Knowledge is Power
PRIA

TERRA URBAN

तेरा अर्बन

"Putting Governance of Urban Poverty on Political Agenda"

Monthly digest

March 2014

Terra Urban - an urban forum by Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)

http://terraurban.wordpress.com/

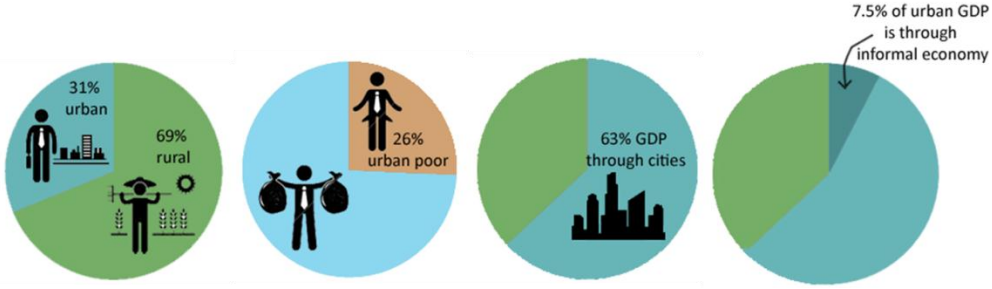
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

The entries covered the following dimensions of urbanism, urban poverty and governance:

Issues of the urban poor/ role of the citizens → politicising urban issues/ public consultations → Urban Manifesto

Significant Citizens of democracy – urban poor

Jo na jaane haq ki taaqat, rab na deve usko himmat (जो ना जाने हक की ताक़त, रब ना देवे उसको हिम्मत) said the famous *Bulle Shah*. The couplet sounds true to the present day reality wherein 'We' the 'Citizens of Democracy' are to express our right to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in India. This right to vote is just one of the important aspects of our citizenship, and just by voting alone we do not guarantee to be a responsible citizen. Within the gambit of our responsibility also comes the need to raise issues, awareness, ask for transparency and accountability by our service providers. Urban dwellers need to exercise this right and duty of responsible citizenship. It's time that the urban dwellers understand their issues, rights and are given the requisite due by the service providers in the coming years. Urban is synonyms with heterogeneity and complexity. It is in such an environment where 'inclusion, equality and justice' become even more significant. Many 'groups' in the today miss-managed cities find themselves excluded – older person, pedestrian, women, environmentalist, poor, informal workers, children, differently-abled etc. PRIA with its partner organizations is taking a step forward to find a 'voice' for the excluded 'urban poor'.



Facts of the urban India – a significant contributor to the GDP is the 'urban poor'

