

Empowering the Urban Poor: A Decade of DAY-NULM in India with Special Reference to Madhya Pradesh

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Abstract: *Urban poverty in India is a multi-dimensional challenge encompassing occupational precarity, residential vulnerability and social exclusion. Launched in September 2013 and expanded as the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) in 2014, the scheme represented India's most comprehensive effort to reduce poverty among urban poor households through skill development, self-employment support, Self-Help Group (SHG) mobilisation, street vendor formalisation and shelter provision. Operational across 4,041 statutory cities and towns, DAY-NULM mobilised over 1 crore urban women into 9.96 lakh SHGs, created 39.39 lakh livelihoods and built 1,994 permanent shelters before its conclusion in September 2024. This article examines DAY-NULM's policy architecture, national outcomes and implementation dynamics in Madhya Pradesh — a state with 406 urban local bodies across 52 districts, high urban poverty rates and a significant migrant labour population. The article concludes by assessing the transition to NULM 2.0 and the conditions required for a more inclusive successor framework.*

Keywords: *DAY-NULM, urban livelihoods, self-help groups, Madhya Pradesh, urban poverty, skill development, street vendors, SHG bank linkage, NULM 2.0, urban informal sector*