

**KAHV INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ARTS,HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SLUMS DWELLERS: A
THEORETICAL STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

The socio economic condition of the slum dwellers is generally poor because of the lack of basic social amenities; functional skills, proper education, source of the income, hygiene and health resources. However, slum dwellers directly or indirectly play an important role in nation building. With this point of view the study of slum dwellers becomes important. This paper attempts to demonstrate the theoretical ideas relating to socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers and its reasons and to extend appropriate measures for the improvement in the conditions of slum dwellers. Since, slum dwellers are the stock of the potential human resource, it can be developed through skill enhancement programmes initiated by the government and through appropriate public action relating to social provisions and redistribution social amenities. This paper is conceptual in nature and based on detailed literature collected from various sources like books, research articles, NSSO reports, Census of India etc. Lastly, this paper suggests the effective measures to minimize the problems and raise the living conditions of the slum dwellers.

Keywords: *Slum Dwellers, Social Amenities, Health Resources, Living Conditions.*

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Introduction

Slums dwellers are vulnerable parts of the society. They are facing various types of the problems like health and hygiene related problems, low level of income, poor housing conditions and lack of social amenities. Unhealthy living conditions of slum dwellers are the result of a lack of basic services, with visible, open sewers, lack of pathways, uncontrolled dumping of waste, polluted environments, and unorganized building constructions etc. The existence of the slum is a global phenomenon. Some social scientist said that, slum is the by-product of modern era. The development of the city is very important, but the provision for the slums population is needful. There is need to develop the plans and policies for the up gradation of the slum dwellers in terms of infrastructural development and basic amenities. Slums are increasingly faced with negative consequences such as polarization of population in large cities, high density, slums and squatter settlements, acute shortage of housing and basic civic amenities, degradation of environment, traffic congestion, pollution, poverty, unemployment, crime and social unrest.

Objectives

- To demonstrate the theoretical ideas relating to socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers.
- To extend appropriate measures for the improvement in the conditions of slum dwellers.

Methodology

This paper is based on the secondary data sources collected from different published sources. The detailed literatures are consulted and collected from various sources like books, research articles, NSSO reports, Census of India etc. This paper illustrates conceptual background of the slums and their classification. The general social and economic conditions of the slum dwellers are presented with the help of collected literature done by the academicians' works on slum dwellers.

Conceptual Background of the Slums

Slum is one of the negative indicators of the development. It shows the lack of the basic amenities. Day by day number of the urban centres is increasing. Migration of the people from the rural areas to urban centres is growing. Heavy conjunction in the city forces the urban poor to live in slums areas. These areas are deprived in terms of the living conditions.

The term "slum" is difficult to define. The definitions for slums are qualitative such as "areas of people lacking, for example, durable housing or easy access to safe water". In the present time the different terms uses for the slums like as -the many synonyms used for the term "slum" such as "informal settlements," "squatter," "shanty town," or "ghetto". There are also countless varying names across the globe such as "favelas" in Brazil, "townships" in Southern Africa, or "aashawa" in Egypt.

In India, slums are known, for example, as “jhuggis” in the northern parts of the country; “ahatas” in Kanpur; “cheries” in Chennai; “bustees” in Kolkata; “zodpatpatties,” “chawls,” or “patra chawls” in Mumbai and Ahmadabad. The slum dwellers are the people which are living in the slum areas. This study focuses the general socio-economic conditions of the slum dwellers.

Definition of the Slums

There are many institutions defines the slums according to various indicators. Such of the definitions of the slums are as follows:

I. The Encyclopedia Britannica defines slums as "... residential areas that are physically and socially deteriorated and in which satisfactory family life is impossible. Bad housing is a major index of slum conditions. By bad housing is meant dwellings that have inadequate light, air, toilet and bathing facilities; that are in bad repair, dump and improperly heated; that do not afford opportunity for family privacy; that are subject to fire hazard and that overcrowd the land, leaving no space for recreational use.

II. Registrar General of India has adopted the following definition for the purpose of Census of India. 2001, the slum areas broadly constitute of:

- All specified areas in a town or city notified as 'Slum' by State/Local Government and UT Administration under any Act including a 'Slum Act'.
- All areas recognized as 'Slum' by State/Local Government and UT Administration. Housing and Slum Boards, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act
- A compact area of at least 300 populations or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities.

