

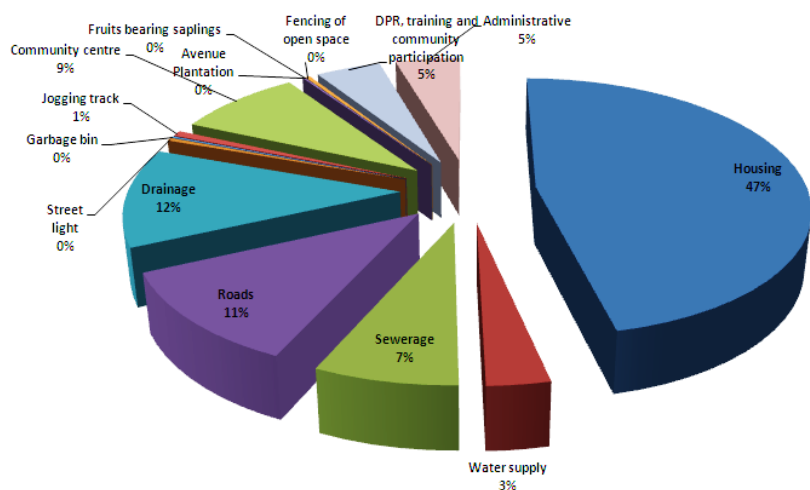
PRESS NOTE

“Provide adequate and affordable housing to all slum dwellers soon”

Youth for Social Development in partnership with the United Nations HABITAT and BVLf is celebrating the World Habitat Day on 7 October, 2013. The purpose of World Habitat Day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world that we all have responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.

In Berhampur 26,270 households (1, 17, 541 people i.e. 39%) live in 137 slums scattered in Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BMC). Most of the slum households don't have tenant rights but living in these informal settlements approximately since last 15-30 years. These slum habitants are lack of adequate housing, basic facilities like water, sanitation, electricity, roads, means of transportation and other livelihood options.

For holistic slum development with healthy and enabling environment BMC has been implementing Integrated Slum Development Scheme (IHSDP) sponsored by the central government since 24/02/2009 with an approved budget of Rs. 3,101.19 lakhs. A total number of 1,202 household beneficiaries (19 wards) in 24 slums have been selected for provision of housing under this scheme. Current status of IHSDP



shows a depressing picture and construction of most of the DUs still remains incomplete after four (4) years of implementation. Out of 1202 dwelling units (DU), work order has been issued for 984 DUs and there are still 218 DUs are pending. On the other hand out of 984 DUs construction of only 262 DU has been completed, 304 dwelling units are under progress and remain 566 DUs the construction has not started yet. Overall only 21.79% (262) DUs has been constructed during last four years.

- Most of the houses build under the scheme are very small in size and in appropriate to live. There is no perfect ventilation to pass natural light and fresh air.
- Basic infrastructure like water supply, sanitation, garbage, drainage, roads and street lighting has not been done in accordance with the guidance of the scheme.
- Most of the cases there are no toilet inside the house though there is provision of toilet is mandatory.
- Provision of public toilet has not been done in most of the slum; total number 24 public toilets are available in the city which is bare minimum.
- Provision of garbage bin, community centre, proper drainage, open space, jogging track and plantation has not been done at all though there is allocated budget for these components in the scheme.
- For preparation of DPR, training and capacity building and community mobilization a total amount of 140.96 ha been spent but the community are less aware of the scheme and their

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mobilization on the scheme looks very depressing. Even they don't understand the process and objectives of the scheme.

- The beneficiary share in the scheme has not been understood properly to most of the beneficiaries.
- Due to the old price slab (estimate) for the construction of house, they require huge price escalations in the scheme. That is why most of the houses still incomplete and some cases it has not been started yet.

In case of Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) the household survey has been completed and three slums have been selected for piloting of the scheme. But the detailed project report (DPR) is under approval by the central government. The process of the RAY still looks very slow and most of the households are still in misconception of eviction and fear of not getting an affordable and adequate housing.

On this occasion of World Habitat Day we urge the local and state government to

- Prepare the DPR under the RAY scheme for all slums in the city and start providing houses without making any further delay.
- Ensure tenant rights to all the homeless (inhabitants) living in the city specifically the urban poor living in slums and informal settlements.
- Gear up the construction and make the payment to the beneficiaries at an earliest so that they can complete their dwelling under the IHSDP scheme.
- Create strong community mobilization to understand the scheme properly to the communities and beneficiaries. The implementing agency should ensure community participation and the views of the slum dwellers should take into consideration.
- Provide basic facilities like water supply, toilets, garbage collection, drainage, roads, open space, electricity, public toilet and community centre as per the provision of the housing schemes.
- To make the house child friendly a space for children's reading and play should be arranged in the layout and accordingly construct. On the other hand in the community there should be space of children's play and networking and space for child community centre and building for child care centre (ICDS) should be there.

In this occasion BMC Mayor Mrs. K. Madhavi present as the chief guest and two corporators of BMC Mr. Ashok Shukla and Mr. Surendra Maharana also present in this occasion. Slum Improvement Officer of BMC Shri. Sangram Sekhar Panda also present as special guest. More 110 participants including children, youth, women and slum dwellers present in this occasion.

For more details contact

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