
UNIT 2 URBAN COMMUNITIES

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2.0 OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you should be able to

- understand the meaning of what is urban and the terms used to define urban areas;
- explain the concept of urbanisation and describe the spread of urban communities;
- delineate the characteristic social and economic features of urban communities and their interrelationships;
- understand the two types of economies prevailing in the urban sector- formal and informal economy and their interlinkages as also urban poverty issues;
- understand specific urban communities such as refugee settlements and slums; and
- understand the variability of urban communities and its significance to community work practice.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

‘Urban’ communities have to be understood in their variability and heterogeneity. Cities have also to be understood to mean different things to different people. Stakeholders have different perceptions and the way these perceptions govern the city development has to be unraveled for community organized community development to take place. There is always a tension and conflict with multiple perceptions regarding development. The dominance of a particular perspective determines dimensions of the discourse of community development.

For us to understand urban communities we draw upon insights from sociology, economics, and public administration.. With regard to interventions we draw

upon insights derived from social work methods. One predominantly in use is the community organization method along with group work. Communities can be either defined as vulnerable or communities are looked at from strength's perspective. For social workers, the social justice perspective becomes the enabling perspective to look at urban communities, be it slums, elite class or displaced communities.

2.2 MEANING OF URBAN COMMUNITY

'Urban' means relating to or located in a city. It represents the characteristic of the city or city life. It has its roots in the Latin word *Urbnus*- the root *urb* means city.

Urban refers to the city or town. Several criteria such as demographic, ecological and socio-cultural attributes are used to identify an urban area. It is the size of the population and degree of complexity of organization, which differentiates a village from a town, a town from a city or from a metropolis. The concentration of population, predominance of non-agricultural activities and better provision of social amenities including health and education infrastructure are important characteristics of urban areas. However there is a stark variation in the distribution and access to these among the various communities living in urban areas.

Sociological Understanding

Max Weber considers urban areas to be more evolved organizationally based on the principles of rationality with the presence of a market and a specialized class of traders. Other religious, political, economic technological and complex administrative structures found in a city complement the trade and commerce network. There is a predominance of industrial and service sectors. City is also characterized by heterogeneity, impersonality, anonymity etc.

Louis Wirth (1938) considers urban areas as relatively large, dense, permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous individuals. Here secondary groups such as the corporation, voluntary associations, representative forms of government and mass media replace the primary group associations that are found in a village. Such relationships are also considered impersonal, segmental, superficial, transitory and often predatory in nature.

Robert Redfield in the 1940s proposed a folk –urban model in which he contrasted the image of city life with an image of the folk community (invariably rural). The latter is considered as small, sacred, highly personalistic, and homogeneous in contrast to the urban as invariably impersonal, heterogeneous, secular, and disorganizing.

Gideon Sjoberg (1960) divided the urban centres into two types, the pre-industrial city and the industrial city, which he distinguished on the basis of differences in the technological level. Pre-industrial cities are those without sophisticated machine technology, where human and animal labours form the basis for economic production. Industrial cities have a predominance of energy sources from fossil fuels and atomic power. The pre-industrial neighborhoods

were strongly integrated by personalistic ties of ethnicity and sectarian allegiance. They maintained strong family connections, and social disorganization was little in evidence. Industrial production was not yet the major concern.

Herbert Gans (1968) on the other hand considers these features to be the part of main city or inner city, but argues that the suburbanites pursue a different way of life, which is called quasi primary. The loss of kinship and primary community ties in the urban area is superseded by the emergence of neighborliness. Neighborhood ties are more intimate than professional and other secondary ties but more guarded than primary ties of kinship and extended family.

Census Definitions

As per the 1961 census, an area is considered urban if it meets the following criteria- 1) all places having a municipal corporation, municipality, notified area committee and cantonment board, 2) the places which satisfy the following criteria a) population not less than 5,000, b) Density of Population 1,000 persons per sq mile 9400 per sq km, c) seventy five percent of workers engaged in non-agricultural sector.

Census 2001 distinguishes between statutory towns and census towns:

Statutory towns are all places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town areas committee etc so declared by a state law.

Whereas census towns are places which satisfy the following criteria of i) a minimum population of 5,000 ii) at least 75% of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and iii) density of population being at least 400 persons per sq.km.

