

Smart Card Project, Yerwada, Pune (2016–2017)

Project Overview

MASHAL implemented the Smart Card Project in Nagpur Chawl, Yerwada, Pune, between June 2016 and June 2017 with the objective of strengthening the identification and documentation of slum households through a technology-enabled system. The initiative was designed to provide residents with a reliable and recognized form of identity linked to their housing and family information, serving as an alternative reference document for property-related records and facilitating access to various government services and welfare schemes.

The project sought to create a comprehensive digital database of slum households and introduce a smart card-based information system that would enhance transparency, improve record management, and support future planning and development interventions in informal settlements.

Project Objectives

The project was implemented with the following key objectives:

- To establish a reliable identity and information system for slum households.
- To facilitate recognition of slum residents and their housing records by government agencies and local authorities.
- To create a digital repository of household-level information that could be accessed through a smart card platform.
- To improve the availability and accessibility of socio-economic and housing-related information for planning and service delivery purposes.

Methodology and Implementation

Before issuing smart cards, MASHAL conducted a detailed baseline survey of households residing in Nagpur Chawl. The survey collected demographic, socio-economic, and housing-related information from each family. Data gathered during the survey included:

- Details of the household head
- Family composition and member information

- Residential location and housing details
- Occupancy and tenure-related information
- Other relevant socio-economic indicators

Based on the information collected, a digital database was created and integrated into a smart card system. Each beneficiary household was issued a smart card containing a microchip capable of storing key household information. The card served as a portable and secure repository of family and housing records.

The smart card technology enabled residents to access and verify their information electronically while also supporting local authorities in maintaining accurate records of households within the settlement.

Key Achievements

- Successfully completed a household-level survey in Nagpur Chawl, Yerwada.
- Developed a digital database containing demographic and housing information of slum residents.
- Issued smart cards to 1,209 beneficiary households.
- Created a technology-based system for managing and accessing household information.
- Enhanced documentation and identity verification mechanisms for residents of informal settlements.
- Demonstrated the potential of digital tools for urban governance, property-related documentation, and community-level information management.

Impact

The Smart Card Project introduced an innovative approach to community data management in informal settlements. By digitizing household records and linking them to smart cards, MASHAL helped create a more organized and accessible information system for slum residents. The initiative improved the visibility of beneficiaries within formal systems and contributed to more efficient planning, monitoring, and service delivery efforts.

The project also served as an important demonstration of how technology can be leveraged to strengthen urban community development initiatives, improve record keeping, and support the inclusion of marginalized populations within formal governance frameworks.

Beneficiaries

- Location: Nagpur Chawl, Yerwada, Pune
- Project Duration: June 2016 – June 2017
- Direct Beneficiaries: 1,209 Slum Households

Conclusion

The Smart Card Project successfully established a digital identity and information management system for slum households in Yerwada. Through household surveys, database creation, and smart card issuance, MASHAL enabled improved access to household information and strengthened the foundation for future urban development and service delivery initiatives. The project demonstrated the value of integrating technology with community development efforts to promote better governance and inclusive urban planning.