



A SNAPSHOT ON THE SOCIOLOGICAL CONDITION OF WOMEN IN SLUM AREA – With Special Reference to Mysore City

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ABSTRACT

Half the population of low- and middle-income countries will live in urban areas by 2030, and poverty and inequality in these contexts is rising. Slum dwelling is one way in which to conceptualize and characterize urban deprivation. Developing countries like India presently suffer to the enormous growth of urbanization. And the urbanized area similarly carried the problem of slum. India is one of the fastest developing countries with many metropolitan cities (e.g. Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Chennai). During last two decades; migration from villages and small towns to metropolitan areas has increased tremendously in India. This leads to the degradation of urban environmental quality and sustainable development especially in the metropolitan cities. The problems faced by the people living in the urban areas of India have become major concerns for the government. Slums are considered to be the major issue within many urban areas; particularly problems related to transportation, population, health and safety. Considering today's poor urban environmental quality in India, the majority of families affected by urban development projects are located in slum areas which are under consideration for resettlement and/ or rehabilitation. The aim of this paper is to study and examine slum areas and their living conditions, and finding out the most critical and problematic zone of the slums. In relation to this present research work tries to examine the living condition of people of slum area in urban areas in general and at the same time it makes an attempt to analyse the socio economic condition of women dwellers of slum in Hebbal Extension area of Mysore City and it also suggests suitable measures for upliftment of women of slum of case study area.

Keywords: Developing country, Metropolitan cities, Urban Environmental Quality, Sustainable development, Slums,

INTRODUCTION

Presently, Indian Population is 1/6th of the world population. Accelerating urbanization is forcefully effecting the transformation of Indian society. Slightly more than 28 percent of the country's population is urbanized, but unfortunately 21.68 percent (61.8 million) of the urban population live in slum area. As per Last NBO report total housing shortage was 19.4 million units. In urban are the shortage is 6.6 million unit and 90% of these shortage hits poor and LIG people. It's become a very common urban scenario that thousands of dwellings made of straw, mud, tin, and cardboard are squeezed into areas of a small city block. In these cramped dwellings, often only an arm-span in width, entire families live without running water, electricity. Few have beds; they sleep on scraps of cloth padding on the dirty floor. Rapid growth of industrialization creates enormous employment opportunity. It attracts the lower income peoples and the unskilled

labours from the rural area. The high rate of migration from rural area to the urban sector formulated slum area, because these men are unskilled labours to industries.

More than half of the world's population lives in urban areas and by 2030 it is projected that over half of residents in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will reside in cities). As rural residents move to urban areas in search of jobs and villages are overtaken by expanding urban agglomerations, many low- and middle-income countries are increasingly concerned with the urbanization of poverty. The rapid and large scale of urban growth has raced far ahead of the provision of services and has precipitated a proliferation of informal settlements – and the development of new, smaller cities – without access to water and sanitation, garbage collection or security of tenure.

DEFINITION OF SLUM

The UN operationally defines a slum as “one or a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area, lacking in one or more of the following five amenities”: 1) Durable housing (a permanent structure providing protection from extreme climatic conditions); 2) Sufficient living area (no more than three people sharing a room); 3) Access to improved water (water that is sufficient, affordable, and can be obtained without extreme effort); 4) Access to improved sanitation facilities (a private toilet, or a public one shared with a reasonable number of people); and 5) Secure tenure (*de facto* or *de jure* secure tenure status and protection against forced eviction).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Slums are usually located near railway tracks, factories and busy roadsides thus rendering their inhabitants vulnerable to high burden of diseases. They are exposed to vehicular and industrial pollution. The environment of such areas is not good for health; it causes a number of diseases among which respiratory diseases are very common(**Gulis, Mulumba et al. 2004**).

One of the most important characteristics of slums is lack of ownership of land where they are living. Usually they make their houses on vacant government or public land, or marginal land parcels like railway setbacks or undesirable marshy land. When the land is not in productive use they get it as an opportunity and settle there. They are vulnerable to landslide, flood prone areas and unsafe environment (**Unger and Riley 2007**).