Another term urban agglomeration is used to understand the urban spread and growth. It refers to a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining urban outgrowths, or two or more physical contiguous towns together and any adjoining urban outgrowths of such towns. Examples of outgrowth are railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, military camps etc that may have come near a statutory town or city but within the revenue limits of a village or villages contiguous to the town or city. As per census 2001, it was decided that the core town or at least one of the constituent towns of an urban agglomeration should necessarily be a statutory town and the total population of all the constituents should not be less than 20,000. With such basic criteria the urban agglomerations could be constituted in the following way

- i) a city or town with one or more contiguous outgrowths,
- ii) two or more adjoining towns with or without their outgrowths, and
- iii) a city and one or more adjoining towns with their outgrowths all of which form a continuous spread.

Urban communities live in urban areas. There is tremendous diversity and complexity that characterizes these communities. Urban community is a complex multi-group society.

Check Your Progress 1

Note: Use the space provided for your answer.

1) What do you understand by an urban community?

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2) Critically discuss any two definitions of the term 'urban'.

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2.3 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AREAS

Colonial Influences

While earlier cities developed because of their importance as trading centres, port towns, as pilgrimage places, the colonial history has changed all these and made their importance hinge on their ability to serve the colonial rulers for processing and marketing of raw material from hinterland and finished goods from the empires. The processing also meant establishment of factories notably the cotton mills for processing raw cotton aided by the development of railways with each of the trading centres. Industrialization has led to the rapid rise in urban populations, urban centres, and development of urban culture that was starkly different from the pre-colonial city development.

The cities were seen as commercial and trading zones for primary exports and manufactured imports. This continued even after the colonized countries became independent.

Postcolonial Influences

The neocolonial city represents city development that has taken place in third world countries with the capital from advanced industrial nations, creating enclaves of industrial production. The commodities produced in neocolonial cities generally are destined for export rather than for home consumption, except perhaps by a small home elite. There are urban factories and urban-resident wage labourers. There is a developing infrastructure of urban transport and communication by which these commodities and labourers are allocated. There is massive urban-ward migration from neighbouring rural areas. The neocolonial city has given rise to informal economy consists of urban services and products

provided by the neocolonial city's poorest denizens, the petty hawkers, the shoeshine boys, the household help, the rag pickers, and others who form a class of petty commodity producers and sellers.

It is useful to look at the concept of urbanization in understanding urban communities.

2.4 URBANISATION AND SPREAD OF URBAN COMMUNITIES

Meaning of Urbanisation

The concept of Urbanisation refers to the geographic concentration of population through movement and redistribution in large human settlements with non-agricultural activities. The concentration of population is in urban environments of varying size and form. Urbanisation is also seen as the diffusion of urban values, behaviour, organizations and institutions. Some of the interrelated characteristics of modern day urbanization are: 1) the rapid rate of urban growth and its effect on municipal governments; 2) the upsurge in rural impoverishment and release of large work force into the urban informal economy; 3) urban poverty and its effect on the urban economy; and, 4) the proliferation of slums and their vulnerability; 5) the impact of globalizing economy on urbanisation through policies and programmes that promote urban activity and urban spread.

Spread of Urban Communities

As per census 2001 742 million live in rural areas and 285 million in urban areas comprising of 72.2% and 27.8% of the population respectively. Delhi has the highest percentage of urban population (93%) and Himachal Pradesh has lowest (9.8%)

In 2001, India had 35 cities / urban areas with a population of more than one million people. In total, some 108 million Indians, or 10.5 per cent of the national population, live in the country's 35 largest cities. Mumbai (Bombay) with a population of more than 16 million is now the world's fourth-largest urban area followed by Kolkata (Calcutta) in fifth place.

Maharashtra has the largest share of urban population of the country(14.4%)followed by Uttar Pradesh (12.1%) and Tamil Nadu (9.5%) About half the urban population of the country lives in five states namely Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

In the 2001 census nine districts were considered as fully urbanized – these were New Delhi, Kolkata Mumbai(suburban) , Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Yanam and Mahe (Pondicherry) While in 1991 census there were 129 district that had 30% of its population living in urban areas, in 2001 it increased to 148.