III. The NSSO, for the purpose of survey in 1976-77 defined slum as declared and undeclared slums. The declared slums were areas which have been formally declared as slum by the respective municipalities, corporations, local bodies or the development authorities.

The undeclared slums were defined as “an aerial unit having twenty five or more katcha structures mostly of temporary nature, or inhabited by persons with practically no private latrine and inadequate public latrine and water

IV. For the purpose of the survey in 1993 and 2002, NSSO adopted the definition of slums as “A slum is a compact settlement with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions. Such an area, for the purpose of this survey, was considered as “**Non Notified Slum**” if at least 20 households lived in that area.

Areas notified as slums by the respective municipalities, corporations, local bodies or development authorities are treated as “**Notified Slums**”.

V. UN-Habitat defines “A slum is a contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services. A slum is often not recognized and addressed by the public authorities as an integral or equal part of the city.” Slum households as a group of individuals living under the same roof that lack one or more of the conditions listed below:

- i. Insecure residential status;
- ii. Inadequate access to safe water;
- iii. Inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure;
- iv. Poor structural quality of housing;
- v. Overcrowding.

On the basis of the above definitions we can find out that, slum areas are very deprived areas. They are poor in basic amenities. Due to lack of the some basic amenities people living these areas are facing various types of problems. So there is need to solve the problems of the slums dwellers.

Classification of Slum

Classification of Slums According to Census of India 2011

According to the census of India 2011, slums areas are categorized into three major parts. They are as follows,

1. Notified slums

All notified areas in a town or city notified as ‘Slum’ by State, Union territories Administration or Local Government under any Act including a ‘Slum Act’ may be considered as *Notified slums*.

2. Recognized slums

All areas recognized as ‘Slum’ by State, Union territories Administration or Local Government, Housing and Slum Boards, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act may be considered as *Recognized slums*.

3. Identified slums

A compact area of at least 300 populations or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. Such areas should be identified personally by the Charge Officer and also inspected by an officer nominated by Directorate of Census Operations. This fact must be duly recorded in the charge register. Such areas may be considered as *Identified slums*.

Probable Reasons for Upcoming Slums

There are many reasons which are responsible for the development of the slum areas. Some of the important reasons are as follows:

- Urbanization

- Industrialization
- Higher productivity in the secondary/tertiary sector against primary sector makes cities and towns centers of economic growth and jobs
- Negative consequences of urban pull results in upcoming of slums characterized by housing shortage and critical inadequacies in public utilities, overcrowding, unhygienic conditions

Concept of Social Indicators of Slum Dwellers

Social indicators represent the actual status of the societal people. They indicate the quality of lives of the people. The level of the social living standard of the slum dwellers is generally poor in nature. Slum dwellers are facing problematic issues in the present scenario like- compact area of overcrowded populations, poorly built congested dwelling condition, unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities etc. There are many academicians defines the social indicators.

Mcewin, M. (1995, pp. 309-318) defines that, social indicators are measures of social well-being which provide a contemporary view of social conditions and monitor trends in a range of areas of social concern over time.

United Nations, (1994) discussed that; social indicators can be defined as statistics that usefully reflect important social conditions and that facilitate the process of assessing those conditions and their evolution. Social Indicators are used to identify social problems that require action, to develop priorities and goals for action and spending, and to assess the effectiveness of programmes and policies.

Mcewin, M. (1995, p. 315) told that, in general social indicators should reflect a particular social idea, be valid and meaningful, be sensitive to the underlying phenomenon, be summary in nature, be available as time series, be able to be disaggregated, be intelligible and easily interpreted, and relate where appropriate to other indicators.

Socio Economic Conditions of Slum Dwellers

Generally the social status of the 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 slum dwellers are very low. Generally, slum dwellers are engaged in low level of economic activities like rag keeping, cleaning of houses, labourer, auto driver, thela puller, rickshaw pullers etc. 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 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 slum dwellers can be characterized as mainly low income group with inadequate education.

