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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC STATUS IN SLUMS OF MUZAFFARNAGAR

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ABSTRACT

India is a developing country in the world, where industrialization and urbanization is growing at a very fast pace but there is a downside to increase the number of slums in urban areas. An urban residential area with large number of populations containing high number of closely packed, decrepit housing units in a situation of deteriorated or incomplete infrastructure, inhabited primarily by impoverished persons is called slums. There are several different reasons for formation and growth of slums in different parts of Indian city. Rapid rural-to-urban migration, economic stagnation and depression, large number of unemployment, severe poverty, imbalance economy, forced or manipulated ghettoization, poor planning, politics, natural disasters and social conflicts are the main causes for development of slums. It works as a barrier to the urban economy, where environmental and cultural pollution is increasing from one of the other unplanned slums, on the other hand, by increasing its crime, urban poverty, ill-health, illiteracy and low living standard, in this condition their continuous development is not possible. It has profound effects on sustainable development of the cities. The positive effect of the slums is very partial, whereas the negative impact is very huge. A total of 65.49 million slum inhabitants live in 13.92 million household in India are affecting to urban sustainable development. In the present investigation, data was collected from 20 slum houses of Mohalla Janakpuri after analyzing the data it was found that 90% of houses were earning less than 5000 rupees per month and a big part of employees were unskilled workers. Out of the total samples the percentage living below the poverty line was 25% and only 32% population was literate. During the study it was found that 5 children were working as child labor. At local scales of Muzaffarnagar city the social and physical aspects were analysed and a more holistic analysis of the problem was done in this paper, which can potentially lead to a deeper understanding and consequently better approaches for tackling the challenge of slums. This research paper is a partial effort to analyze the impact of slums on quality of life and economic growth of the city.

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INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is the most challenging phenomena of world in last five decade. Globally, more than 55.3% of the world's population is living in urban areas in 2018 (*Population Division, U.N., 2018*). In India 7936 urban settlements had a population of about 377 million representing 31 per cent of the country's total population, 1210 million (*census-2011*). According to latest international estimate there is 460780000 urban population out of 1354052000 (total population of India according to U.N. estimate) in India which is 34 per cent of total population in 2018 (*Population Division, U.N.-2018*). Most of urban dwells are not planned in India. A big part of Indian urban population is living in slums.

A compact area of overcrowded populations, improperly built congested dwelling condition, unhealthy environment generally with inappropriate infrastructure and poor availability of hygienic condition and safe drinking water is called slums (*Goswami and Manna., 2013*). A slum seems to be generally defined as an area where dwellings predominate which are so inferior as be detrimental to safety, health or morals (*Murphy., 1996*). In India a total of 65.49 million population living in 13.9 million households have been enumerated in slums of 2613 cities, towns spread across States and Union Territories in the 2011 Census of India. The non-slum population was 311.61 million. The slum population constitutes 5.4 per cent of the total population of the country. It constitutes 17.4 percent of the total urban population of all the States and Union Territories and remaining 82.6 percent of the urban population was non-slum population in 2011. A total of 65.49 million population living in 13.9 million households have been registered as slums of 2613 cities/towns spread over across 31 States and Union

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Territories in the 2011 Census of India. Among the States, Tamil Nadu has the largest number of cities and towns (507) reporting slum population, followed by Madhya Pradesh (303), Uttar Pradesh (293), Karnataka (206), Maharashtra (189), West Bengal (122), Rajasthan (107) and Gujarat (103). On the other hand, in nine States/Union Territories, namely, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, slums have been reported from minimum of 30 cities/towns and maximum 94 cities/towns (Slum in India: A Statistical Compendium, 2015). A nomenclature in relation to Indian slums is also becoming popular that the settlements of the unemployed and the poor people are inhabited by people of these dwellers. they find a place for another relaxation at night and on the other hand, various types of anti-social acts such as theft, drinking, gambling, prostitution, trafficking etc. are also engaged in work, so they are also called the canker of the city (Rao and Sharm., 2006). Muzaffarnagar is one among the cities of India which is suffering from the slum crisis such as human security, sustainable development, low quality of life, ill health, environmental degradation and unemployment. The present study tries to know and explain the problems of slum area and give some suggestions to solve the problems of slums in Muzaffarnagar.