Urban slum areas are home to more than 40 million Indians or 22.6 per cent of India's urban population. More than 600 Indian towns and cities incorporate slum areas. The largest slum population in cities with population of more than

one million) is found in Mumbai (48.9%) and the lowest in Patna (0.25%). As per the size of the population the 2001 census of India has grouped cities into six classes. These are given below:

Class	Population Size	No of Urban Agglomerates/Towns
Class I	1,00,000 and above	393
Class II	50,000 - 99,999	401
Class III	20,000 - 49,999	1,151
Class IV	10,000 - 19,999	1,344
Class V	5,000 - 9,999	888
Class VI	less than 5,000	191
Unclassified	10	
All Classes	4378	

Source: Office of the Registrar General of India (population totals for India and States for the Census of India -2001)

Check Your Progress 2

Note: Use the space provided for your answer.

- 1) Trace the history of any town or urban area depicting the major influences in its development.

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- 2) What is urbanisation? Discuss the nature of urbanisation in your region.

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2.5 CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN COMMUNITIES

The characteristic features of urban communities relate to the economy, social structure, the political system, the cultural life and the spatial organization and their linkage and importance in contributing to the institutional and economic growth of the region and state in particular and the nation at large.

Social Aspects

Urban communities present a relatively greater heterogeneity and diversity, as compared to rural and tribal communities. A city has often been construed as a melting pot of people with diverse backgrounds and cultures, and a most favorable space for assimilation and amalgamation.

Secondary relations dominate such heterogeneous communities. Such contacts are likely to be more impersonal, segmental, transitory, utilitarian and contractual. The formal means of social control such as law, legislation, police, and court are needed in addition to the informal means for regulating the behavior of the people. There is mobility and openness. The social status is achieved than ascribed. Occupations are more specialized. There is widespread division of labour and specialization with plenty of opportunities for pursuing various occupations. Urban spaces bring together people from different corners. Distinctness is cherished, as because they are different, they are useful to one another.

The bonds of kinship, neighbourliness and the sentiments arising out of generations of living together are likely to be relatively weak in an aggregate, the members of which have such diverse origin and backgrounds. Urban communities place a bonus on individuals and individualization. People are more class-conscious and progressive and supposed to accept changes. They are also more exposed to the modern developments in the fields of science and technology. Despite these as enduring features of an urban community, we can find variations in the level and degree of specific features. Thus some communities may be more modern, even while living in the same area. Similarly in major human development indicators there may be variations within urban communities though sharing the same geographical space.

Caste and Class in Urban India

Caste affiliation, kinship ties continue in urban areas despite the modernizing and secularizing effects of urban living. However, there is a degree of emancipation from the deeply binding and almost choking personal and emotional control of the intimate primary groups. Social interaction among a variety of people tends to dilute the rigidity of caste lines but leads to a more complicated class structure and stratification. An individual may be a member of diverse groupings with fluctuating status in these groups like residential associations, professional occupational associations, social and recreational clubs etc. These groups do not lend themselves readily to any simple hierarchical arrangement. However, the so-called secular, formal and rational behaviour that is portrayed by the traditional understanding of urban areas does not entirely apply to the Indian situation. There is evidence of inter-caste/religious /ethnic competition which may turn into conflict situations too. The power structure thus is not only constituted by the hostilities and opposition that are derived from ones' affiliations, but also those derived on account of one's class. The pattern of conflict and cooperation thus cut across caste, religion and class lines.

The urban areas show the co-existence of various forms of social relationships and micro societies that represent, urban, rural, semi-urban – traditional and modern. There are also immigrants who live between the urban and rural cultures.

Families in Urban Areas

Family as unit of social life is relatively more emancipated from the larger kinship group. Cities are now being characterised by low and declining urban reproduction rates, which indicate that the context is not very conducive to traditional type of family life. Families are transforming in that mothers are

more likely to be working; marriage age is tending to get postponed; the proportion of single persons is increasing; and families are becoming smaller in size. The transformation of production, educational and child rearing practice to specialised institutions outside home, by families in middle income levels, is depriving the family of some of its characteristic functions.

Individual members within the family also tend to pursue their own diverging interests in their educational, vocational, recreational, religious and political life.