Pawar, D.H. & Mane, V. D. (2013, pp. 69-72) have studies about the socio- economic conditions of the slum dwellers and investigated that, the socio-economic status is calculated through explanted of the occupation, income, expenditure of the population. Occupation is playing an important role in socio-economic status. It affects other elements like living standard of population, socio-economic status of population and development and progress. The socio-economic status depends upon the living standard of individuals. Living standard also depends upon the income of family. It is a helpful for improvement of good life. Occupations are depended upon education level, family background, employment facilities in their periphery and skills. Slum dwellers performed occupations like tailor, retail shopkeeper, home servant, construction labor, catering, and alcohol retailer and like this other illegal activities, herding of goats, sheep's, hen and cocks etc. These occupations provided very low income in compare the heavy workload. The income is varying from occupation to occupation. Thus slum dwellers do low levels of jobs and get less money, so their socio-economic condition is poor. Authors have also identifies that, modern home assets and amenities also helpful to show the socio-economic status of slum dwellers. T.V. fan, gas, mobile, CD player etc. are used on large scale because there assets are purchasable for slum dwellers income. But fridge, furniture, phone, are used rarely because these assets are so costly for slum dwellers.

Prasad, R. & Singh, M.N. (2009, pp. 1-14) have studied about the living conditions and socio- economic conditions of the Mankhurd slum dwellers, Mumbai. Indicators related to socio demographic characteristics are-age group, cast, level of Education, occupation, religion, marital status, age at marriage, household size, wealth quintile. In this study for the calculation of the working profile various aspects are considered as like- current working status, work profile (Daily wage worker Salaried worker, Own business, Others), working hour and time taken to reach place of work. This study also illustrates the housing condition of the slum dwellers. For the calculation of the housing amenities index- ownership of house (own or rented), types of house (Kaccha, Pucca, or Semi-Pucca), source of light, sources of water and toilet facility have taken into consideration.

Chandramouli, C. (2003, pp. 82-88) has represented the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Chennai slum. For the calculation of the socio- economic conditions various types of the indicators are used like- literacy level, demographic characteristics, types of houses, number of dwelling rooms, ownership pattern, drinking water facility, availability of electricity, drainage facility, availability of separate kitchen and types of fuels used for cooking, radio and television facility. On the basis of the above indicators we can say that the social status of the slum dwellers in the Chennai is very poor and their living condition is very bad.

Sufaira, C. (2013, pp. 12-24) has discussed about the socio economic conditions of urban slum dwellers in Kannur municipality. Slums are the product of socio-economic and cultural conditions of a particular social system inhibiting the physical, mental, moral and social development of the individuals. Socio economic profile of slum dwellers presents a vivid picture of

factors such as caste, religion, education, health status and living environment of the family, type of the house, occupation and annual income of the family etc. The variables of caste and religion play equally important role in patterning and growth of slums. Caste is an important factor influencing the socio economic status of any society. The employment status is a basic indicator of economic soundness of households. The quality of life is measured directly with the help of the family income.

Neeraj, H. & Sanjay, R. (2003, pp. 4604-4610) have studied about the socio-economic and health status of slum women. Urban slum women are mostly effected by the cultural and behavioral barriers like female illiteracy, poor economic conditions and low level of living slandered. This study also focuses on malnutrition pattern of urban slum women. Malnourishment is very likely to occur when insufficient incomes co-exist with poor coverage of basic amenities and health services.

Karn, S.K, et. als. (2003, pp. 3579-3586) examined the relationship between living environment and health status of urban slums in Mumbai. The study showed that polluted drinking water, insanitary living conditions, poor personal hygiene and food cleanliness are contributed to water related diseases among the slum dwellers. The impact of poverty and environmental factors highly pronounced between slums and pavement dwellers. The study revealed that income, literacy, sanitation and personal hygiene have had impact on the morbidity of the people. The study proved the effect of socio-economic and the environmental factors on health status of urban poor.

Gangadharan, K. (2005, p. 45) studied the socio-economic and health behavior of five social classes, upper class, upper middle, lower middle, upper lower, lower in the utilization of health services in Kannur slum. The study observed that slum area are effected with poor household conditions, educationally backward, high level of diseases, lack of available health services.

