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54 Slum Governance in Karnataka: Trends, Issues and Roadmap

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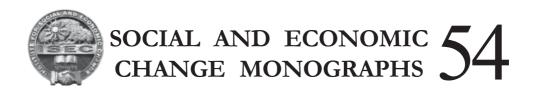
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Foreword

Informal settlements are global phenomena embellished in urban landscape in various forms and dimensions. Slums have a spontaneous origin that tends to be unplanned. They usually carry a negative connotation due to the presence of vicious characteristics like a crowded place being inhabited by the poor. India, China and Nigeria account for around 37 percent of the global urban population growth between 2014 and 2030, estimates from World Urbanization Prospects say. This means slums are going to rise in number as the process of urbanization takes place. Moreover, the issue of slums occupies a special mention especially in the neoliberal era that has enabled mass movement of goods, capital and people to urban areas. These raise the need to provide adequate shelter and basic infrastructural support for the reproduction of socio-economic life. In this background, this project put together by Prof S Madheswaran and Ms B P Vani (of ISEC) with Shri. Sanjiv Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, intends to understand the Slum Governance in Karnataka as the state is considered to be one of the leading IT giants in the country. The analysis brings to the fore the infrastructural issues like housing and sanitation that need to be addressed by the state to improve its score on Slum Development Index. The study also finds that slum-dwellers value some form of tenure security as it enables them to access loans to better their living conditions. This aspect highlights the need for providing legal entitlements on slumdwellings that can enrich their livelihoods. The significance of the study lies in its quest for providing a holistic picture about the status of slums in Karnataka by highlighting the issues that confront slum development and suggests approaches for slum rehabilitation which can be very insightful for various stakeholders like government, Municipal Corporation, NGOs, civic bodies and so on for further research and policymaking.

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