

Gentrification of Cities and Its Implications

Gentrification refers to the process of influx of higher income groups to a neighbourhood displacing the poorer residents in the area. Ruth Glass, a British sociologist, first came up with the term in 1964, for describing 'how middle-class people were moving into formerly working-class neighbourhoods in London and displacing the less affluent residents'. Over the years, the scope of gentrification has widened and deepened to accommodate all kinds of development induced displacements where vulnerability based on income was a criterion. When we talk about India, urbanization processes have never been entirely inclusive. About one in six urban dwellers live in an inadequate settlement without basic services. The core areas of most Indian cities have remained the privileged areas of the higher income groups. The current development strategies, having the base on urban renewal can accelerate gentrification. In this, an exploratory study of the gentrification in Indian cities is conducted to substantiate the need for addressing it in our urban planning. It is very difficult to prove the existence of gentrification statistically in Indian scenario, because of inadequacy of data and tools for assessment. So theory behind the process is studied extensively to understand the causes, indicators and impacts. Then based these theories, Indian urban planning scenario is compared with countries with adequate research and statistical measures. Some detailed case studies are also done to validate the existence of aspects identified from the literature analysis. Analysis and inference of the general aspects and contextual studies lead to the conclusion that gentrification is really prominent in India and we have to take concrete steps to address it in our urban planning

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