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RESEARCH PAPER

Slum Development in Southern Punjab: A Case Study of Tibba Badar Sher, Bahawalpur

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research was to evaluate the effectiveness, gaps, and limitations of slum development and improvement initiatives in Southern Punjab. Slums are home to one out of every three people who live in cities throughout the developing world. These are often areas of robust economic activities. Globally, more than a billion people reside in slums. Many slums sprung up in and around Bahawalpur to accommodate the influx of people seeking better opportunities from surrounding areas, including Bindra Bund, Tibba Badar Sher, and others. Most of these slums continued to have issues because of urbanization and a lack of public amenities. The research used a mixed-methods research design, integrating quantitative and qualitative methodologies, to provide a thorough understanding of the growth of slums in the Southern Punjab region, and Tibba Badar Sher in particular. The paper concludes with the identification of key obstacles and opportunities for sustainable development.

KEYWORDS Bahawalpur, Economic Growth, Slums, Tibba Badar Sher, Urbanization

Introduction

Many developing nations are experiencing significant urbanization and population growth, which has resulted in a variety of socioeconomic issues. One of the most obvious consequences of this trend is the explosion of slums (Awuah and Abdulai, 2022). Pakistan, a country in South Asia, is not immune to this phenomenon (Wang et al., 2021). The growth of slums, especially in the Southern Punjab region, has become an important issue, affecting the lives of thousands of citizens and providing several difficulties for the local authorities and policymakers (Mukhtar, 2015).

In cities, when land and profit are few, slums are frequently the only sort of habitation that is affordable and accessible to the poor. Two main factors contribute to rapid urbanization. Most of the people in any country are moving to cities quickly because of migration and spontaneous population growth. Cities nowadays house more than half of the world's population. Over 90% of urban expansion is taking place in developing countries (Li et al., 2020). Second, Governments frequently contribute to the creation of slums by failing to address the needs of the poor and include them in urban planning (Surya et al., 2020). Governments can't or won't act quickly enough to keep up with growing modernization, while others are against urban growth and think that helping the poor is a waste of time (Mohsin et al., 2020).

Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan Abbasi I built the city in 1748, and his descendants dominated the region until 1954 when it was annexed by Pakistan (Khan, 2020). Bahawalpur was one of British India's largest states, stretching over 450 kilometers, and was controlled by Nawab Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi V Bahadur, who elected to join Pakistan after the country gained independence in 1947 (Ahmad et al., 2022).

Table No. 1
Population according to Census 1998 and Census 2017

District/Tehsil	Population according to Census 1998			Average annual Growth
	Total	Males	Females	
Bahawalpur District	2,433,091	1278,775	1154316	3.08
Bahawalpur Tehsil	806,580	430,723	375,877	3.39
District/Tehsil	**Population according to Census 2017**			**1998-2017 Average Annual Growth Rate**
Bahawalpur District	3,669,176	1,879,702	1,789,148	2.18
Bahawalpur city Tehsil	682,116	350,186	331,842	2.59
Bahawalpur Saddar Tehsil	575,886	301,550	274,273	2.11