BLOG ENTERIES OF THIS MONTH

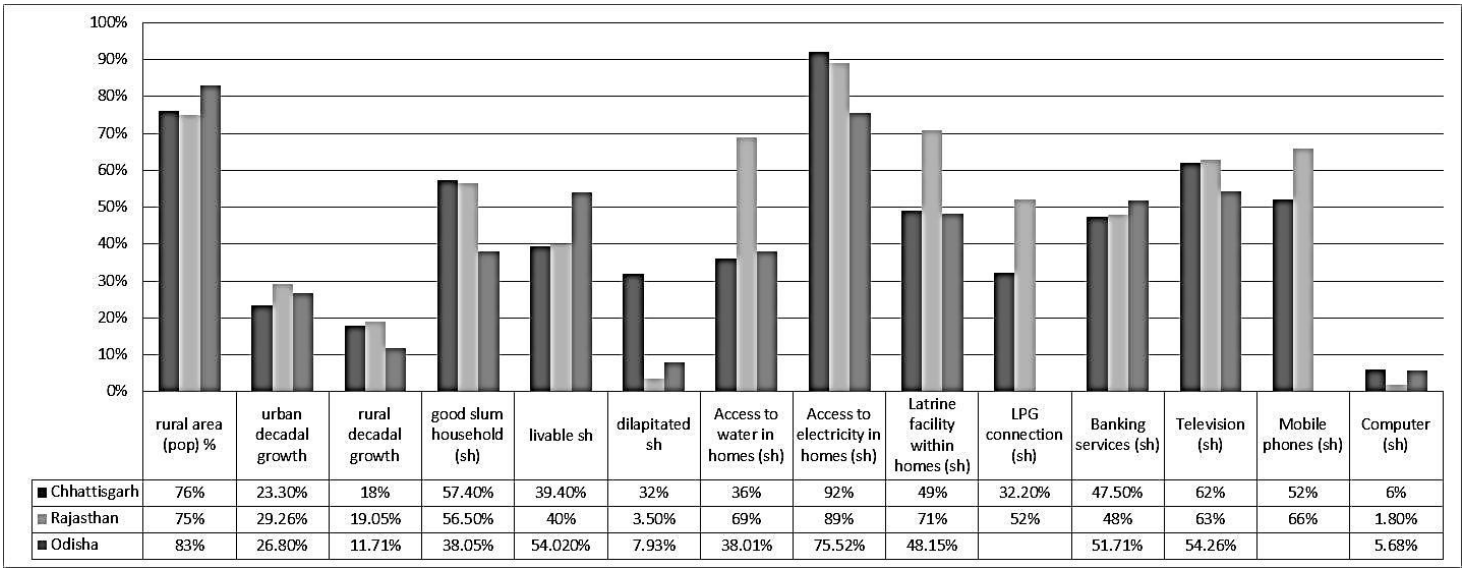
Urban Manifesto for Lok Sabha elections 2014-*PRIA,FIUPW*
Addressing Urban Poverty and Reformed Urban Governance- Delhi (28 March, 2014)
Homage to Forgotten Hero- Annabhau Sathe Nagar – *Dr. Suman Bhanoo*
Urban poverty and governance – West Bengal
Governance of Electoral Democracy - *Dr. Rajesh Tandon*
Forgotten Territory - Story of Thoughtlessness – *Dr. Suman Bhanoo*
PRIA's Campaign on "Urban Poor and Urban Governance Issues" for Election Manifesto- Jaipur
Talk on Urban Agglomerations, Environments and Governance
Making cities slum free – A Dream - *Swati Subramanium*
'Story' of the Urban Poor – Rajasthan
State Consultations: A Tool For Initiating Urban Dialogue - *Shivani singh*
Sankalp Patra – A written Assurance from Political Parties
State Level Consultation Contribution and Challenges of Urban Poor- Raipur
Courses on Urban Planning and Governance – *PRIA*
"शहरी गरीबी एवं शहरी अभिशासन" से संबधित मांगो पर बिलासपुर में राजनितिक दलों को दिया ज्ञापन - *Mahesh Dhandole*

Urban Fact Files

PRIA and its partners are running a 'National Campaign' for 'putting governance of urban poverty issues' on the 'political agenda' in the four direction of India: Rajasthan, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Studies and public level consultations are being taken up in these states to understand the issues of urban poor and to have a dialogue with the political actors, media and civil society. Terraurban has uploaded the study undertaken by PRIA: 'Government Led exclusion of urban poor- the greater contributor and lesser recipient' for the States of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha which can be accessed at: http://terraurban.wordpress.com/resources/. This database is regularly being updated with fact files from other states as well.

