

Adequacy of Housing and Accessibility to Basic Amenities in Class-I Cities of Rajasthan

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I. Introduction

After food and clothing, shelter is the third most important necessity of the entire mankind. In the present world, fast means of communication and the welfare approach of majority of the governments have helped eradicate the acute shortage of food and clothing. However the problem of housing persists, especially in the urban areas. Shortage of space and population pressure beyond the carrying capacity of the land has given rise to various types of secondary problems.

Housing is a State subject. The Union Government is however responsible for the formulation of policy with regard to programme and approaches for the effective implementation of social housing schemes, particularly those pertaining to the weaker sections of the society. Housing and Habitat Policy-1998 was formulated to address the issue of sustainable development, infrastructure development and strong public and private partnership for shelter delivery. The objectives of the policy are to create surpluses in the housing stock by facilitating in construction of two million additional dwelling units each year. The central theme of the policy is strong public-private partnership for tackling housing and infrastructure problems. The problem of housing shortage compounded with population explosion has also been addressed by this policy. Though, India's level of urbanisation is quite low compared with many developing countries but the growth rates are quite high in India. The highest figure of 46 percent so far was recorded in 1971-81.

However, since housing is a state subject, State Governments have to play the primary role in formulating the specific action plans and programs suited to local needs and conditions duly involving local bodies and citizen groups. The Government has identified 'Housing for All' as a priority area, with particular emphasis on the needs of the vulnerable groups. It is proposed to facilitate construction of 20 lakh additional units every year, with emphasis on Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups of the population as also the needs of SC, ST and other vulnerable groups.

Context of Research and Data:

Adequate housing in general is viewed in terms of ownership status and number of available rooms at the disposal of house consumer. Ownership provides a sense of belongingness. It is also necessary for the mental and physical development of the household members. Accessibility to basic amenities on the other hand is attached to the housing needs. Without the access to basic amenities in the neighborhood housing is rendered meaningless. The present study therefore analyzes housing with reference to adequacy and accessibility parameters utilizing the available secondary data from the Census of India for the state of Rajasthan.

Adequacy of Housing:

This section deals with the status of housing in urban areas of Rajasthan. The level of analysis is house hold size vis-à-vis the number of rooms in the house. This would be helpful in generating a comparative view about the adequacy and status of housing in urban Rajasthan by analyzing the owned houses and rented houses. The average household size per house in Rajasthan is 6.13. The figure is same for the rural areas but is somewhat higher for the class-I cities. 6.15 persons occupy one house in these cities. Jaipur, the only million plus city stands at 8th position amongst the class-I cities with a household size of 6.26 persons per house.

Table-1: Towns having Persons per House, Rajasthan, 2001

Persons Per House	Number of Towns
Below 5	13
5 to 6	84
6 to 7	91
7 & above	34

Source: Census of India 2001

Owned Houses

The figure below shows the status of adequacy of housing in the class I cities for owned houses only. A majority of households live in two rooms' houses followed by one room and three rooms as compared to a very low share of households with four and above rooms. It is interesting to note that most of the single staying people are those with no exclusive rooms in the house. Throughout the graph households staying in one and two room houses remains the highest in owned houses.