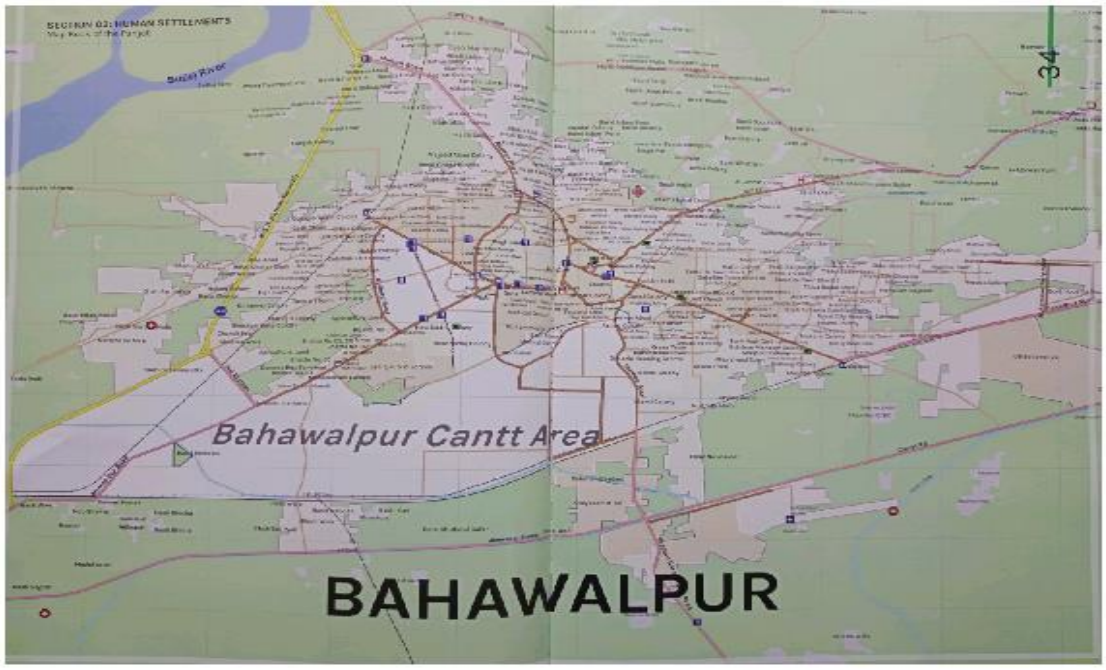


Figure no 1: Map of the city of Bahawalpur (Lewis et al., 2021)

Periodical Urban Growth of The Bahawalpur City

According to Hussain et al., (2020), the process of growth and development of Bahawalpur City can be divided into three phases. The initial stage, from 1778 to 1943, is called the "Medieval Stage," or "Walled City," because the city was only inside the walls. The second stage, which lasted from 1944 to 1973, could be called the "expansion" stage. The last phase from 1974 to 2000 was the expansion stage, the city started to expand very rapidly for example during these periods the urban growth rate was nearly 5 % per annum.

After the 1940s, the city started growing at a more rapid pace, which led to a more rapid expansion of the metropolis (Khan et al., 2014). According to the census taken in Pakistan in the year 1998, the city of Bahawalpur had its population grow at a pace of 5.2 percent every single year between the years 1981 and 1998. This growth rate is the second highest in the world after Islamabad, which is the capital city of Pakistan (Hasan and Raza, 2008). As a result, the city's nature and structure have swiftly evolved, particularly in the last quarter of a century. Bahawalpur is not a manufacturing hub. The area under industrial use in 1973 was only 29 acres, which was doubled in 1993 but still the share of industrial land use in the buildup is very low, which is only 1.3% (Lewis et al., 2021).

Table no 2
Land Use in Bahawalpur (City et al., 2019)

Type of land use	Percentage of land occupied
Residential	58
The road Network	16
Commercial	4.5
Industrial	Less than 1
Open Spaces	4
Other	25

In this case study, a slum colony called Tibba Badar Sher in Bahawalpur, Southern Punjab, Pakistan, is examined in detail. Tibba Badar Sher exemplifies the region's greater slum growth problem, illustrating the complicated interplay of urbanization, poverty, and inadequate infrastructure (Abbas et al., 2021). This slum, located on the outskirts of Bahawalpur, has grown rapidly over the last few decades, owing mostly to rural-urban migration, limited employment possibilities in rural areas, and the attractiveness of urban centers.

The expansion of Tibba Badar Sher can be linked to many different issues, including economic inequality, a dearth of housing options at cheap prices, and insufficient urban planning (Nazir, 2022). Slum inhabitants suffer from a lack of clean water, sanitation, and healthcare. Residents are vulnerable due to precarious housing and land tenure, which promotes poverty and marginalization. It is essential to have a solid understanding of the dynamics of slum growth in Tibba Badar Sher to effectively devise ways to solve the issues that are encountered by the people who live there. This case study examines the socio-economic features of the slum population, the sources of its rise, living conditions and infrastructural deficits, and current policies and measures to rehabilitate slums.

