

Poverty Alleviation: Habitats and Infrastructures for the Under Privileged

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy

India

Dr. Raghuram Ekambaram

India

Contact: bcroy1944@gmail.com

Abstract

The provision of empowering habitats is one of the first concerns in the current development plans that include the fight against poverty. Structural engineers contribute by co-opting optimal design, spurring the local economy by using easily available and robust local materials and using relevant materials and construction technologies in the provision of habitats for the poor while at the same time being concerned about the environment, energy efficiency, and sustainability of the measures. They look at the long-term effects in terms of capability enhancement of the workforce, the direct benefits to the local economy, and the relevance of the built environment to the existing socio-cultural milieu. Good, affordable, and fast network connectivity also benefits the upgradation of human living conditions and comfort.

Keywords: Habitats for the poor; new materials; new technologies; energy efficiency; environmental degradation; transfer and diffusion of technology

1 Introduction

More than a billion people worldwide, particularly in the developing and least developed countries, live in habitats that do not enhance or widen people's development pathways. – lacking in potable water, basic sanitation, sustainable livelihoods, and other enabling features of life, but most importantly, a roof over their heads in extreme cases. Poverty has been historically accepted in some parts of the world as inevitable. In the middle of 2021, about 84 million people were living in severe deprivation. More than 40 million families are homeless in India. Habitats, which comprise homes that automatically integrate themselves in their communities through robust infrastructure, are the strongest developmental needs. Poverty is a deprivation of a person's ability to lead his/her life in a manner he/she finds meaning.

World Bank says poverty is hunger, a lack of shelter, not being able to see a doctor when sick, no health care facility, not having a school, and a total mess of utilities among many others including connectivity. India is a developing country. Even with economic growth – unfortunately severely skewed in favour of those who have all the needs – the country faces challenges all around. Statistics help hide more than reveal, what someone said and there is much truth in it. While India does seem to have struck a nice balance in limiting population growth rate to reasonable levels, numbers hide the wide geographical disparity; economic growth and the rate of growth of population are supposedly inversely related, but in India this is true only in pockets. This is an issue, particularly in a geographically and culturally too spread out India cries out for meaningful interventions.

The government has been attempting hard to eradicate poverty through various poverty