

Socio-economic Status of Slum Dwellers with Special Reference to Women: Geographical Investigation of Kolhapur Slums

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Abstract

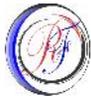
Socio- economic status shows individuals or population's living standard, life style and all over development and progress. The education, occupation are the most important elements in the study of socio- economic status of population. Besides these elements age, caste are also taken into consideration. Slum is an unhygienic place for human settlements. It is the human settlement in diverts condition or situation. It is also a adjustment with nature and compromise with life's needs for survive in worst condition. It is because of the vicious circle of poverty. Poverty is an unseparateable part of slum dwellers. So the slum population is backward socially and economically. Poverty affects the health, education, nutrition, birth and death ratio, sex ratio, life expectancy, the socio-economic status. Due to poverty economic status is lower, so education level is low, unskilled or low skills, so the socio-economic status of slum dwellers is low. To improve this lower economic conditions slum women are earning and try to support family income. Some are the house headed women. So they have needed to earn. They are lower educated unskilled, have poor economic condition so they perform the work as per their capacity and ability which provide low income and hence the socio-economic status is low. Therefore, there is a need to study the socio-economic status of slum women.

Key words - Socio- economic status, slum dwellers, living standard, poverty, income, life style, education, occupation.

Introduction

Urban industrialization changes the face of urban area, its functions too. Due to urban industrialization city's previous functions are mainly services, suppliers. City's traditional function served to optimum threshold, but today it served more threshold through multi-functioning. It has provide better income in compare of rural area. So the surround rural population has attracted towards nearer city or urban area. This urban provided all season employment. It leads the process of migration. Rural threshold has been migrated towards city or urban area in search of jobs. These migrants are low educated, unskilled and skilled labor force for urban industrialization. This type of jobs provided low income, labor force. For accessible purpose the labor are in search of house. But city has higher land cost; due to this the labor can't purchase their own house in city area. So they shelter in public open land, other open pieces of city, places nearer to industrial area and also footpath. This process gives birth to formation of slum and slum area.

Slum area is a dirty places, it is unhygienic condition. It is the adjustment with nature and compromise with life's need for survive in worst condition. It is because of the vicious circle of poverty. The poverty is a unrepeatable part of slum dwellers. So the slum population is backward socially and economically. Their socio economic status is low. To improve the



socio-economic status, slum women are earning and try to support family income. Some are the house headed woman. So they have needed to earn. They are lower educated, unskilled have poor economic condition so they perform the work as per their capacity, and ability which provide low income and hence the socio-economic status is low. Therefore, there is a need to study the socio-economic status of slum women.

The Kolhapur city has total 54 slums out of them 44 are identified and 10 slums are unidentified slums. Among of them some are located in heart of city and others are located in the peripheral part of city. These slums show the function of slum dwellers because of poverty. The poverty affects the health, education, nutrition birth and death ratio, life expectancy and the socio-economic status.

Objectives

To look into social status with living standard and economic participation of womanhood of slums in Kolhapur city.

Study region

The study region is Kolhapur city. It is located in karveer taluka of Kolhapur district. The latitude of 16 42' north and longitude is 74 14' East. The height of Kolhapur city is 547 meters from the mean sea level. The city has moderate climate and attractive physical background. It is located at eastern foothills of Sahyadri Mountains. The city is located on the right bank of river panchaganga which is tributary of river Krishna. Today the city has more than 5 lakh population. Total population living in slum area is 87,577 which constitutes above 17.76% of total population of 4, 93,167 of Kolhapur city, as per the census of year 2001.

Database and Methodology

The entire work is based on primary data and secondary data. Primary data collection is through questionnaire and personal interviews of females of slum dwellers. However, secondary data is collected from District census handbook, socio-economic reviews, records of Municipal Corporation of Kolhapur city etc.

Discussion

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 too.

In Kolhapur city the women who residing in slum area has performed various types of work or occupation. These occupations are depended upon their education level, family background, employment facilities in their periphery and skills. They performed occupations like tailor, retail shopkeeper, home servant, construction labor, catering, and alcohol retailer and like this other illegal activities, herding (goats, sheep's, hen/ cocks etc.)

These occupations provided very low income in compare the heavy workload. The income is varying from occupation to occupation. Some women have 900/- per month, who

performed work as a bagger. Some women have 6 to 8000/- per month who are in government service these cases are rare but 2000/-to 3000/- per month income is in the vast/large quantity. Only 31% women population of slum has the provided the employment through these occupation. Other women are the dependency load on the working women/population. This dependency is from the age group 0-14 and 65to above 75years. Due to this the expenditure of family per month is high in compare to income. The income of slum population is varying from Rs. 900/- to 30,000/-rupees. The average income per month is Rs. 5078/- The monthly home expenditure is varies from Rs. 900/- to 10,000/-. The average expenditure per month Rs.3155/-.

Along with this the modern home assesets 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.

Conclusion

Living standard is total out come of family wealth, health and all better things for luxurious human life. 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.

Income is an outcome of type of occupation and individual's education. The slum dwellers of Kolhapur city try to improve their living standard as per their capacity, with struggling high intensity dearness and high inflation.

Table: 1
Modern assets and amenities belongs to slum dwellers

T.V.	Fan	Gas	Mobile	Phone	C.D Player	Fridge	Sewing machine	Furniture
37%	30.5%	29.8%	23%	3.7%	16.3%	1.3%	1.4%	2.6%

Table: 2
Proportion of working women in slums

Sr no	Name of slum	No of working women
1	Takala khanbhag	7%
2	Joshi nagar	5.1%
3	Kasaba bawada	4%
4	Vichare mal	4.6%
5	Near Unchagaon jakat naka	3.6%
6	Near Sangam theater	4.5%
7	Laxtirth vasahat	2%
8	Shenda park	4.7%

**Table:3, Economic status of slum dwellers (figures are in Rs/-)**

Income /month	Expenditure/month	Average income/month	Average expenditure /month
900/- to 30,000	900/- to 10,000/-	5078/-	3155/-

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