This research aims to illuminate the larger problem of slum expansion in Pakistan's Southern Punjab region by focusing on the specific situation of Tibba Badar Sher. Slum residents confront several challenges, and it is hoped that the results of this study will help politicians, urban planners, and other stakeholders come up with long-term, comprehensive solutions to these problems.

Literature Review

The growth of slums is a huge urban problem that many countries, including Pakistan, are currently struggling to address. This literature review investigates the existing scholarly work and research on slum development, with a particular emphasis on the Southern Punjab region and the case study of Tibba Badar Sher in Bahawalpur.

Slum has always existed around the globe. The local settlements have always been close to slums, even while the fort was being built. They were never involved in the development, building, or implementation of infrastructures such as water, sewage, or drainage (Tahsina Taher and Ibrahim, 2014). Residents of the slums face challenges such as frequent migration, lack of water, no sewage or solid waste facilities, lack of public transportation, pollution, and housing constraints daily (Malik & Wahid, 2014).

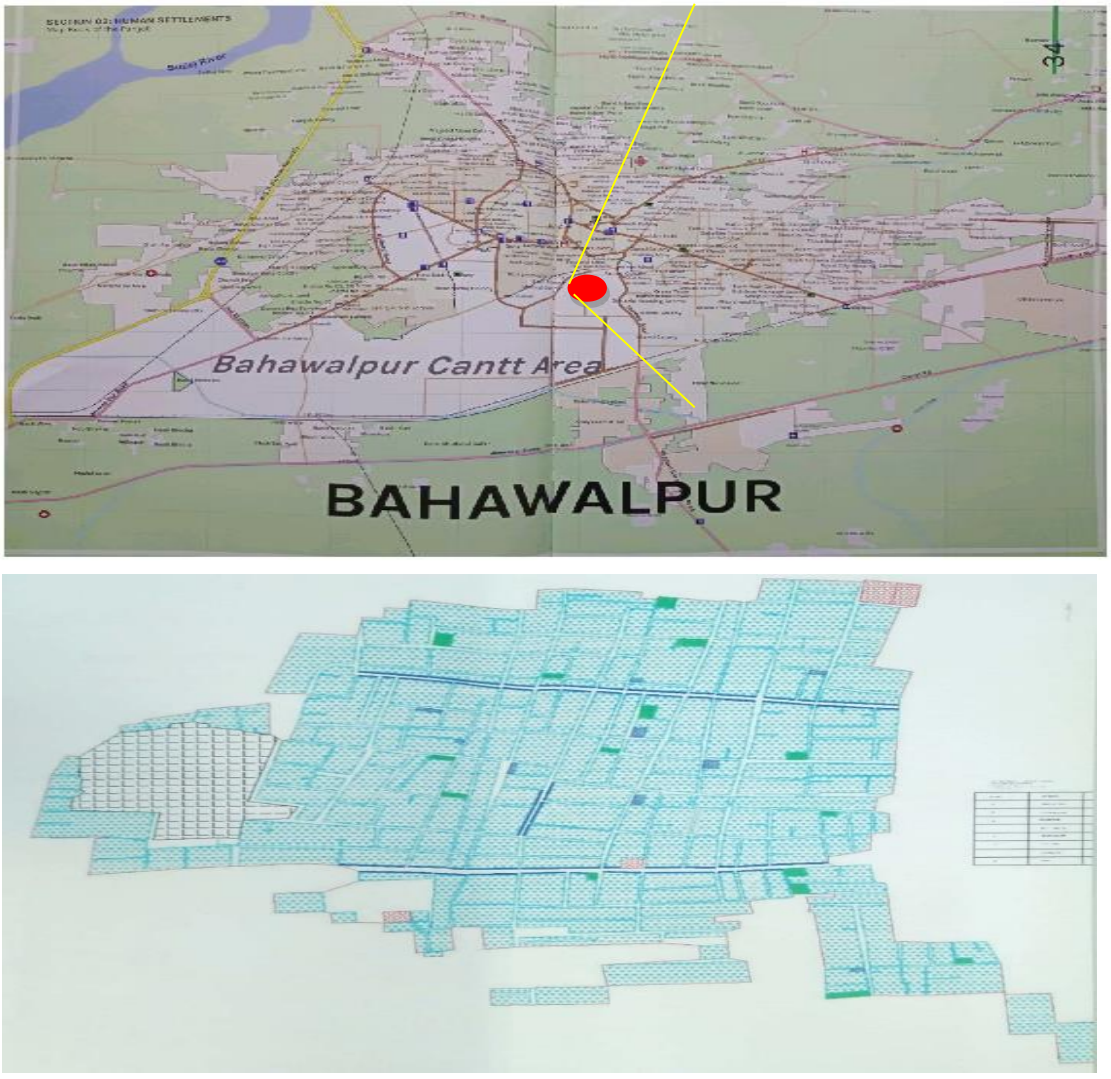
In Pakistan, the government attempted to address the issue by passing the Slum Update Project in 1985, and on the condition that slum residents invest in their housing, it granted them secure long-term legal plot tenure (Ibem, 2010). They sought to eradicate slums by giving individuals a stake in their homes and guaranteeing home ownership. Unfortunately, only 10-12 percent of the slum population, or those who were capable of upgrading their dwellings, were targeted by the program. It didn't take into account individuals who didn't have a home at all (Baruah, 2007).