Objectives

- To evaluate the demographic characteristic slums dwellers in Muzaffarnagar city
- To examine the quality of life in slums of city.
- To assess the economic status of slum.
- To know the detrimental impact of slums on the economic growth and sustainable development of city.

DATA BASED AND METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Muzaffarnagar city of Uttar Pradesh in April 2018. 20 families of slum area in which total 104 people of different age group were chosen by random purposive sampling method. In this current study with the help of pretested questionnaire the data was collected. Variable including education level, socio-demographic condition, financial crisis and living standard were evaluated by using appropriate questionnaire. In this study all subjects signed an informed consent statement before participating.

About the study area: Muzaffarnagar is classified as Class I town which is a statutory town and the administrative headquarters of Muzaffarnagar district falls under Saharanpur administrative division of Uttar Pradesh state. The city is located 125 Km North East to the National capital, New Delhi. The city lays on the geographical co-ordinates of 29°28' North Latitude and 77°41' East Longitude. The population of Muzaffarnagar (Nagar Palika Parishad) as per 2011 census was 3, 92,451 out of which male and female were 2, 06,902 and 1, 85,549 respectively. As per the National Building Organization (NBO) Annexure primary survey carried out in February, 2013, the city was having a total of 22 slums (Slum Free City Plan of Action – Muzaffarnagar, 2013). The total slum population in the city was 27100 which constitute about 7% of city population. The total number of slum households in the city was 5085. After analyzing the primary data the main outputs is given below

Table 1. Age structure of sample, April, 2018

Age Group	No. of Male	No. of Female	Total
50+	5	6	11
40-50	7	8	15
30-40	5	5	10
20-30	8	8	16
10-20	17	14	31
0-10	18	13	31
Total Some	60	54	114

Source- primary survey, April 2018

Table 2. Category wise population distribution of sample

Category	Total household	Total Population	Percentage
S.C.	07	37	32.45
O.B.C.	08	49	42.98
OTHER	05	28	24.57
Total	20	114	100

Source- primary survey, April 2018

Table 3. Occupational structure of samples, April-2018

Occupation	No. of Casual labor	No. of Regular wage	No. of Self employes	No. of salaried workers	Total
Total employes	9	6	7	3	25
% of total employes	36	24	28	12	100

Source- primary survey, April 2018

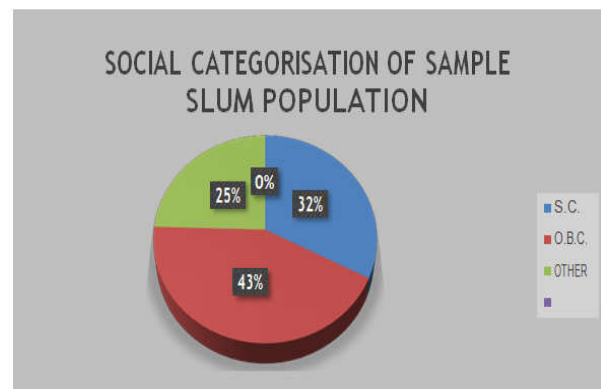


Fig. 2. Category wise Population Distribution, April-2018

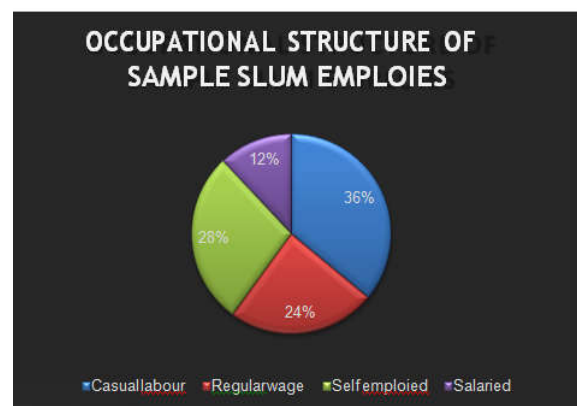


Fig. 3. Occupational Structure of Samples, April-2018

Demographic Structure: The demographic condition in Mohalla Janakpuri, Muzaffarnagar were different from whole city there was a sex ratio of approximately 90% was nearest of whole city sex ratio (889/thousand). When we correlate the sex ratio with age groups in study area we found, the child sex ratio was lowest then another age groups but the population having age more than 40 years have more female then male population.

