



# Urban Informality and Poverty: Challenging the Discourse

**Online Course Starting on 6 August 2020!**

What is urbanisation? How urbanised is India? What are the impacts of the changes India is witnessing? Recent years have witnessed an increase in urbanisation globally, and today, more than half the world's population lives in urban areas. What does this mean, and what factors cause this shift in population?

India is urbanising rapidly. Cities are the engines of growth, but a consequence of rapid and unplanned urbanisation is urbanisation of poverty and informality. The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us the multiple vulnerabilities and insecurities that urban informal workers face in their everyday life. The urban poor face a host of challenges living in cities, ranging from weak tenure to a lack of access to basic services. As many of the urban poor work in the informal sector, their contribution is neither correctly measured, nor appreciated. How did this informality emerge? What are its effects? What attempts have been made to theorise this concept?

This course will introduce the learner to the idea of urbanisation and help understand it conceptually as well as pragmatically. The modules will combine theoretical frameworks with on ground narratives to provide an overview into the processes being witnessed over the world as well as in India.

Over the years, both the state as well as civil society have worked towards addressing poverty and informality. How successful were these programmes in their approaches? In tackling urban poverty, has public policy succeeded? In parallel, civil society organisations have adopted several strategies in their work with the urban poor. We will look at a few examples to understand these approaches.

# Structure

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Urbanisation and poverty</li><li>• An overview on urbanisation</li><li>• How urban is India?</li><li>• Understanding poverty and its metrics</li><li>• Impact on the urban poor</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dynamics of urban informality</li><li>• Emergence and evolution of urban informality</li><li>• Theoretical paradigms of informality</li><li>• Applied dimensions of Informality.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public policy and plans for poverty alleviation</li><li>• Broad strategies for poverty alleviation</li><li>• Five-year plans and schemes for poverty alleviation</li><li>• The role of the state and its changing nature</li><li>• Overview of best practices from the global south</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civil society strategies and interventions to address urban poverty</li><li>• Strategies adopted by civil society in addressing urban poverty</li><li>• Successful case studies in poverty redressal</li><li>• Working with the state</li></ul>

## Course Details: At A Glance

**Course code:** OC-E-118

**Starts on:** 6 August 2020

**Type:** Online Course

**Language:** English

**Duration:** 6 Weeks

**Participants:** CSO, CSR, University Student (Post Graduate & Ph.D. Research Scholar), Think Tank, Foundation, Government, and Business Corporation

**Fees:** INR 7,000/ US\$ 100 (Inclusive of 18% Goods & Service Tax)

## Objectives

- Developing a foundational understanding of urbanisation, urban poverty and urban informality
- Enhancing knowledge of theoretical concepts like urban informality and be able to apply this to our work
- Equipping learners with an overview of the state's attempts to address poverty and informality since independence, as well as strategies adopted by civil society organisations
- Helping learners to acquire a diversity in thoughts so that they can both critique as well as appreciate the nature of urbanisation India is witnessing

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