People move from the countryside to the cities of Bahawalpur over time, which makes the cities grow. This migration went ahead because of the jobs, schools, and other services. With the growing population, the problem of a shortage of houses was created which led to the conversion of agricultural land into residential areas and as a result unplanned and squatter settlements were created (Khan et al., 2014). As these settlements were built randomly without planning and mapping, that created many problems.

Population pressure increased rapidly, and development progress was slow deterioration of these settlements started and they looked at the shape of slums. These are not built of kacha material only but a mixture of materials (Nazir, 2022). Problems faced by residents are many but these are major housing problems, improper road networks, lack of health facilities, lack of sewerage system and poor sanitation are in common (Hussain et al., 2019). These slums were assigned many names by the municipal corporation Bahawalpur which are Bindra Bund, Bhatta No 1, Bhatta No 2, Bhatta No 3, Muhajir Colony, Javed Nazir Colony, and many more.

Analysis of Existing Living Conditions in Tibba Badar Sher

Tibba Badar Sher originated in 1970 when the great flood came in Tibba Badar Sher 13 Ahawailmil was the period of Zulfgar Ali Bhutto (Mohsin et al., 2020).



Source: Existing land used plan of Tibba Badar Sher (TMA Bahawalpur)

Land Value And Level of The Land

In the beginning, the area was occupied by people according to their desires and there was no process of registration of these plots at their names. In 1980 the plots were registered in the name of the people and the squatter settlement changed into an official one (City et al., 2019) In the beginning people paid 800 Rs. / Marla to the government for registration (TMA Bahawalpur). Presently the land value of this colony is Rs. 10,000/Marla. On the inner side of the colony and on the main road, it is 15,000 to 20,000 Rs. / Marla.

Figure no 2. Land Level overview of Tibba Badar Sher (By Author)

Types of Houses

As most of the people who live there are poor, like laborers and street cleaners, they can't afford good housing. Most of the homes in this village are made out of Katcha Pakka. Some of the houses are made of mud, and there aren't that many that are just made of cement.

Figure no 3: A house in Tibba Badar Sher (By Author)

Population and Education Facilities

Tibba Badar Sher has 5000 houses approx. and its population is about 55000 (Abbas et al., 2021). The education facilities in Tibba Badar Sher are in bad condition. It has four primary schools one for girls and three for boys and only one middle school from the government and any high school. Most people are poor and can't afford the school fees in this way majority of the people are illiterate due to the lack of government schools (Hassan and Hamna, 2023).