Education is basic right of every human being. Unfortunately very few slum dwellers can get this right. Literacy rate in slums is very low, especially; women have to suffer more than men. This condition is not similar in all the slums of the world but developing countries explore this phenomenon more. Generally authorities are reluctant to provide this opportunity to dwellers (**ROBERTS 2000**).

Living conditions in slum are very poor. People have to live in adverse conditions in slum areas. Slums are generally dirty and unclean; there is not a proper way of cleanliness. Shortage of water supply and inadequate sanitation creates issues for households (**Bandyopadhyay and Agrawal 2013**).

Generally slum dwellers do not have access to safe water it is a major cause of diseases in slums. They face difficult to obtain water, the water which they get is not of good quality; it makes them vulnerable to diseases. About 2 million people die every year due to diarrheal diseases; most of

them are children less than 5 years of age. The main cause of children death is diarrhea (**Graf, Meierhofer et al. 2008**).

The people of slums do not adopt precautionary measurements to get safety from diseases. These people can avoid this disease by using soap because decreases chances of disease up to 47 percent (**Curtis, Cairncross et al. 2000**).

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the sociological condition of women dwellers of slum in case study area
2. To suggest suitable measures to improve the living condition of women of slum in case study area.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is on empirical investigation based on sample interview of women dwellers of slum in Mysore city. Mysore is a mid sized south Indian city with a population of about 7.8 lakh and spanning an area of 128 sq kms. This is second largest city in Karnataka after Bangalore, the capital city of Karnataka. This City is 140 kms away from state capital Bengaluru. The present study is based on both primary and secondary data and a systematic random sampling method has been adopted for survey. The primary data has collected from slum situated in Hebbal extension area which is near to the Industrial area and is approximately 7 kms away from central bus stand and railway station of the city and this slum is near to the posh locality of mysore city such as Brindavan extension, Vijayanagar and Metagally. The survey has been conducted by taking 50 women dwellers of slum of case study on random basis. Simple table percentage method used to analyse the results and the results have been depicted by simple bar graph and pie chart.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1 : SOCIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF WOMEN IN SLUM AREA

Sl NO	Age	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	18-30	15	30
2	31-50	25	50
3	Above 50	10	20
	Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 depicts that out of 50 respondents majority of 25 (50 percent) belong to the age group of 31 – 50, and it is followed by the age of 18-30 (30 percent) and only 10 respondents (20 percent) belong to the age group of above 50 years.

TABLE 2: EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl No	Educational Status	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	2	4
2	1 st - 7 th	30	60
3	7 th - 10 th	14	28
4	Above 10 th	4	8
	Total	50	100

Source : Field Survey

Table 2 reveals that out of 50 respondents only 2 were illiterate because of compulsory free education of government majority of them are making use of such facilities and majority of them

around 30 respondents (60 percent) have educational status between 1st to 7th standard of education and followed by 14 respondents (28 percent) processing upto 10th standard of education and around 4 of them have entered even college upto P.U.C.

TABLE 3: ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

Sl No	Access to Water	No of Respondents	percentage
1	Within dwelling Locality	20	40
2	Outside dwelling locality	30	60
	Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 3 explains that out of 50 respondents 20 of them (40 percent) have access to drinking water within their locality but large majority around 30 of the respondents(60 percent) donot have access to safe drinking water within their dwelling locality.

TABLE 4: ACCESS TO SANITATION FACALITIES

Sl No	Access to Sanitation	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Within house premises	20	40
2	Outside house premises	30	60
	Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 4 explains that only 20 respondents (40 percent) have access to sanitation within their house premises but 30 respondents (60 percent) of them donot have access to sanitation within their house premises.

TABLE 5 :RESPONDENTS PRONE TO FREQUENT DISEASES

Sl No	Frequent Diseases	yes	No
1	Tuberculosis	2	48
2	Common cold/cough	25	25
3	UTI	20	30
4	Dehydration	30	20

Source: Field Survey

Table 5 explains that only 2 of them are prone to tuberculosis, but 50 percent that means 25 respondents suffer from common cold and cough, around 20 of them are subjected to Frequent Urinary Track Infections(UTI), and more than half of them undergo with the problem of dehydration frequently.