Since the majority of urban families have to live in areas that have cheaper accommodation, often their place of work is located at a considerable distance. This creates pressures on the time available for house care, childcare and maintenance of family bonds. Consequently families suffer a lot of strain. The frustrations experienced at the work place and the degradation of environment contributed by both indoor and outdoor air pollution, takes a heavy toll on the health and mental health aspects of urban families. This is compounded by the rising costs of urban living and privatization of health care.

Substitution of secondary for primary contacts; the weakening of bonds of declining social significance of the family, the disappearance of the neighbourhood kinship; undermining the traditional basis of social solidarity.

Economic Aspects

The urban economy is predominated by industrial and service sectors. The secondary and tertiary sectors predominate. The mode of organisation of the economy is to achieve the above results in various groups and classes, with an uneven distribution of social and economic resources. There is great diversity of the labour force with a few in the organized sector, receiving a high salary packages and a larger number in the informal economy receiving marginal and sustenance incomes with lack of social security benefits. The ethnic and caste basis of occupational specialization and distribution of privileges and disabilities becomes weaker, so that ethnic groups are becoming socio-economically heterogeneous in the urban context.

There are two types of sectors – the **organized or the formal sector** and the unorganized or the informal sector. Organized sector consists of large-scale operations in terms of capital labour wage labour with the use of advanced and modern technology- with institutional arrangements known as public and private sector partnerships. This sector is also closely linked with the global financial and economic systems. With the result any changes in the global economy affect it directly.

The **unorganized sector** on the other hand consists of smaller scale of operation in terms of capital and labour, private or family ownership, labour intensive, less advanced technology, unregulated markets and unprotected labour(almost no social security benefits-) this is being modified with the social security bill for the protection of unorganized(recently ratified by the Rajya Sabha). This also is affected by government policy regulation as in the case of protection of industry for capital or for labour. The small-scale industrial policy, the programmes of National Institute for micro, small and medium industries institute

are some such examples. 93% of the labour force is employed in unorganized sector.

There is a growing evidence of feminisation of poverty and feminisation of labour force especially in the informal sector. That is more and more women joining the labour force for lower rates of wages as their men folk are unemployed or are unable to seek a place in the formal economy.

Inter Relations between the Social and Economic Characteristics

It is necessary to view the social and economic characteristics of urban communities as interrelated aspects. The economic structure is closely linked to the social settlements. Social and economic features of the city thus get enmeshed in a complex web of local economic relations and global economic transactions

The economic structure is closely linked to the social settlements. Social and economic features of the city thus get enmeshed in a complex web of local economic relations and global economic transactions. The settings for the local economy are influenced by the local governance systems.

Check Your Progress 3

Note: Use the space provided for your answer.

1) What according to you constitute the major characteristics of urban communities?

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2) Describe in your own words the social and economic aspects of urban communities with illustrations from your own region.

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3) Discuss the nature of inter-linkages between the social and economic aspects of urban communities.

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Urban Poverty

It is important to understand urban poverty for social workers to design appropriate interventions. Workers engaged in the urban informal economy constitute the bulk of the urban poor. A large section of this population consists of low skilled rural migrants or migrants from smaller towns. Since they have neither the skills nor the opportunities to enter better paid and more secure formal sector jobs, they join the informal work force as soon as they enter the city. They thus move from one level of poverty in their place of origin to another level at their destination. In addition because of cost cutting measures by the formal sector and recession – there is a growing section of workers in the formal sector who have lost their jobs and are compelled to work in the informal sector. This change in their lives means a reduction in their standard of living as well as insecure and unregulated employment.

23.62 percent of India's urban population is living below the poverty line. The urban poor population is 3.41 percent less than the rural poor.

The tenth five year plan notes that urban poor can be defined in a declining scale such as core poor, intermediate poor, and transitional poor. Or they can also be classified in terms of declining poor, coping poor, and improving poor, with different degrees of priority for the three basic needs of survival, security, and quality of life.

The urban poor are characterized by inadequate income and unstable asset base, inadequate shelter, provision of 'public infrastructure', and provision of basic services, limited or no safety net, protection of poorer groups rights through the operation of law and poorer groups voiceless ness and power less ness.

