



The physical and social development of children is closely linked to the environment in which they grow up and the living conditions they have to confront. The child's self-confidence and distinctiveness depends significantly on having access to a place to live in safely and with dignity. The absence of these conditions lead to the child being deprived of many basic rights such as the right to health, education, protection from economic exploitation and abuse and the right to a legal identity and citizenship. Urban governance policies like JNNURM have been conceived with a focus to improve the living condition of urban poor. But it emphasizes more on infrastructure development. A responsive urban governance policy should consider all its citizens equal irrespective of age, gender or ability.

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for Urban Renewal

As per 2011 census, India's cities and towns are the home of 31 percent of total population. The rising population due to rapid migration from rural to urban cities has contributed to increase of slums in the cities. This, along with lack of planning has led to the degradation of cities all across India. This has made Government of India duty bound to take necessary steps to develop the urban cities further, and provide necessary infrastructure, introduce municipal reforms and grant necessary aid to

the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for a rapid urban development in the form of urban renewal. Therefore, with the objective of creating cities that are economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive, the central government introduced Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission in 2005 to upgrade infrastructure in cities in a mission mode. Investment in the first phase was Rs 66,000 crore. Now the central government is planning for JNNURM II which could see a threefold increase in its fund allocation after the completion of the first phase in March 2014.

Key components of JNNURM

Programmes	Administered / Managed by	Key focus area
Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG)	Ministry of Urban Development, GoI	Infrastructure projects relating to water supply and sanitation, sewerage, solid waste management, road network and transport
Basic Services to the Urban poor (BSUP)	MHUPA*	Support projects providing shelter, basic services and other related civil amenities to low-income settlements
Urban Infrastructure Development of Small & medium Town (UIDSSMT)	Ministry of Urban Development, GoI	Subsuming the schemes of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for planned urban infrastructural improvement in towns and cities
Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)	MHUPA	Safe and adequate water supply facilities to entire population

MHUPA – Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation, GOI- Government of India

Every child has a right to decent, secure & affordable housing

Finance for JNNURM

City category	Fund Share (In percent)		
	Centre	State	ULBs/Para Statal share/loan from financial institution.
Cities/UAs with 4 million plus population as per 2001 census	35	15	50
Cities/UAs with million plus but less than 4 million population as per 2001 census	50	20	30
Cities/ Towns/ UAs in North Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir	90	10	
Cities/UAs other than those mentioned above	80	10	10

Source: www.jnnurm.nic.in

Statutory reforms

In order to avail grants from the Centre, the states have to execute 23 reforms (13 mandatory and 10 optional reforms) to bring about reform in financial, institutional, and structural governance of the ULBs to make them efficient, accountable and transparent within the period of the mission. Among the major reforms, the enactment of public disclosure and community participation law at the state level are of utmost importance. At the city level, reforms are to be made for internal earmarking of budgets for Basic Services to the Urban Poor with other financial reforms.

Structure of project implementation under JNNURM

- Every city is expected to formulate a City Development Plan (CDP) which is an all-inclusive plan focused on addressing prioritized problems.
- Cities/Urban Agglomerations/Parastatals are required to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) with sufficient details to ensure appraisal, approval, and subsequent project implementation in a timely and efficient manner.
- The Central Government and state government are to release funds directly as grant in aid to the state level agencies which will further be disbursed to the ULBs.

CAG Observations

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report on 'Performance Audit of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)' has observed that

- Only 22 of 1517 housing projects are completed by March 2011.
- Rs 115 crore was diverted for non JNNURM purpose. Ineligible beneficiaries have received the benefits of the scheme.

- The implementing agencies like Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation lack the capacity and expertise to handle a scheme of this magnitude.
- Many states have not taken appropriate measures for the reforms.
- The Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation should introduce a "zero tolerance policy" at all levels in respect of irregular expenditure and diversion of funds by the way of a greater financial discipline

Areas of Concern

JNNURM being a policy focused more on city development and urban poor does not consider young children as an entity. The policy makers felt that by providing a space for crèches and anganwadi centers will be enough for the children. It does not consider that children have a say in planning their own city which will be dwelled by their own children when they grow up.

