenment campaign to educate the slum dwellers the importance of good living condition to their health and dangers of abusing their environment.