Madhusoodhanan, V. (2008, pp. 10) had conducted a study in Trivandrum city to examine the nature of social structure, caste groups and economic strata of the slum dwellers. The study observed that living condition of slum dwellers was considerably poor. Socio-economic status of slum dwellers can be characterized as mainly low income group with inadequate education, also poor physical environment with non-existent solid waste disposal system was very common phenomenon in slum areas. This study also focuses on problems of slum dwellers and various governmental measures implemented for their rehabilitation.

Sen, R. K. (2015, pp. 75-80) concludes that, the overall socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers in Basirhat Municipal area, West Bengal are not good at all. Socio-economic characteristics such as age, education level, male-female ratio, family size, occupational status, annual income etc were considered in his paper. Education is considered as an important factor of the socio-economic characteristics of the household. In slum areas there are no available formal education facilities for slum dwellers. Maximum slum dwellers have no education but some NGOs and organization try to provide them informal education.

On the basis of the above discussion we can say that the socio-economic conditions are measured with the help of the various types of indicators. In the calculation of the social lives of the

slum dwellers we can classify them into classes, cast, gender, marital status, age at marriage, religion, education, literacy, health and living environment of the family, some of the basic amenities like- drinking water facility, electricity facility, toilet facility, availability of kitchen facility and fuel used for cooking etc. Economic profile of the slum dwellers may be calculated with the help of several indicators like- occupation, income, wages, expenditure pattern, housing assets. Slum dwellers are generally illiterates, so they engaged in the economic activity directly. Slum dweller generally do low paid jobs and they are not capable to purchase basic needs of daily lives. Thus they are poor in social and economic conditions. There is need to improvement of their conditions.

Status of Social Amenities of the Slum Dwellers

Sinha, B.R.K., Singh, B.N. & Nishad, P. (2016, pp. 402-410) have studied about the status of social amenities in slums of India. Social amenities are the sources of development and quality of life of the people. It enhances peace, prosperity, pleasure, satisfaction and well-being as works as a means of welfare of the society. The social amenities are one of the key indicators of the development of any society. It shows the actual situation of the daily life of the slum dwellers. Social amenities represent the living standard of the slums dwellers. Some of the social amenities are as like-availability of drinking water facility at households level, types of latrine and their location in terms of they are located whether within the premises or not, types of lightening sources like solar energy, electricity, kerosene, other oils, uses of cooking fuels like LPG/CNG, cow dung cack, wood, coals, charcoals, grass etc. Whether, they have the availability of the banking facility. Slum dwellers are facing several problems. Housing conditions is the one of the important amenity of the slum dwellers. Generally, a poor housing condition of the slum dwellers shows the low levels of living standard. There are many scholars studied about the housing conditions of the slum dwellers and they founded that, shanty and low level of housing structures creates several health related problems to the slum people.

Housing Conditions of the Slum Dwellers

Basically, slums and squatters are considered as problem areas for urban development in third world countries. They are illegally occupied houses and creating an irritation of environmental pollution and degradation of urban living situation.

Goswami, S. & Manna, S. (2013, pp. 1-9) told that, the people in slums live under the most deplorable conditions, potable water, sanitation facilities.

Mnitp, U.B.O. (2013, pp. 08-14) analyses the housing problems of the slum areas in Enugu City Nigeria. Housing problems in these slum areas are now a matter of crucial concern to the residents. This study produces the detailed account of the housing problems and their situation in the slum areas of Enugu city. Dilapidated houses should be rehabilitated by correcting all offending defects to up- grade the houses to provide comfortable accommodation to the inhabitants. The

upgrading of the socio-economic characteristics of the inhabitants should become part of urban development programmes.

Phukan, D. K. (2014, pp. 71-73) has presented the level of basic amenities in the slum of Jorhat city, Assam. The housing facility, water facility and sanitation system in the slums of the Jorhat city are poor for which the slum dwellers have to face various problems; even such pathetic condition harms many dwellers outside the slums. In the Jorhat town most of the households are residing in a poor housing pattern constructed with bamboo, cane, straw, plastic cover where as only a small number of households use wood, tin for roofing. Most of the houses are constructed in lower level with *kacha* type floor. In most of the houses only except a narrow door there is not a single ventilation or window which causes darkness and air pollution.