Figure no 4: Govt, Primary School Tibba Badar Sher (By Author)

Housing Conditions and Structure

Deteriorating housing structure results in severe conditions of urban environment degradation in slums which are harmful for the people living there. In this research study, the basic theme is the degrading environment of slums. Some terms are important for this discussion (Mohsin et al., 2020). A house is a building that provides shelter, comfort, and protection. Houses stand along city streets in sub-urban development and quiet country roads. They range in size from small cottages to huge maintains (Surya, 2020).

Housing and Its Types

Housing production consumes a significant amount of human effort. These efforts must be considerable since housing must be long-lasting to withstand the elements and ravages of time. As society and urbanization move forward, heating, cooling, and other utilities are becoming more and more important in housing (Zaidan and Abulibdeh, 2021). This has made the production process more complicated. As a result, housing is a significant investment. It accounts for a significant portion of a country's wealth and plays a critical role in economic development.

Standard Housing

Safe sanitary, comfortable dwellings are called standard housing that has proper cooling and ventilation and helps people to stay in good health. It provides enough space for every member of the family to have some privacy and freedom (Ghimire et al., 2021). Housing conditions are affected by different factors such as the climate and wealth of any area, availability of materials, the economic condition of any area, and many more.

Figure no 5: Standard housing in Tibba Badar Sher (By Author)

Housing Structure and Nature of Ownership

Housing structure concentrates on the physical standard of houses such as distribution and it also refers to housing pattern, which is generally concerned with terms such as nature of tenure, **c**oncentration, plot size, courtyard Size, and level of congestion. In Tibba Badar Sher 87.5% of houses are owned while the remaining 12.5% are rented thus the nature of the tenure of the Tibba Badar Sher is of owned type.

Construction Period

The word "period of construction" is used to talk about how old a house is. There is a mix of old and new houses in Tibba Badar Sher.

Plot Size and Courtyard Size

Tibba Badar Sher is a mixture of small and big plots and houses. Thus, the plot sizes in the Tibba Badar sher are divided into categories. The share of the plot size there is 45% of the houses have 6-10 Marla, 31% of the houses have 1-5 Marla, while 17%, 5%, and 1% of the houses constitute 11-15, 16-20 Marla. The size of the courtyard is a very important structure. As the size of the houses varies, the courtyard size also varies greatly. Houses with different courtyard sizes are represented.

Material and Methods

The term "Research Technique" refers to a methodical approach to developing a research study. This section describes how the topics were examined and why specific methodologies and approaches were used in the latest research. Before beginning the research, all procedures, methods, variables, and statistical analysis, as well as approaches, should be decided. To provide a full understanding of the growth of slums in the Southern Punjab region and Tibba Badar Sher in particular, the research will make use of a mixed-methods research design, integrating quantitative and qualitative methodologies. This will be done to conduct the study.

Data Collection Techniques

Quantitative Data: To collect quantitative data on socio-economic characteristics, living circumstances, and access to basic services in Tibba Badar Sher, a household survey will be carried out. Obtaining a representative sample from the slum can be accomplished using a technique known as stratified random sampling. - The questionnaire for the survey will be drafted, put through some preliminary testing, and then sent out to a representative sample of Tibba Badar Sher households. The information that is gathered may include demographic information, levels of income and education, levels of employment, access to water and sanitation, healthcare utilization, and housing conditions, among other things.

Qualitative Data: It is possible to conduct in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with key informants, such as residents of slums, community leaders, local authorities, and relevant stakeholders. These qualitative methodologies will provide insights into the factors that promote the growth of slums, the impact that these factors have on the community, and views regarding policies and interventions that are already in place. - The goal of the qualitative data collection that will take place in Tibba Badar Sher is to investigate the lived experiences, difficulties, goals, and recommendations of the slum dwellers there. Recordings of the interviews and focus group discussions will be made, and then the material will be transcribed and subjected to thematic analysis to determine the most important themes and patterns.