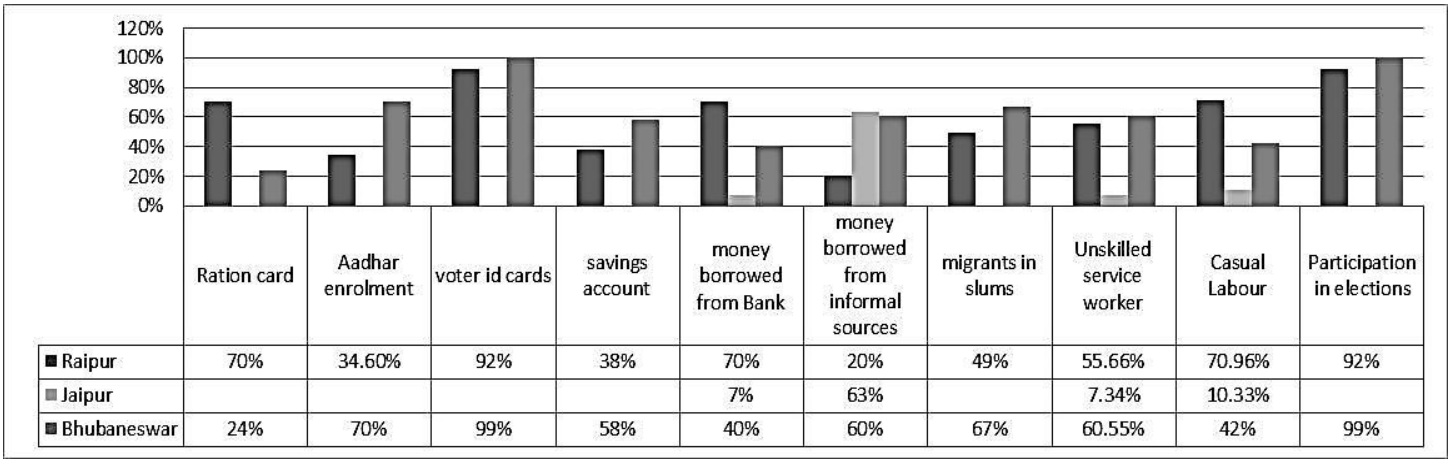
A quick comparison of the 'urban situation' of the three states of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha is given below:

	Chhattisgarh	Rajasthan	Odisha
area	1,35,191 sq.km	342,239 sq.km	155,820 sq.km
overall population	2,55,40,196	6,86,21,012	4,19,47,358
slum households	3,95,297	3, 83,134	3,50,306