Table 6 : NATURE OF HOUSES

Sl No	Nature of Houses	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Kuchha	15	30
2	Semi Pakka	25	50
3	Pakka	10	20
	Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 6 reveals that half of them live in semi pakka houses and 30 percent of them live in kachha and followed by 20 percent living in pakka houses.

Table 7: ACCESS TO RADIO AND TELEVISION

Sl No	Access to radio/TV	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	YES	35	70
2	NO	15	30
		50	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 7 shows that 70 percent of the respondents have access to either Radio or T.V. But hardly 30 percent don't have access to these entertainment or the media sources.

TABLE 8: NATURE OF OCCUPATION

Sl No	Nature of Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Waste Pickers	4	8
2	Cobblers	5	10
3	Drainage cleaners	5	10
4	Street Sweepers	6	12
5	Working in Hotels/Institution	10	20
6	Industries/ factories	13	26
7	Designing coconut leaves for ceremonies	7	14
	Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 8 reveals that majority of 13 respondents (26 percent) work for industries and factories, around 10 respondents work for hotels and educational institutions in house keeping departments. Around 7 respondents engage in thatching of roofs and designing it for some auspicious occasions, 6 respondents work as sweepers, 5 each respondents work as drainage cleaners and cobblers and 4 respondents roam around as waste pickers.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

- Case Study Slum area has listed some facility needs urgent attention. For instance, water supply and drainage access in the area. All most all households reported lack of drainage, Potable water and toilet facilities.
- Most of the residents of slums do not constitute a skilled working class. They engage themselves in housekeeping department in hotels, factories, drainage cleaning etc., These jobs are low income generating activities.
- The housing condition in the slum presents a grim scenario. About 20 percent of houses are pucca and 50 percent were semi pucca. The largest household had a semi puccahouse. Most of the household have only one room. The most crowded household had seven person to a room. As regard other amenities, it has been observed that 60 percent of household have no latrines. Thus the slum dwellers suffer from tremendous deprivation of sanitation, , cooking bathing ,defecating and washing space.
- 60 percent of women in study area have education up to 7th standard due to compulsory and free education of the government.
- It was observed that TV sets were commonly found in slum household, no one was subscribing any news paper.
- 30 respondents suffer from dehydration due to lack of potable drinking water facilities and 20 respondents were prone to Urinary Track Infections since there is lacking separate

latrines and proper drainage facilities. And due to bad environmental contaminated condition 25 respondents are subjected to suffer from frequent common cold and cough.

MAJOR SUGGESSTIONS

- The slum area identified for the study area is low lying area and inundated during rainy seasons thus measures should be taken to raise their level in order to avoid problems of flooding and slogging in such slums.
- The open drains alongside the road should either be provided with removable covers or appropriate arrangements should be made for their regular cleaning so as to avoid accumulation of sewage.
- Local government should undertake measures to improve the physical environment of the dwelling places proper drainage, sewerage system and adequate water supply.
- Health camps and mobile clinic van should be arranged for treatment of common diseases and health promotional activities.
- Local Government should not allow new slums to come into existence.

CONCLUSION

Generally the social status of the women slum dwellers is very poor. They belong to poor build-up households, lack of basic amenities like drinking water, lighting, electricity, latrine facility, sewerage facility. The social profile of the slums is not good. They are poor and marginalized section of the society. The economic conditions of the women slum dwellers are very low. Generally, women slum dwellers are engaged in low level of economic activities like rag keeping, cleaning of houses, labourers in factories, malls etc. Women Slum dwellers are basically illiterate and they do not read and write. Due to lack of the literacy they are unable to do good job. Thus the economic conditions of the women slum dwellers are not good and they earn less amount of money. Due to less income slum dwellers are unable to purchase the basic needs of daily lives. Socio-economic status of women slum dwellers can be characterized as mainly low income group with inadequate education. Realizing the gravity of the situation governments have implemented a number of schemes and programmes to improve the living conditions of people living in slums. In short, multiprolonged strategy required not only to address the needs of women slum dwellers for shelter but also the problems of urban poverty, unemployment, low incomes and lack of access to basic urban services.

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