Urban-rural Linkages

It is to be recognized that many poor households have livelihoods that draw on rural and urban resources or opportunities. Urban and rural areas are closely linked, each contributing to the other. These linkages need to be taken into account while planning for community development programmes

2.6 SPATIAL SEGREGATION

All urban communities are spatially segregated. That is, communities can have particular location because of their occupations, linguistic, regional, class and caste affiliation. Further the migrants to a city can settle down owing to group affiliations and informal ties. For example in the case of Delhi, the colonial administration ensured that the city development was to benefit the rulers, after annexation of Bahadur Shah Jaffer, the earlier walled city was neglected as the colonial rulers developed the vast New Delhi area, with wide roads, gardens and parks. There was more spatial segregation after partition, when refugees settled in new areas followed by continued influx of surrounding urban populations . Spatial segregation of city thus was not a one time phenomenon, but took place because of the waves of migrations and political upheavals in the sub-continent. Segregation of the city also took place as the migrants cluster to one particular area because of the informal connections and networks that had with city dwellers. As the refugees because of partition or other political

conditions came into the city, the city got its ethnically based groups like the Tibetan community, the Nirankari Colony, the Nizamuddin Basti etc.

Urban areas are also characterised by a greater separation between place of residence and place of work, on account of specialisation of land use, better transportation and communication facilities, segregation of people according to economic characteristics and a greater reliance on urban planning.

Check Your Progress 4

Note: Use the space provided for your answer.

- 1) What are the issues facing urban poor? Illustrate with respect to the poor in your region.

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- 2) Give an account of the spatial segregation in an urban area within your region.

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2.7 SPECIFIC URBAN COMMUNITIES

A) Refugee and Displaced Communities

The partition of Indian sub-continent into India and Pakistan had deleterious effects on millions of people. There was not only the trauma of leaving one’s place of residence, occupation and property but also the apprehension of reaching a safe place. Refugee communities have placed a tremendous strain on the resources of the state/area to which they move. Besides these there is also the trauma experienced when leaving loved ones behind or on the way to a safe destination, they are subjected to violence and loss of dignity. These problems were compounded by the settlements that were established for refugee populations that had the bare minimal facilities. Communities had to establish their lives all over again.

The problem of urban resettlement of the refugees and displaced (2-5 million displaced persons from West Pakistan) was accentuated with the differences in the economic situations of the incoming and outgoing population. This difference has been the more marked in the case of displaced persons from West Pakistan. There was also a difference between refugees related to their origin. Thus, while the Muslim migrant from the Punjab, PEPSU, Delhi, etc., was often a labourer or an artisan, with a comparatively low standard of life, the incoming non-Muslim was frequently an industrialist, a businessman, a petty shopkeeper or one

belonging to the white-collar professions and used to much better conditions of living.

Government initiated special agencies, such as the Faridabad, Rajpura and Hastinapur Development Boards and the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation were involved in meeting the housing requirements of the refugees. The experiments at Nilokheri and Faridabad are significant in themselves. They are based on the principle of self-help on a cooperative basis.

Rehabilitation of refugees involved providing educational facilities, training in vocations, grants for running businesses or setting up small enterprises etc.

Besides this there is internal displacement of communities that is taking place continually when their lands are taken away as in the case of tribal communities or when rivers are submerged during dam construction- the case of communities displaced say in Narmada valley, or the communities that are displaced because of economic pressures- drought and flood moving away from their place of birth to places far off in search of food and work.

Also there is displacement as a result of ethnic or caste violence that makes communities to move to newer areas within a city or elsewhere- through either a government rehabilitation scheme or on their own. Urban areas are made of many such people and major metropolitan areas are seen strewn with such communities.

Check Your Progress 5

Note: Use the space provided for your answer.

- 1) Discuss the nature of rehabilitation of refugee communities. What role do you envisage for social workers?

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- 2) Discuss the problems of the displaced communities in your region.

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B) Slums

Areas that are overcrowded with dilapidated structures, faultily laid out and lacking in essential services are generally termed as slums.

Slums are considered as the physical and social expression of inequalities in the distribution of the benefit of economic growth. Slums are neglected parts of cities where housing and living conditions are appallingly lacking.