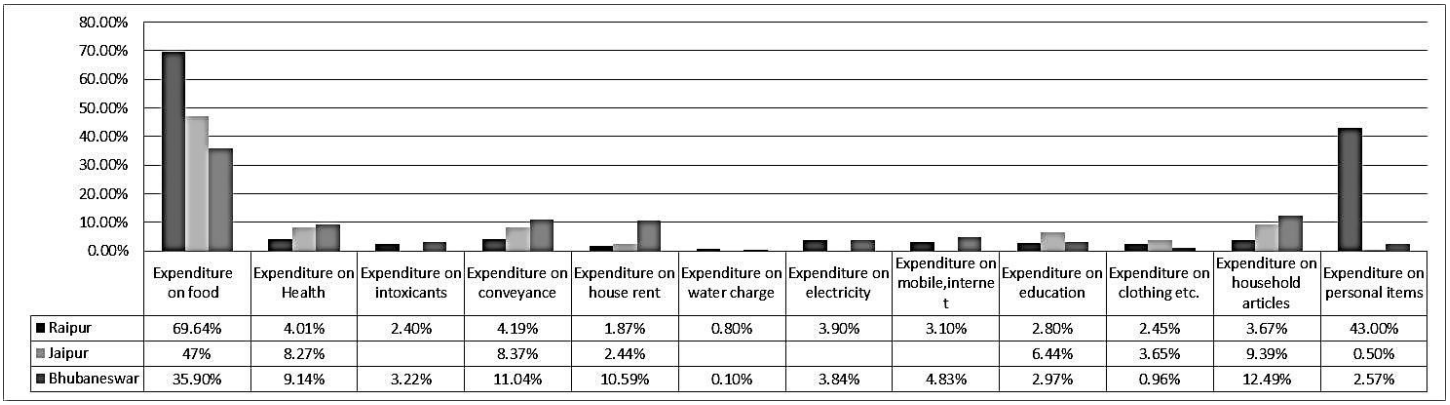


	rural area (pop) %	urban decadal growth	rural decadal growth	good slum household (sh)	livable sh	dilapitated sh	Access to water in homes (sh)	Access to electricity in homes (sh)	Latrine facility within homes (sh)	LPG connection (sh)	Banking services (sh)	Television (sh)	Mobile phones (sh)	Computer (sh)
Chhattisgarh	76%	23.30%	18%	57.40%	39.40%	32%	36%	92%	49%	32.20%	47.50%	62%	52%	6%
Rajasthan	75%	29.26%	19.05%	56.50%	40%	3.50%	69%	89%	71%	52%	48%	63%	66%	1.80%
Odisha	83%	26.80%	11.71%	38.05%	54.020%	7.93%	38.01%	75.52%	48.15%		51.71%	54.26%		5.68%

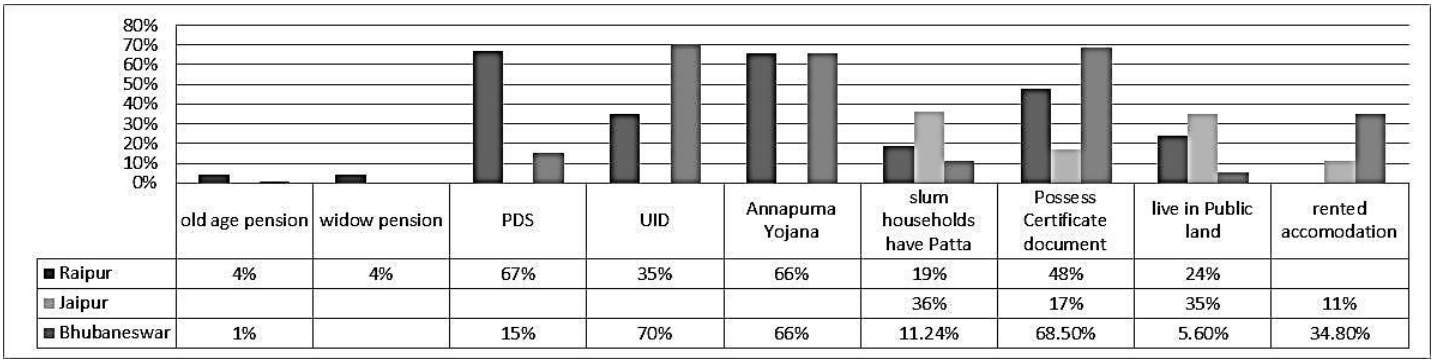
PRIA also conducted a primary study in the 50 slums each of Raipur, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar. Here are some quick findings:



	Ration card	Aadhar enrolment	voter id cards	savings account	money borrowed from Bank	money borrowed from informal sources	migrants in slums	Unskilled service worker	Casual Labour	Participation in elections
Raipur	70%	34.60%	92%	38%	70%	20%	49%	55.66%	70.96%	92%
Jaipur					7%	63%		7.34%	10.33%	
Bhubaneswar	24%	70%	99%	58%	40%	60%	67%	60.55%	42%	99%



	Expenditure on food	Expenditure on Health	Expenditure on intoxicants	Expenditure on conveyance	Expenditure on house rent	Expenditure on water charge	Expenditure on electricity	Expenditure on mobile,internet	Expenditure on education	Expenditure on clothing etc.	Expenditure on household articles	Expenditure on personal items
Raipur	69.64%	4.01%	2.40%	4.19%	1.87%	0.80%	3.90%	3.10%	2.80%	2.45%	3.67%	43.00%
Jaipur	47%	8.27%		8.37%	2.44%				6.44%	3.65%	9.39%	0.50%
Bhubaneswar	35.90%	9.14%	3.22%	11.04%	10.59%	0.10%	3.84%	4.83%	2.97%	0.96%	12.49%	2.57%



	old age pension	widow pension	PDS	UID	Annapurna Yojana	slum households have Patta	Possess Certificate document	live in Public land	rented accomodation
Raipur	4%	4%	67%	35%	66%	19%	48%	24%	
Jaipur						36%	17%	35%	11%
Bhubaneswar	1%		15%	70%	66%	11.24%	68.50%	5.60%	34.80%

Such studies have been supported with an on ground critique of various schemes such IHSDP and housing under JNNURM wherein in various cities the urban poor had to face the politics of improper allocation of houses, unhygienic transit camps and inadequate provision of services in the new housing, forcing them in even more grave conditions than before.

