

## **F. Hyderabad, PAKISTAN**

### **1. Summary of Conditions.**

The author of the country report notes that Hyderabad is a city of contrasts, sadly tragic contrasts. It has a glorious past, but a depressed present and a bleak future. Yet even here, city government has attempted to address some of its most pressing problems, housing for the urban poor, water and sewage and transportation.

With a population of just under one million, Hyderabad is Pakistan's fifth largest city. It is situated on the Indus river about 170 northeast of Karachi, which has since independence over-shadowed Hyderabad. The city was a major administrative and military center of British India, and became a city of pleasant parks and distinctive architecture. It received many refugees from India after the partition and creation of Pakistan in 1947, and seems never to have recovered from that influx.

One of Hyderabad's major disadvantages appears to be its multiple administrative character, and lack of clear authority and responsibility. The city is headed by a Mayor and the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, in some respects in direct line from national to provincial levels. But the city is also governed in part by the ministry of defense, which controls the "cantonment area." The city is also capital of the District and the Division, and houses both the District Commissioner and the Divisional Commissioner, who heads another body, the Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA). The HDA itself is under the provincial government, with responsibility for planning the development of the larger urban area, even including the military cantonment. Cross cutting administrations, and the weak financial and administrative autonomy of the municipal government are serious obstacles to effective urban leadership.

Population Dynamics. The earliest population count was in 1808, when the city had 15,000 people. By 1942 it had grown to about 137,000. Another almost 100,000 were added in the next decade, and it doubled again to over 40,000 by 1961. Its last census was in 1981 when its population numbered 970,000; it is projected to reach 1.4 million by the end of this decade. Its estimated growth rate of 3.6 percent per year is just above the overall national growth rate of 3.1 percent, but below the urban growth rate of 4.8 percent. The city's administrative area has doubled from 25 to 55 square kilometers since 1971, but the Greater Hyderabad Master plan covers a built up area of about 140 square kilometers.

Like the rest of the country, its rapid growth comes from the lowered mortality and sustained high fertility. Although Pakistan was the world's second country to adopt an official policy to reduce population growth through reducing fertility, its national family planning program has made little progress. The city's contraceptive prevalence rate is only 20 percent, just slightly above the overall national rate of 12 percent. The total fertility rate is 5.4, just below the overall national average of 6.1, and the city's population continues to grow at 3.1 percent per year. The aim of the family planning program is to reduce the growth rate to 2.7 percent by 1998.

Quality of Life. The quality of life is low and appears to be declining. The infant mortality rate is 108 and the maternal mortality rate 6 per 1,000 births. Life expectancy is about 60 years, slightly higher for females (61) than for males (59). Even though literacy is higher than the national average, less than half the male population is literate. For females the rate is only about one third. The primary school enrollment rate is only 50 percent for males and 28 percent for females. Over half of all houses have only one room, and the average is over 6 persons per room. Almost three fourths of the houses have electricity, but only half have piped water and only 20 percent have sanitary toilets connected to the city's sewer system. Crime has become a serious problem, and the gap between the rich and the poor appears to be growing.

Status of Women. In 1989 the Report of the National Manpower Commissions stated that, "Women are Pakistan's most neglected human resource." Although in theory Islam and the national constitution accord equal right to men and women, actual practice falls far short of this. A recent statement by the Pakistani medical doctor and Executive Director of the UNFPA, Dr. Nafis Sadik, noted that "women have not achieved equality with men in any area of development." Only in life expectancy are women slightly ahead of men, but the gap is one of the lowest found anywhere. Women's literacy rate is only half that of males. They are under represented even in primary school attendance, and the gender gap increases as one moves up the educational and occupational ladder. Women constitute only about one-quarter of the tertiary graduates, and an even smaller proportion of upper level public administrative positions.

## 2. Major Problems and Projects.

Housing, especially for the poor is a pressing problem. In addition to the high proportion of crowded one room, houses, there is a large homeless, squatter population, often headed by single women. Past government efforts to provide housing for the urban poor have failed. Procedures were slow, often taking 5 to 10 years to complete, and only gave opportunities to speculators. Without finances to make the initial investments, governments sold plots in advance of development. The requirement of large down payments and slow development of services meant only speculators could take advantage of the projects. Hyderabad's first housing scheme was launched in 1979. Over 8 years, it managed to develop and dispose of 15, 000 plots. But home construction was completed on only 35 of these, with an other 44 under construction.

A recent project of the Hyderabad Development Authority has addressed these problems, and has met with some success. The basic idea was to use the squatter settlements as models, recognizing that people can build and develop their own houses if they are given the opportunity. Land was allocated and plots were sold at very low rates to accommodate to the needs of the very poor. When it was found that people were still not building on their plots, sales were canceled, and ultimately it was decided that the down payment could be forfeited if people did not actually move onto and develop their plots within three months. This assured that only those in real need of housing would come forward to purchase the plots. Only very minimal services were supplied in the beginning. Water was provided by tank trucks, and was later replaced with piped water. This "Incremental Development Scheme" did manage to break the long tradition of public housing assisting only the wealthy land speculators, and to bring some assistance to the urban poor.

The HDA also learned an important lesson in community organization in this scheme. Attempts to organize people along lanes, and for the scheme as a whole met with no success. Then government simply stood aside and permitted natural community organizations to emerge. It found that for some issues, like electricity and water supply, which concerned the entire scheme, people did organize on the scheme level. For other issues, they organized themselves in different units, specifically relevant to the issue.

Utilities. Water and sewage remain major problems in the city's overall utilities. Overall per capita water supply is at about 20 gallons per day, far below Islamabad's 122 or even Rawalpindi's 32. The treated supply is about 20 million gallons per day (MGD), against an estimated need of 34 MGD. Moreover, the distribution is such that much of the poorer population is left with little supply and must rely on polluted low quality water. Only about one-fifth of the population is served by the city's sewer system. Most of human and solid waste is disposed of into open drains and stagnant ponds.

The Hyderabad Development Authority has undertaken major projects to increase the treated water supply and to extend the sewer and waste water systems. This type of project requires substantial assistance from provincial and national governments. Both financial constraints and administrative weaknesses stand in the way of early and successful completion.