

Survey Support for Socioeconomic Conditions and Community Perceptions in Urban Slums, Pune

MASHAL conducted a comprehensive socioeconomic and perception survey on behalf of **PRIO-ORF (Peace Research Institute Oslo – Observer Research Foundation)** to better understand the living conditions, aspirations, challenges, and perceptions of urban poor communities residing in selected slums of Pune city.

The study was undertaken across three slum settlements representing different geographic and socio-economic contexts within the city:

- **Tarwade Vasti** in Hadapsar Ward
- **Indira Audyogik Vasahat** in Sahakar Nagar Ward
- **Shivajinagar Railway Station Vasti** in Ghole Road Ward

A total of **300 households** were surveyed, with **100 structured questionnaires administered in each slum settlement**. The survey aimed to generate evidence-based insights into the realities of urban poverty and exclusion within the broader framework of inequality, social marginalization, and conflict in rapidly urbanizing environments.

Objectives of the Study

The study was designed with the following key objectives:

1. Understanding Socioeconomic and Development Challenges

MASHAL assessed the social, economic, and developmental issues faced by residents living in informal settlements. The survey examined factors such as:

- Household demographics and family structure
- Income sources and employment patterns
- Educational status and access to learning opportunities
- Housing conditions and tenure security
- Availability of basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity, and healthcare
- Access to government welfare schemes and social protection programs

The assessment provided a detailed understanding of the everyday challenges encountered by urban poor households and the factors contributing to their vulnerability.

2. Assessing Public Perceptions of Governance and Service Delivery

A significant component of the study focused on understanding how residents perceived the performance of various institutions responsible for addressing their needs and aspirations. The survey explored community views regarding:

- Municipal service delivery
- Government welfare programs
- Public infrastructure and facilities
- Responsiveness of local authorities
- Role of elected representatives
- Contributions of civil society organizations and community groups

The findings highlighted the extent to which residents felt included in development processes and their level of satisfaction with public services and governance mechanisms.

3. Examining Safety and Security Concerns

The study also investigated the security environment within the selected settlements. Information was gathered on:

- Perceptions of personal and community safety
- Incidents of crime and violence
- Social tensions and conflicts
- Gender-related safety concerns
- Community coping mechanisms and support systems

This component helped identify factors affecting social cohesion and overall quality of life within urban informal settlements.

Methodology

MASHAL adopted a structured survey methodology using standardized questionnaires administered through household interviews. The survey team

engaged directly with community members to collect both quantitative and qualitative information regarding living conditions, service access, governance, and security.

Data collected from the three settlements was analyzed to identify common trends as well as location-specific issues. The comparative analysis provided valuable insights into the diverse realities experienced by different urban poor communities across Pune city.

Outcomes and Significance

The study generated important evidence on the multidimensional challenges faced by urban poor households in Pune. It highlighted the intersections between poverty, exclusion, inadequate service delivery, governance deficits, and security concerns in informal settlements.

The findings contributed to a deeper understanding of urban inequality and provided a foundation for policy discussions, development planning, and interventions aimed at improving the quality of life of marginalized communities. The study also strengthened the knowledge base required for designing inclusive urban development strategies that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the urban poor.

Through this assignment, MASHAL demonstrated its expertise in conducting field-based socioeconomic research and generating actionable insights to support evidence-driven urban policy and development initiatives.