Public Consultations – Urban issues 'too' are important for the 'political manifesto'

In the fever of Lok Sabha 2014 elections, every political party has come out with its manifesto and is making 'promises' to people as a bait to be voted into the power. However most of these parties are oblivious to the present urban conditions and need for an immediate action towards an inclusive urban society. PRIA with its partners is organizing State and City level consultations with various stakeholders and representatives of these political parties. **Forum of Informal Urban Poor Workers (FIUPW) and PRIA have articulated an 'URBAN MANIFESTO' based on these consultations. There are four main 'demands' that have been put forth in this manifesto:**

PROVISION OF IDENTITY CARDS

- Dignity and identity to poor
- Government identity proofs to all informal settlers
- Birth registration certificates to the children of informal settlers

LIVELIHOOD AND SOCIAL SECURITY

- Employment guarantee
- Non employment allowance
- Pension
- Monsoon/draught allowance
- Employment opportunities
- Safety and security at work place
- Wage board for retail workers
- Central monitoring taskforce to implement Hawkers Act

HOUSING FACILITIES

- Systematic and accountable efforts by central govt. To improve the functioning of temporary shelters
- Housing to all hawkers under ray and JNNURM
- Central board to monitor the function of all homeless shelters
- Policy intervention to address the challenges faced by homeless people

EDUCATION

- Free and compulsory education for children in the 6-14 age group
- Privatization of govt. School need to be checked

Urban Manifesto by FIUPW and PRIA

The manifesto propagates proactive legislative actions and institutional reforms. Read the manifesto in detail at : http://terraurban.wordpress.com/2014/03/30/urban-manifesto-for-lok-sabha-elections-2014/

Various public consultations and interactions with the service providers also gave an opportunity to understand the perspective of those hungry for 'seat'. For instance, in the Raipur consultation honorable Mayor, Ms. Jyoti Khandelwal, accepted that sometimes political issues dominate the issues of common people and that the responsibility of urban poor rests with the government and also pointed out the reasons for migration of people. She also admitted that the problems at community level could be solved best by involving them and giving them the responsibility. Mr. Lalit Kishore representing the BJP, accepted that a large percentage of urban population lives in slum. He put forward some of the points in their election manifesto ***like reducing the rate of electricity, supply of potable water to every household, survey of BPL families and providing of ration card, reducing the rate of gas cylinders, construction of toilets, providing pension and the minimum amount would be Rs. 1500, provision of water tank, starting a single window system for providing ration card, BPL card, birth certificate, and rights, water supply and electricity connection etc.*** One of the participants suggested incorporating the issues of women particularly focusing on their social security, education and toilet facilities. The communities from slum also presented their problems. However, not all parties were as positive – BSP and AAP had a half-hearted reaction to the 'urban manifesto'.

Consultation at Raipur

Some tags and phrases that got attached to these political representatives were *'Selective Amnesia vs. Preparedness', 'Harassment' and 'Fake promises'.*

In India, urban development is under the whims and fancies of a 'five year term' of the elected representatives. Governments come and go, schemes begin and get scrapped, planning commission changes the allocated funds, master plan changes before it is even approved, Commissioner(s) and Mayor(s) are on different tangents and the 'needs' of the people take a back seat

However, it is not only the 'service providers' that have a role to play in building an inclusive urban society. The 'citizens' of democracy have an equal resposbility. From various consultation it is evident that most communities are either 'afraid' to raise their voice and have not 'collectivized'. It is important and utmost necessary at this moment for all the urban poor communities to 'speak' in unison. Electoral democracy only then can have a significant impact.

