

Census of India 2001  
**Metadata and Brief Highlights  
on Slum Population**

**Definition of Slum ~ About Slum Data ~ Data Highlights**

**Definition of Slum**

Slums have come to form an integral part of the phenomena of urbanization in India. Comprehensive information on the slums being essential for formulation of effective and coordinated policy for their improvement. 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.

For the purpose of Census of India, 2001, the slum areas broadly constitute of :-

- (i) All specified areas in a town or city notified as 'Slum' by State/Local Government and UT Administration under any Act including a 'Slum Act'.
- (ii) All areas recognized as 'Slum' by State/Local Government and UT Administration, 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.

**About Slum data**

Slum population has been reported from 26 States/Union territories. Nine States/Union territories, namely, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep have not reported any slum population in their cities/towns. The electronic data provides information on slums at following three levels.

The data set I provides the information on slum and urban population of cities/towns reporting slum relating to number of households, total population, population in 0-6 age group, literate population, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and workers, main workers, marginal workers and distribution of workers into four industrial categories namely Cultivators, Agricultural Labourers, Household Industry workers and Other workers by sex – India & State/Union territory.

The data set II gives townwise above information for 640 Cities/Towns reporting slums in 2001.

The data set III gives wardwise slum population and its characteristics of twenty seven cities having more than million population in 2001. **Above data are available in hard and soft copy (CD) on sale. Ward-wise data for other towns can be obtained on order.**

Two statements showing slum population, population in the age group 0-6, SC/ST population, literates and workers by sex i) India by States/Uts and ii) 27 Million Plus population cities is attached below

## Data highlights

- 640 cities/towns in 26 States/Union territories in 2001 have reported slum population. Andhra Pradesh has the largest number of towns (77) reporting slums followed by Uttar Pradesh (69), Tamil Nadu (63) and Maharashtra (61).
- 42.6 million population live in slums in 2001. This constitutes 15 per cent of the total urban population of the country and 22.6 per cent of the urban population of the states/union territories reporting slums. 11.2 million of the total slum population of the country are in Maharashtra followed by Andhra Pradesh 5.2, Uttar Pradesh 4.4 and West Bengal 4.1 million.
- 17.7 million slum population has been reported in the 27 cities with million plus population in 2001. Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation with 6.5 million slum dwellers has the highest slum population among all the cities followed by Delhi Municipal Corporation (1.9 million), Kolkata (1.5 million) and Chennai (0.8 million).
- 6 million children in the age group 0-6 have been enumerated in slums. Maharashtra alone accounts for 1.6 million children in slums.
- 7.4 million (17.4 per cent) of the total slum population belong to the Scheduled Castes and one million (2.4 per cent) to the Scheduled Tribes.
- Sex ratio (females per thousand males) of the total slum population is 876 which is lower than 905 for the corresponding non slum urban population.
- Child Sex Ratio in the age group 0-6 is 919 in the slum population which is higher than 904 for non slum urban population.
- Literacy rate in slum areas stands at 73.1 with 80.7 per cent male and 64.4 per cent female literacy against overall non-slum urban literacy rates of 81.0 for total, 87.2 for males and 74.2 for females in the states reporting slums.
- 32.9 per cent slum population has been returned as workers. Male work participation rate is 51.3 and female work participation rate is 11.9 per cent in 2001.
- 91.1 per cent workers in the slum population are 'Other workers' and 5 per cent have been returned as 'Household Industry workers'.