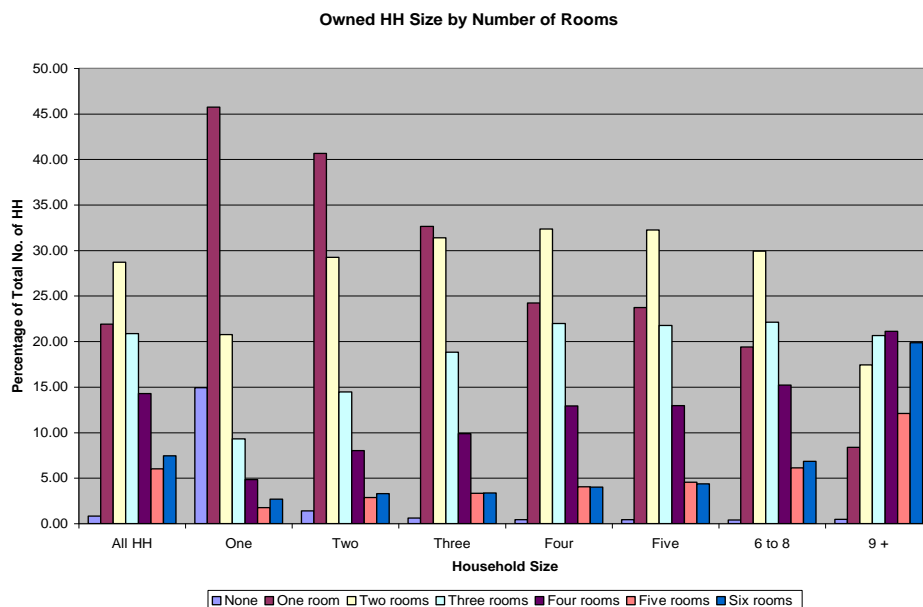
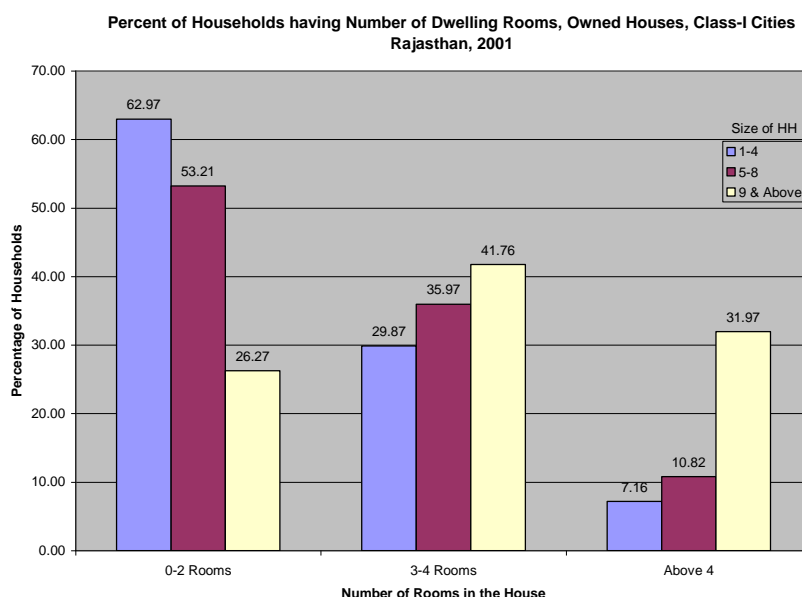


Table-2: Percent of Owned Households having Number of Dwelling Rooms, Class I Cities, Rajasthan, 2001

HHs	None	One Room	Two Rooms	Three Rooms	Four Rooms	Five Rooms	Six Rooms
All HH	0.81	21.91	28.69	20.86	14.30	6.01	7.43
One	14.93	45.73	20.75	9.31	4.82	1.75	2.69
Two	1.41	40.66	29.25	14.47	8.02	2.88	3.30
Three	0.60	32.63	31.37	18.81	9.89	3.34	3.36
Four	0.44	24.23	32.35	21.99	12.94	4.06	4.00
Five	0.41	23.74	32.23	21.77	12.96	4.53	4.35
6 to 8	0.39	19.40	29.93	22.12	15.22	6.13	6.82
9 +	0.47	8.38	17.42	20.63	21.13	12.10	19.87

Source: Distribution of Households by Ownership Status of Census Houses, Census of India, 2001.



The above figure shows that, vast number of owned houses consists of no exclusive rooms to two rooms. Also that, most people in these class I cities are living in a place where no exclusive room is available in the house.

Table-3: Percentage of Households' Sizes Occupying Number of Dwelling Rooms, Class-I Cities, Rajasthan, 2001

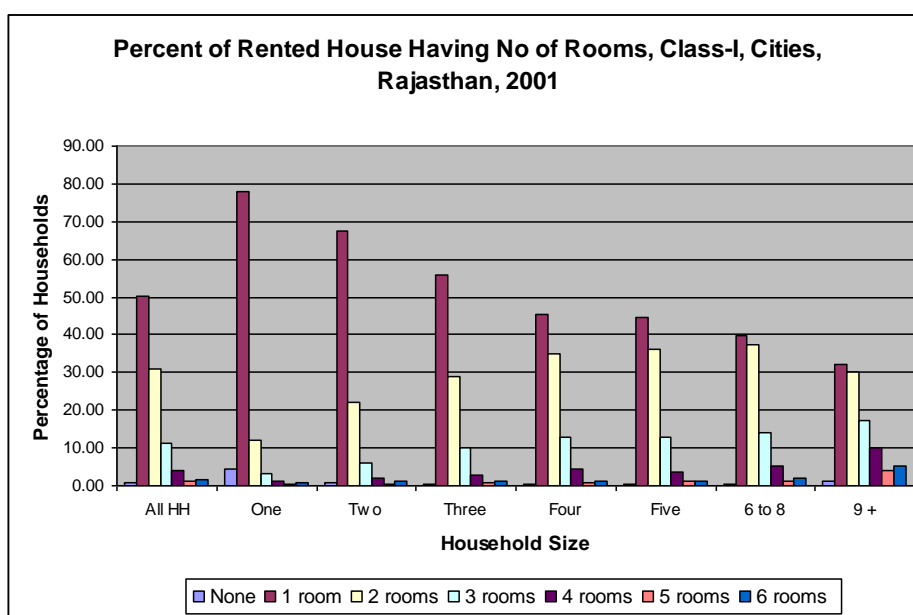
HH Size	Dwelling Rooms in House		
	0-2 Rooms	3-4 Rooms	Above 4
1-4	62.97	29.87	7.16
5-8	53.21	35.97	10.82
9 & Above	26.27	41.76	31.97