Souza, A.D. (1978, p. 134), has studied the housing condition of slum dweller of Kolkata. The housing pattern in the slums of Kolkata contributes that, 60 % of the structures were *kacha* with roofs of tile or tin with bamboo beam; about 67 % of the huts were with poor window, poorly ventilated causing darkness.

Sajjad, H. (2014, p.58) concluded that, notified slums of Mumbai have better household environmental conditions than non-notified slums of the areas. All houses of the slum dwellers were over- crowded and poor both in terms of structure and ventilation, thus inviting various diseases and infections.

Retnaraj D (2001, pp. 123-133) examined that the unprecedented growth of urban slums in Kerala in recent years consequent on the hike in the price of pucca shelter and land in urban centers. There is a heavy concentration of population in class first cities in Kerala .Due to the hike in rent of houses and prices of land urban people in Kerala was forced to live in slums. Slum dwellers are facing various types of problems like lack of drinking water facilities, latrine facilities and electric connections in the slums of Kerala.

On the basis of the above studies we can say that the housing conditions of the slum dwellers are generally very poor. They are congested in nature and lack of the cross ventilation found in their houses. This causes the so many respiratory problems among the slum dwellers. Housing conditions effects the health conditions of the people. Slums dwellers houses generally made of plastics, bamboo, wood, asbestos, tin shed, grass, mud, kutcha in nature, low floor structures, dilapidated in nature and most vulnerable to the fire hazards and other natural disasters. Generally the housing conditions are not as good for health of the slum dwellers.

Water Availability in Slum Areas

Pure water scarcity is everywhere, but slums dwellers are more affected by the unavailability of the water for drinking and bathing facility. Generally slum areas are poor in terms of supply of drinking water.

Rao, S.C.N. (2009, p. 463) investigated that, water is one of the basic requirements for livelihood. But scarcity of water stands as a vital problem for many people all over the world. The slum dwellers of many urban areas throughout the world are having serious water problem. It is also seen in Indian urban centre. It is quite evident that the poorer slum areas are pathetic and that most people are under the serious problem of lack of water.

Prasad, R. & Singh, M.N. (2009, pp. 1-14) has discussed about living condition and life style of Mankhurd slum dwellers. The slum dwellers residing in Mankhurd face a variety of problems pertaining to water and sanitation. Around 98 percent slum dwellers had problems pertaining to fetching water while around 97 percent had problems in toilet use.

Risbud, N. (2003, p. 7) has studied on urban slums of the Mumbai and reported that, about 49 % of slums have access to water supply from shared standpipes, while 38.3 % have a supply from more than one source. Remaining slums get their water from tube wells or community standpipes. Women and children daily spend a lot of time and have to make several trips to collect water. Sanitation in slums is very poor. Inadequate water supply and poor maintenance of the water availability causes unhygienic health condition in the slums of Mumbai.

If we discuss about the water availability in the slum areas then will found that, there is scarcity of the drinking water. Slum people use impure water for drinking purposes and fall ill. So the general health conditions of the slum dwellers are very poor and they are affected by the several types of water born diseases like jaundice, stomach ulcer etc.

Health and Educational Conditions of the Slum Dwellers

It is generally told that health is wealth. Healthy people can build-up the healthy nations. Due to low level of the economic conditions of the slum dwellers they are not able to consume the healthy and nutritive foods. So the malnutrition is shown in the slum children and women. General health conditions of the slum dwellers are not good. They are affected by the several types of diseases.

Goswami, S. & Manna, S. (2013, p. 14) said that, the living conditions in slums have a direct impact on people's health. Their low socio-economic status, low level of education and high fertility and mortality- all indicate that they need special attention in terms of public health, family planning and reproductive health programs. Rapid slummification has caused wide spread of environmental degradation in the urban city.

Madhiwalla, N. (2007, pp. 113-114) elaborates that, the growth of cities has always been accompanied by the growth of slums. Ill health conditions due to overcrowding, poor housing and unsanitary environment, coupled with poverty are found in slum dwellers. The relative difference in income and wealth is much starker in urban areas. The higher purchasing power of the rich people drives up the prices of food and healthcare goods, making them unaffordable to the poor. The rich also consume more than their fair share of public goods, for example, water, infrastructure,

electricity, which are often subsidized by the state. Poverty and other forms of social disadvantage translate into poorer health status and outcomes for the urban poor.