Slums range from high density, squalid central city tenements to spontaneous squatter settlements without legal recognition or rights, sprawling at the edge of cities. Some are more than fifty years old, (infact in Kolkata some of the slums are 150 years old)

Slums have grown because of the poverty of rural areas. When all livelihood options fail, the rural communities move to urban areas in search of work. Sometimes they move with their entire families or only men migrate first, bringing their families with them later.

The migrants settle down in vacant places, which are not in the control of civic authorities. These areas lack basic civic amenities and these areas have soon grown into slums where people perforce live in unhygienic and unsanitary conditions. While slums are considered derogatively, the work force of the slum is an important constituent of the informal economy, which has links with the formal economy. The communities in slums are settled in groups which maintain their affinal and other bonds.

Definition of Slum

Slums have come to form an integral part of the phenomena of urbanization in India. It is for this reason that first time in the history of census in this country, the census 2001 has compiled slum demography.

As per the 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.

UN-HABITAT definition denotes a slum as 'a wide range of low-income settlements and/or poor human living conditions.' characterized by the following attributes: a) lack of basic services; b) substandard housing or illegal and inadequate building structures; c) overcrowding and high density; d) unhealthy living conditions and hazardous locations; e) insecure tenure, irregular or informal settlements; f) poverty and social exclusion; and, g) minimum settlement size.

Characteristic Features of the Slums

Physically, slums consist of clusters of huts comprising several rooms constructed with temporary building materials, where each room is inhabited by a family sharing a common latrine, without arrangements for water supply, drains, disposal of solid waste and garbage within the slum boundaries.

Slums are **characterized** by a) Lack of basic services, b) Overcrowding, c) high density doubtful and insecure tenure, d) Inadequate housing, e) Hazardous or precarious environments, f) Lack of access to basic facilities, g) Poverty or social exclusion.

It is to be understood that each locality, each metropolitan area has different slum types and none of them could be subsumed in one broad category. They are locally known with different names and different features with differing histories, different physical layout, pattern of ownership, political patronage and social make-up.

In case of Kolkata, these slum types could be categorized as the unauthorized bustees located on the sides of canals, large drains, garbage dumps, railway tracks and roads.

Among the **unauthorised** slums types are those, which are simply encroachments by the poor people either displaced from the city itself or retrenched from their work place, on the roadside (locally called *jhupri*), canals (called *khaldhar*), or any vacant place (called *udbastu*) another type of displacement is reported as displacement due to an excessive increase in family size. It has been found that the predominant structure types in the slum areas are *pukka*, *semi-pukka* and *kutchha* (crude or imperfect).

The **authorized** slums are the hut type settlements on leased land from landowners, which is let out to migrants; The second type of slum called “thika tenant slums” where the slum dwellers have taken possession at a fixed rent and have constructed their houses; Third types of slums are those constructed by zaminders (landowners) themselves and let out to the slum dwellers. These types of slums are locally called bustees; The fourth type of slums is Refugee Resettlement Colonies (locally called *udbastu* colonies) where land has been leased out for 99 years to the refugees from present-day Bangladesh by the government at nominal rents. (These types of houses are called Berar Ghar).

Check Your Progress 6

Note: Use the space provided for your answer.

- 1) Discuss the characteristic features of a particular slum while tracing its historical development.

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2.8 LET US SUM UP

This unit has provided you with an understanding with respect to urban communities. We have seen that Urban communities are not homogenous. There is a variation with respect to their demographic, social and economic features. This variability is not only across urban areas in India but within cities themselves.

Further urban and rural communities are interlinked with each other in myriad ways- both for economic and social reasons. Urban communities borrow from their rural brethren, the culture and customs as well as play a part in rural economy through remittance economy or participation in major agricultural operations. Also when the informal economic activity in urban areas gets affected

they immediately fall back on the rural agricultural economy to provide a safety net.

We also have seen that there are economic interlinkages within the urban communities. Thus both the formal and informal economies are interlinked with each other.

This variegated situation of urban communities brings with it a different set of problems, strengths and limitations of each of these communities affected differentially by the various policies at the national, regional, state and local levels. In working for community development thus provides a backdrop in which community based interventions have to be designed.

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