



Nations and its agencies have singularly failed in this regard. They have not been able to either check income disparities or prevent the concentration of economic and political powers in the hands of a few countries. Today, about 20% of world population, mostly living in developed countries, have 86% of the world's Gross National Product, 82% of export market and 68% of foreign direct investment. As against this, the bottom 20% of the people, almost all living in developing countries, are compelled to live with an income of only \$1 a day. They have a 1% share of the world Gross Domestic Product, 1% of world export market and 1% of foreign direct investment.

All efforts made in the past to help the developing countries proved inadequate. Even the modest recommen-

dations made by the Pearson Commission (1961), Willy Brandt Commission (1980) and Brundtland Commission (1983) were not fully implemented.

The outcome of the much trumpeted United Nations Millennium Declarations, 2000, which "aims to significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020," is not likely to be any different. In any case, this declaration attempts to ameliorate the lot of about one-tenth of the existing slum population, and that too by 2020, when the population would have touched 1.5 billion mark.

A vital question that has been raised and answered in my book, *Soul and Structure of Governance in India*, is, within the overall limitations of the international power-struc-

ture and its economic order, what the developing countries can themselves do to tackle the problem of rapid urbanisation and the consequent proliferation of slums. One of the suggestions made in the book is that a few migrant colonies, with organised layouts and basic amenities, should be set up every year and migrants allowed to move into these colonies by paying a nominal rent for the space allotted. It should also be laid down that in other new areas and estates to be developed by the public or private sector, at least 5% of the total land should be kept apart for meeting the accommodation needs of the migrants.

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