Singh, M. & Souza, A.D. (1980, p. 73) have reported about the water born diseases among the slum dwellers in his book urban poor. The most common diseases in the slums are gastro-intestinal diseases, diarrhea, water diseases, parasitic worms/infestation and orals diseases etc.

Nijama et al (2003, p. 8) found that due to lack of proper living conditions slum children are vulnerable to diarrhoea, typhoid, malaria and other such diseases. To improve the living condition of slum dwellers better facilities pertaining to water, sanitation and health education should be provided.

Sijbesma & M.P.Dijk (2006) concluded in that poor hygiene and sanitation, lack of safe drinking water contribute to health problems of the slum dwellers. Reily et al (2007, p. 2) indicated that chronic non-communicable and communicable diseases like hypertension, diabetes, intentional and unintentional injuries, tuberculosis, and rheumatic heart disease and HIV infection exist in slums.

Prasad, R. & Singh, M.N. (2009, pp. 1-14) told that the health status of the slum dwellers is greatly influenced by living condition they live in. Slum congestion, homeless families, street children, severe drainage shortage, air pollution, stinking water bodies, heaps of garbage, unhygienic working condition are all unique to urban environment.

Phukan, D. K. (2014, pp. 71-73) revealed that the housing, water facility and sanitation system in the slums of the Jorhat City are poor for which the slum dwellers have to face various problems, even such pathetic condition harms many dwellers outside the slums. The most important fact is that the ecology of the Jorhat City is being greatly affected by such poor amenities. Besides, such miserable condition affects their financial aspect.

Kalkoti, K. (2013, p. 73) suggested that, for a better livelihood, proper sanitation system is one of the basic requirements. In broad term sanitation refers to disposal and management of solid wastes, wastewater, human and cattle excreta etc. It is important for human health which contributes to clean and improved environment, social development and generates significant economic benefits.

Risbud, N. (2003, p. 7) discussed about the sanitation conditions of urban slums of the Mumbai. Sanitation in slums is very poor as 73 % of slums depend on community toilets provided by the government, 28 % defecate in the open, 0.7 % slums have pay to use toilets managed by NGOs and only 1 % of slums have individual toilets.

Sinha, B.R.K., Singh, B.N. & Nishad, P. (2016, pp. 384-392) have identified that, the literacy rate of slum population is a bridge between the literacy rate of rural population and literacy rate of urban population. Since the literate people are more mobile than the illiterate people so higher number of literate persons have migrated from rural to urban area and because of unplanned and haphazard way of urbanization these people are forced to live in sub human conditions of slum areas and this resulted into higher rate of literacy in slum areas in comparison to rural areas.

Education plays an important role in the development of the society. General educational level of the slum dwellers is poor. They do not send their children to school. Due to the low level of income they do not spend money on education. Low educational levels are barriers in the field of the working and earning money. Due to lack of educational facility they are working as informal labourers and gain less amount of money. Poverty, or low incomes, adversely affect the quality and quantity of education.

On the basis of the literature related to the health conditions of the slum dwellers, we can say that slum dwellers are basically affected with the several diseases. Malnutrition among the slum children is very common phenomenon. Women conditions in the slum areas are also very poor. They are generally affected by the diseases like- hypertension, diabetes, injuries, tuberculosis, heart disease etc. Lack of the drinking water, proper sanitation, slum congestion, housing problems, air pollution, are major problems of the slum dwellers. These problems create the health and hygiene related problems among the slum dwellers. So there is need to solve the health related problems of the slum dwellers.

Environmental Conditions of Slum Dwellers

Generally environmental conditions of the slum areas are very poor. High conjunction of the housing, poor building structures, high density of the population, lack of the spaces effects the human health. Most of the slum dwellers use traditional fuels for the cooking food. These traditional fuels like charcoal, coals, wood, kerosene oils, cow dung cake etc release the smoke in to environment. These traditional fuels create the several diseases like- respiratory diseases, Asthma, bronchitis etc.

Goswami, S. & Manna, S. (2013, p. 17) have discussed about the environmental aspect of the slums. Environmental changes are driven by many factors including economic growth, population growth, urbanization, intensification of agriculture, rising energy use and transportation. Poverty still remains a problem at the root of several environmental problems. Poverty is responsible to be both cause and effect of environmental degradation. The circular link between poverty and environment is an extremely complex phenomenon. Inequality may foster unsustainability because the poor, who depend on natural resources more than the rich, deplete natural resources faster as they have no real prospects of gaining access to other types of resources.

