

The economic impact of floods and waterlogging on low-income households: Lessons from Indore

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As Indian cities see their urban areas growing, it challenges the urban planners to ensure basic infrastructural needs and public services provisioning on a sustainable and equitable basis. Access to basic amenities like water, electricity, food, drainage, sewerage, solid waste disposal, healthcare and transportation are instrumental to smooth functioning of urban sprawl happening across India. Indore, like several other rapidly growing cities in India, faces the problem of ever-changing land use, emerging high-rise buildings and walled-townships along with growing informal settlements across the metropolitan area. These developments render the urban poor populations dangerously vulnerable to diseases, accidents, loss of assets and daily livelihood struggles, in addition to exposure to severe economic and non-economic losses in the event of floods and waterlogging. This study provides estimates of economic losses suffered by the urban poor in terms of assets and productivity due to climate-induced waterlogging and floods. The lack of supportive institutional mechanisms, the nature of non-inclusive economic growth, socially excluding urban landscapes and discriminative access to public services add to the vulnerability of the resource-poor, marginalized informal settlements of slum dwellers.

Figure 5. Average economic losses due to waterlogging perceived in value and monetary terms for sample (2013)