Source: Distribution of Households by Number of Rooms in Census Houses, Census of India, 2001.

About 63 percent of the households with one to four persons in the household occupy a house with no exclusive room to two rooms in the house. The situation becomes worse when the family size is large and the number of rooms in the house is less. Of the total members in the household size of 5 to 8 more than half live in houses with less than 2 rooms.

Rented Houses

The condition of the rented houses is far more different than owned houses. Nearly 45 percent of the household with four and five members in it are staying in single rooms. These can be construed to be the labor migrant class who do not have own houses and are compelled to rent single rooms even though their family size is large.



Rented houses with more than two rooms progressively become lesser, as in the table below.

Table-4: Percent of Rented Households having Number of Dwelling Rooms, Class-I Cities Rajasthan, 2001

HHs	None	1 Room	2 Rooms	3 Rooms	4 Rooms	5 Rooms	6 Rooms
All HH	0.87	50.42	30.96	11.31	3.87	1.06	1.51
One Person	4.27	77.83	12.18	3.34	1.09	0.32	0.97
Two Persons	0.97	67.41	21.96	6.03	1.93	0.56	1.14
Three Persons	0.51	56.00	28.81	9.97	2.83	0.74	1.14
Four Persons	0.34	45.25	34.79	13.01	4.40	0.99	1.22
Five Persons	0.43	44.50	36.09	12.88	3.74	1.06	1.31
6 to 8 Persons	0.45	39.76	37.37	14.17	5.06	1.33	1.86
9 + Persons	1.36	32.27	29.99	17.16	9.93	3.90	5.38

Source: Distribution of Households by Ownership Status of Census Houses, Census of India, 2001.

Accessibility:

Accessibility here refers to the reach of the persons to facilities such as electricity, toilet, drinking water, and drainage. Whereas the electricity connections have reached 100 percent in rural areas of most of the states, the urban areas in Rajasthan still lag behind this target. Nearly, hundred people in a thousand do not have electricity in their house.

Table 5: Electricity and Toilet Facility by Ownership Status, per 1000 persons, Class-I Cities, Rajasthan, 2001

Ownership	Total Population	Electricity Available	Toilet Available
Total	1,000	902	765
Owned	838	751	632
Rented	137	129	114
Any other	25	22	19

Source: Basic Amenities by Ownership Status, Census of India, 2001.

The situation of toilet facility is even worse with 235 persons per thousand not having access to any type of toilet facility.

Table 6: Percentage of Households by Source of Drinking Water and its Location , Class I Cities, Rajasthan, 2001

	Total	Tap	Hand pump	Tube well	Well	Tank, Pond,	River, Canal,	Spring	Any other
Total	100.00	80.1	10.3	3.1	4.1	0.6	0.1	0.1	1.7
Within Premises	75.79	92.4	3.4	2.7	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Near Premises	16.03	49.4	31.2	3.7	11.1	0.8	0.2	0.4	3.2
Away	8.18	26.6	32.7	5.6	17.4	4.0	0.4	0.1	13.1

Source: Basic Amenities by Ownership Status, Census of India, 2001.

The situation of drinking water is not too good either. Nearly 25 percent of the households do not have drinking water in the housing premises.

II. Conclusion:

Rajasthan is sparsely populated Indian state, yet the condition of housing in its Class-I cities is grim. Large sections of households, be it owner or renter, live in houses with single room occupancy. The households living in rented houses do not have adequate space as compared to the owner occupied households. Even the larger sized households live in congested space of houses with single room or at the most two rooms. Only few proportions of households occupy houses having three or more rooms. Access to basic amenities is low for the Class-I Cities of Rajasthan. Particularly the access to toilet facility and drinking water within premises is lagging far behind. Rajasthan has 222 towns classified as urban areas. All of these urban areas are bound to swell in the near future. If the present situation is escalated, it would become difficult to provide adequate housing and accessible basic amenities to the urban population in general and to the urban poor in particular.

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