

Rajiv Awaas Yojana (RAY) Project Pune

Slum-Free City Planning and Urban Poor Survey Initiative

Maharashtra Social Housing and Action League (MASHAL) actively supported the implementation of the **Rajiv Awaas Yojana (RAY)**, a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at achieving the vision of a **“Slum-Free India.”** Launched in 2009, the programme sought to address the challenges faced by slum dwellers and urban poor households through inclusive urban planning, improved access to basic services, and sustainable housing solutions.

Under this initiative, MASHAL undertook extensive survey, mapping, and planning activities to support the preparation of slum-free city strategies and the development of comprehensive databases for urban poor settlements. The project focused on generating reliable information to facilitate evidence-based planning and implementation of housing and infrastructure programmes for marginalized urban communities.

Project Objective

The primary objective of the initiative was to contribute towards creating inclusive and equitable urban environments by ensuring that slum communities gained access to basic civic amenities, social services, and dignified housing. The project aligned with the broader goals of Rajiv Awaas Yojana, which emphasized:

- Integration of both notified and non-notified slum settlements into the formal urban system.
- Improvement of access to essential municipal services and infrastructure.
- Strengthening urban planning mechanisms to prevent the formation of future slums.
- Addressing shortages of affordable housing and urban land for economically weaker sections.
- Promoting inclusive development and improving the quality of life of urban poor households.

MASHAL's Role and Interventions

As part of the programme, MASHAL undertook large-scale data collection, settlement profiling, and planning support activities aimed at developing a comprehensive understanding of slum conditions and community needs.

Key interventions included:

- Identification and mapping of slum settlements.
- Household-level socio-economic surveys.
- Collection and compilation of demographic information.
- Assessment of housing conditions and infrastructure availability.
- Documentation of access to basic services such as water supply, sanitation, roads, drainage, and electricity.
- Preparation of settlement profiles to support slum redevelopment and rehabilitation planning.
- Development of databases to facilitate policy formulation and programme implementation.

Coverage and Scale

The project covered an extensive geographical area and represented one of the largest urban poor information initiatives undertaken by MASHAL. Under the programme, MASHAL worked across:

- **435 slum settlements**
- **Approximately 152,791 households**

The information generated through the project provided a valuable resource for government agencies, urban local bodies, planners, and development organizations involved in housing, infrastructure development, and poverty alleviation programmes.

Project Significance

The Rajiv Awaas Yojana initiative strengthened the foundation for inclusive urban development by generating reliable, settlement-level information on housing and service deficiencies faced by urban poor communities. The project contributed to the preparation of slum-free city planning strategies and

supported efforts to integrate informal settlements into the formal urban framework.

Through its technical expertise in GIS mapping, socio-economic surveys, community engagement, and urban planning, MASHAL played a significant role in supporting the objectives of Rajiv Awaas Yojana and advancing the vision of equitable, sustainable, and inclusive cities.

The project further reinforced MASHAL's position as a leading organization in urban poverty mapping, slum profiling, GIS-based planning, and community-centered urban development initiatives across Maharashtra.

