

**AN ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY FOR SLUM
IMPROVEMENTS : SOME LESSONS FROM URBAN TCCSs IN COLOMBO**

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Slum upgrading experiences of developing countries are coloured by experiments of the respective states to evolve institutional models that are capable of catalising human efforts and limited financial resources. Urban TCCSs movement in Sri Lanka is one such experiment. This movement was started in 1986, and by the end of 1990 there had been 25 Urban TCCSs in the city limits of Colombo.

This study attempts to ascertain why Urban TCCSs have failed to make any noteworthy impact on improving the condition of slums in Colombo, inspite of the relative success of its rural counterparts in mobilising rural resources.

An adapted version of the Institution Building (IB Model) developed by Esman, M.J., has been employed to study the capabilities of two Urban TCCSs purposively selected by the author.

The study identified the influence of six institutional variables and three environmental variables (linkage variables) responsible for the current state of affairs of the Urban TCCSs. Of these nine variables the Philosophy, Leadership, Membership, and the regulatory framework have been identified as the most prominent variables. The individual and collective contributions of these variables explain the status of Urban TCCSs in Colombo.