The growing up of slums occur due to many factors, such as the shortage of developed land for housing, the high prices of land beyond the reach of urban poor, and a large influx of rural migrants to the cities in search of jobs etc. The existence of 'urban slums' is one of the major problems faced by almost all the metropolitan cities throughout the world and Indian cities are no exception. Environmental degradation is a result of the dynamic interplay of socio-economic, institutional and technological activities of the slum dwellers.

Economic Conditions of Slum Dwellers

Slum dwellers are generally illiterates. So they are engaged in the low levels of the economic activities. They earn less amount of the money. Generally, due to less income levels they do not consume the nutritive food. Slums children are affected with malnutrition. Economic conditions play major role in the development of the people. Without good income no one can live healthy life. Income improves the good health, better educational facility and living of standard of the slum dwellers. Slum dwellers have been contributing significantly to the economy of any city by providing affordable labour for formal as well informal sectors of the economy. With the help of the skills enhancement programmes we can bust-up the working capacity of the slum dwellers. They can also contribute in the economic growth of the county. Income and health are co-related. If levels of the income increase then health standard also increases.

Verma et al (2001, p. 3) indicated that the health status of the slum dwellers of Mumbai is influenced by poor economic status of the household, awareness, availability and accessibility of health facilities etc.

Sajjad, H. (2014, pp. 56-57) investigated in his article that, there is high rate of unemployment among the slum dwellers. The employment pattern of the slum dwellers shows that most of the male slum dwellers in notified and non-notified slums were engaged as daily wage earners. They worked as rickshaw pullers, Tonga pullers, industry workers and construction workers. The major businesses run by these slum dwellers are street vending, hawking, petty shop keeping and selling handicrafts. A few were engaged in services. The higher ratio of domestic women workers in both the notified and non-notified slums is attributed to the greater opportunity of women oriented work in nearby localities. Irregular employment causes insecurity and financial problems which may lead to various social evils and crimes. The bad consequences for individual employees extend out to bad effects on families and communities.

Generally we can say that, slum dwellers are engaged in the non formal activities. They are poor in economic conditions. Most of them are working as rickshaw pullers, Tonga pullers, industry workers and construction workers. The major businesses run by these slum dwellers are street vending, hawking, petty shop keeping and selling handicrafts. Lower level of economic conditions degrades the living conditions of the slum dwellers.

Conclusion

On the basis of the above facts we can say that, the socio-economic conditions of the slum dwellers are very low. There is lack of the basic amenities in the slum areas. They are facing various types of problems in daily life. Housing conditions of the slums areas is very poor. They lived in the dilapidated housing structures, lack of cross ventilation; lack of lighting sources effects the health of the slum dwellers. This study focuses on the slums related problems. The educational level of the

slum dwellers is very low, there is need to educate the slum children. The general health conditions of the slum dwellers are very poor. They are affected by the several diseases. So living in the slums areas is a challenging life. There is a need for a comprehensive policy for primary healthcare for urban areas, which takes into account the special concerns of the poor. A large number of slum people are migrants; most of them belong to the lower socio economic group and come from different parts of the country. The majority of the slum population is concentrated in core areas of the city because they want to live nearer to their working places and contribute significantly to the economic activity of the city. Most of places where slum dwellers live are unhygienic to the lives. The absence of citizen participation is still a problem in the slum upgrade projects. So there is need of active participation to solve the problems of slum dwellers. With the help of the better implementation of the plans and policies we can solve the poor condition of the households of the slum dwellers. The skills enhancement of the slum people is very essential for the development of the good human resources in the urban areas. The quality of the living standard of the slum dweller and their housing condition is very low. Thus we can say that slum dwellers are still facing various types of problems. So there is need to solve their problems.

On the basis of the above discussion we can solve the problems of the slum dwellers and their living conditions would be also changed. Slum dwellers can contribute the economic activity of the urban areas and plays major role for the development of nation. Thus there is need to do better arrangements for the positive changes among the slum dwellers.

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