The concept of child friendly physical environment is a framework to make the urban governance to cater to the needs of children in infrastructure, sanitation, drinking water and access to basic services etc. Many may consider it as more idealistic but it is not impossible. JNNURM talks of community participation but it ignores child's participation perhaps considering them as too young to take decisions. Being a signatory of UNCRC 1989 the government is violating four principles of UNCRC; a) non discrimination (art 2), b) best interest of the child (art 3), c) right to life and maximum development (art 6), d) respecting children's view (art 12). It is the obligation of the state to fulfill these rights. Therefore a formalize space for children's participation and mainstreaming children's perspective in JNNURM with the active involvement of community and policy makers need to be created where children's voice will be heard and viewed with importance.

Can BSUP funded slum improvements improve children's lives?

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JNNURM till date is the most ambitious urban renewal programme in India with the objective of creating better and more inclusive cities through planned urban development. The sub-mission of JNNURM—the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) which focuses on integrated development of basic services in slums when reviewed from a child rights perspective uphold several of the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Commitment to security of tenure (articles 16, 20 and 27), improved housing (article 27), water supply and sanitation (article 24), education (articles 28 and 29), health (articles 6 and 24), employment near housing (articles 18 and 27), civic amenities and utilities (16, 19, 31, and 34), converging social security services (articles 2, 7, 8, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37) as mandated in the UNCRC are built in the objectives of BSUP. This means that if BSUP is to achieve its stated goals in slum development projects where all the above converge seamlessly then indeed the resultant projects would improve opportunities for survival and support healthy development of children in slums. If social security measures that protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and cruelty are converged with BSUP, then JNNURM would have mainstreamed critical protection concerns of children living in poverty in urban development.

An important dimension of JNNURM/BSUP is the mandatory citizen participation in the process which is a key right accorded to children (articles 12, 13, 15, and 17, UNCRC) today particularly in local area development following Agenda 21 that advocates advancing the role of youth and actively involving them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development; the Habitat Agenda that advocates engaging children and youth in participatory processes dealing with the shaping of cities, towns and neighbourhoods to secure the living conditions of children and of youth and to make use of their insight, creativity and thoughts on the environment; and the child friendly cities movement.

There are many good points about BSUP which in fact make this programme quite unique and superior to previous attempts at slum development. However case studies of different slum development/redevelopment projects across India by Action for Children's Environments (ACE) reveal that many of these objectives of BSUP though good as a policy on paper were diluted at the programme level and often produced hazardous results for children

and families at the project level. Some of the issues that prevent BSUP from realizing its objectives on the ground include:

- Lack of recent and accurate data on slums and lack of guidance and capacity in preparing detailed socio-economic surveys resulting in inadequate CDPs and DPRs.
- As children are not considered a vulnerable category in slum upgrading child health and education data are left out of surveys, children's issues are not prioritised in DPRs and social infrastructure that could positively aid child development not provided for.
- Lack of understanding of environmental hazards in the local area lead to inadequate programming and budgetary allocations for mitigating their ill-effects on children and families.
- Lack of awareness and understanding of health principles of housing put children at risk at home and the neighbourhood.
- Lack of understanding of children's needs cause erosion of play opportunities.
- Mostly token community participation with no participation of children further marginalizes children in planning.
- Lack of transparency in allocation, faulty contracts and payment delays to contractors, escalating costs of construction leave out the poorest families from securing a BSUP house.
- Lack of measures within current policy frameworks to address delivery standards of process (such as adequate community participation) and product (such as quality of and adequacy of housing) are producing inadequate housing that cause many hardships for poor families.





Can't it be child friendly?



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Childhood safety depend on safe drinking water and sanitation