Results and Discussion

To obtain crucial conclusions regarding the socio-economic features, living circumstances, and access to essential services in Tibba Badar Sher, quantitative data will be evaluated using relevant statistical approaches, including descriptive statistics, cross-tabulations, and inferential analysis. A thematic analysis approach will be used for the qualitative data analysis. This will involve coding and categorizing the transcribed interviews and FGDs into themes and sub-themes, which will allow for a more in-depth understanding of the experiences, perspectives, and recommendations of the slum inhabitants.

Existing Land Use Pattern and Urban Development: Exiting problems that impact the natural environment of the settlement can be minimized by designing site areas on parameters such as reducing the points of intersection, efficient utilization of cluster

areas, or reducing impact on the streets, development should be around the areas having infrastructure facilities.

Conservation and Preservation of Green Areas: These areas are present in the settlement in the form of buffer zones which should be retained to avoid inter-zonal mixing of different types of zones including residential, commercial, recreational, and educational, etc. In addition to the retention of green areas, old structures that represent the cultural heritage of the area should also be conserved.

Open Communal Spaces for Common Use: Such spaces are scattered in and around the settlement for ease to people for daily routine activities and many of them has been encroached upon by the neighbor which need to remain back as their original use and redevelopment such landscape corridors provides a distinguishing appearance to the user passing by it. Sometimes these areas act like open walkways for pedestrians.

Detention and Retention of Recreational Spaces: The effects of urbanization on Tibba Badar Sher can be seen in the way that leisure spaces are being taken over. This makes the environment unsustainable, so these spaces need to be taken back to their original use to make the environment sustainable again.

Act of open Spaces as transition to adjacent areas: For development, these transitional areas of the settlement can be made better by letting them become part of a bigger space. This can be done by making pedestrian connections and street patterns that fit the urban area.

Pedestrian walkways and Alternative measures: There are many ways to get around, but the people of Tibba Badar Sher could move around more easily in their daily lives if they added a pedestrian path or some other option. These alternative models will cut down on the number of cars on the main, secondary, and tertiary roads. This means that the number of cars on the main lanes needs to be cut down when the traffic police say it's necessary. The pavement space could be used for more green spaces, sidewalk extensions at corners, and parking.

Pedestrian movement and Potential barrier: The main problem with the town as it is now that it is hard for pedestrians to move around without getting in the way of vehicles. This will be fixed by spreading business and community centers across the populated areas.

Vehicular flow and parking through traffic control: This can be done by sending the traffic that is already there down important streets that lead to highways. The streets are set up in a grid, with several intersections to help heavy and light cars get around. By adding or taking away built-up places near shops or homes, footpaths can be made wider, which will improve the quality of the built environment.

Vehicular Access Points: To keep things running as smoothly as possible and keep traffic from backing up on major streets, more entry points into the settlement are needed without stopping the flow of traffic inside the settlement.

Outdoor Activity/ Play Areas: In Tibba Badar Sher, it is hard to get to the few outdoor activities from homes and other open spaces. These should be obvious and easy to get to from as many homes and places as possible. This can be done by putting playgrounds and other outdoor recreation areas near other open spaces inside and outside the neighborhood. Harmony can be created by using colors, details, and finishing materials that are like those in the area next door.

Conclusions

Despite efforts to improve living conditions and address urban poverty, the development of slums in the Southern Punjab region of Pakistan continues to be a significant challenge. This case study focuses on Tiba Badar Sher, a slum area located in Bahawalpur, and aims to investigate the underlying factors contributing to the persistence and growth of slums in the region. The study seeks to understand the socio-economic, political, and environmental aspects that have led to the development of slums, including inadequate access to basic services such as housing, sanitation, healthcare, and education. By examining the specific case of Tiba Badar Sher, this research aims to identify the key obstacles and opportunities for sustainable development, proposing effective strategies and policy interventions that can uplift the living conditions and enhance the overall well-being of slum dwellers in Southern Punjab, Pakistan.

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