Table 4. Income of samples

Income group	<3000	3000-4000	4000-5000	>5000	Total
No. of families	2	6	9	3	20
% of Total	10	30	45	15	100

Source- primary survey, April 2018

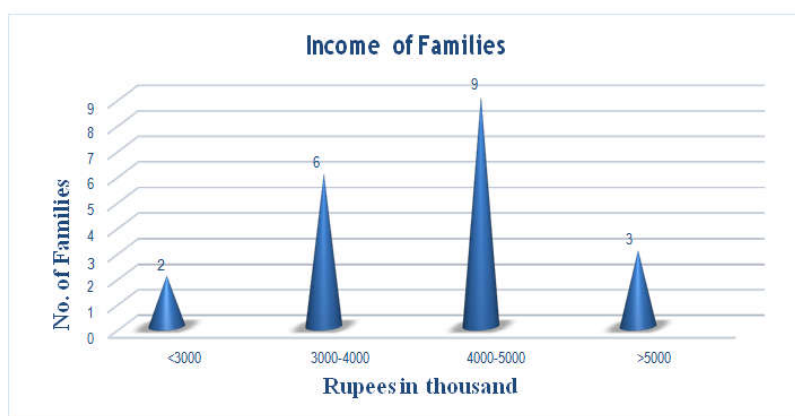


Fig. 4. Income Structure of samples, April-2018

Socio-economic Level: A total Population of 114 was living in 20 slums in study area, all survey sample was divided in 3 category S.C., O.B.C. and Other (which including general and uncategorized population). The Ratio of Social categories in Sample Population is shown in table 2.

Occupational structure of sample: A big part of population in study area was living below poverty line and the head of two families were female. After focusing on economic conditions, 60% of employed population was working under casual labor and regular wage and the second largest part was self-employed. Salaried workers have lowest part Only 12 % of total employed population was registered as salaried workers. When we seen the workforce as skilled and non-skilled, a big part of workforce was employed under non-skilled workers and only 3 persons were working as a skilled labor. There 2 families found female headed and 5 Children's were working under child labor.

Income structure of sample: After analyzing the data of per family income we found 90% of total sample families earn less than 5 thousand rupees per month. 2 families were earning less than 3 thousand rupees per month. There was an important thing to mention that the families which earning less than 3000 rupees per month Income, are female headed because they were widow. Maximum families were earning an average income between 4000-5000 rupees per month. About 5 children were working under the child labor.

Hygiene, sanitation and environmental conditions: The level of health was extremely low in the sample study area. Due to deterioration and low environmental conditions, the number of sick people in slum of research area always remains high. There was no proper supply system for drinking water and no proper system for sewage. There was no any facility of solid waste management in that slum area by Municipality Corporation. In this situation, slaughtered people put solid waste in the drain which located near about the slum, due to which the water of the drain was getting highly polluted and many types of diseases were spreading. A large number of people were facing ill-health and sick conditions due to polluted drinking water supply.

The dwells of slum were very congested and the tin shed roof of slum dwells was highly full from waste plastic garbage that is the major reason of air-pollution, water pollution and increasing a large volume of mosquitoes. There was neither proper food security nor proper health facilities in these dense slums. A large number of male population was alcoholic which leads to low living standard and lowest quality of life.

Conclusion

After the complete analysis the slum settlement of Muzaffarnagar are negatively effecting the sustainable development of city due to low quality of life, ill- health, polluted drinking water, improper sewage system, inappropriate solid waste management, low annual income and literacy rate, congested dwells and unplanned land use. It is very important for the development of the town to ensure proper development of these slums and their positive contribution in the development of the city.

Suggestion

To ensuring and enhancing the positive contribution of slums in the quality of life, human safety and urban sustainable development are as follows:

- Conduct skill development programs on free of cost for slums to improve their quality of life, as well as financial security.
- Make sure proper solid waste management and sewage water disposal facility.
- Employment facilities should be provided to the workers of the slums at reasonable wages.
- Provide better education opportunity to children of slums dwells in city.
- Regular check-ups of human health and provide proper health facilities

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