In Raipur consultation the voices of Political parties were counter parted by the urban poor who declared that in this election they want their rights in written and announced that in this election they want written assurance from the electing representative in the demand letter drafted by them including all the major issues and said that no matter who will be the winner of this election they just want to win in raising & claiming their voices. The oath letter drafted by the slum dwellers is attached here:

संकल्प पत्र

मैं यह संकल्प करता/करती हूॅ कि निर्वाचित होने के पश्चात् या अन्यथा भी आपके निम्नलिखित मांगांे पर गंभीरता से विचार कर उनकांे जल्द-से-जल्द क्रियान्वित करने का प्रयास करुंगा/करुंगी और आपकी निम्नलिखित मांगों के समर्थन में हमेशा आपके साथ खड़ा रहंूगा/रहूंगी।

जनता की प्रमुख मांगें:-

s विभिन्न आवासीय योजनाओं के अंतर्गत बस्तियों को शामिल कर यथास्थान पर विकसित करना, यथास्थान पर निर्माण के दौरान ट्रान्सेक्ट आवास की व्यवस्था की जाऐं एवं योजना के अंतर्गत प्राप्त आवासों के आवासीय अधिकार प्रदान किया जाऐं।

s यदि किसी बस्ती का एक बार किसी योजना के तहत विस्थापन हो चुका हो तो पुनः विस्थापन ना होना और उन्हंे उसी स्थान का मालिकाना हक प्रदान करना।

s कोई बस्ती जो किसी हानिकारक स्थान में बसी हो, ऐसी बस्तियों को विस्थापित करने से पूर्व इस बात को पूणर्ंाता सुनिश्चित करना कि बस्ती में किसी का रोजगार, बच्चों का स्कूल आदि बिलकुल प्रभावित ना हो और पूर्व बसाहट से निकटतम दूरी पर ही विस्थापित करना। इनकी विस्थापन प्रक्रिया तभी शुरु हो जब उनके लिए उपयुक्त वैकल्पिक आवासीय प्रबंध हो जाऐं।

s बस्तियों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं की उपलब्ध्ता कराई जाना एवं पार्षदों द्वारा हर 15 दिवस में बस्ती का अवलोकन एवं समस्याओं पर बस्ती के लोगों से चर्चा और त्वरित निवारण करना।

s बस्ती स्तर पर एक सक्रिय बस्ती आधारित संगठन के निर्माण में सहयोग।

सद्भावनाओं के साथ

प्रत्याशी का नाम, लोक सभा क्षेत्र

Let's take a pledge and do 'our-bit' to ensure that in such complexity of urban governance the real issues are put forth!

Thought of the month

The process of reducing the gap between the urban representative and urban poor has started. The state level consultations are a tool to achieve this goal. There is need for collectivization and convergence of voices of both urban poor and urban people's representatives who at this hour are scattered and acting as individual entities propagating individualistic approach to deal with the problems of urbanization, urban poor and urban governance as a whole! – **Shivani Singh, PRIA**

About Terra Urban

Terra Urban' is envisioned as a Think-Do Tank- an urban forum by Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) tracing urban issues, strengthening the voice of civil society towards those and in turn aim to create not just a platform to bring forth various actors, stakeholders and visions but also attempt to create action-research. It aims :

- *To be an exchange platform*
- *To be a knowledge portal*
- *To facilitate knowledge creation and action research*
- *To facilitate creation of network of CSOs/NGOs/Academician/ Professionals/Community and various other stakeholders*

Contact Us

Manoj Rai- Director, PRIA
email: manoj.rai@pria.org

Nidhi Batra, anchor-Terra Urban
email: nidhi.singh@pria.org

PRIA, 42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi – 110062
Ph:+91-011-29960931/32/33
Fax: +91-11-29955183

Knowledge is Power
PRIA

PRIA is an International Centre for Learning and Promotion of Participation and Democratic Governance
http://pria.org/

The views expressed by the contributing authors in this publication are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of PRIA
Editor and Cover Graphic: Nidhi Batra