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A Study on Socio-Economic Conditions of Slum Dwellers with Special reference to slums of Patna

- Akanksha • Astha Awasthi • Sanya
- Soofia Fatima

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Corresponding Author : Soofia Fatima

Abstract : Indian Economy is facing several multi-faceted problems of Poverty and Unemployment. Pavement and Slum Dwellers also represent the deprived sections of the society. Problem related to Slum Dwellers is one of the major issues of the country. Slum is a densely populated usually urban area marked by run-down housing, overcrowding, poverty & social disorganisation. The Government has launched multiple Schemes and Yojnas for Slum Dwellers still they are not well acquainted with all these because of lack of awareness. It was

observed that the people living in Slum areas are facing several challenges on a daily basis.

Keywords: Slum Dwellers, Notified Slums, Philanthropist, Economical Weaker Sections (EWS), Low-Income Groups (LIG), Encroachment, Rehabilitation.

Introduction:

India is a developing nation where currently Government is launching innovative schemes for marginal section but still the socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers are very poor. In some cases, slum dwellers can't even afford to have 3 meals a day and when any natural calamity hits their areas then, in that case, the situation gets even worse. Encroachment seems to be a major issue which has affected the slum dwellers badly. The Central & State Government should insure the proper execution of schemes for slum dwellers and so both Governments and slum dwellers need to do their part of work accordingly for the betterment of the country and its future.

Objectives:

- To understand the Socio-Economic conditions of Slum Dwellers.
- To identify the basic needs of Slum Dwellers.

Akanksha

B.Com. III year, Session: 2017-2020,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Astha Awasthi

B.Com. III year, Session: 2017-2020,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Sanya

B.Com. III year, Session: 2017-2020,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Soofia Fatima

Head, Department of Commerce,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : soofia.fatima@gmail.com

- To ascertain the income of people living in Slum Areas.
- To study the perception of general public towards Slum Dwellers.
- To comprehend the awareness of Slum Dwellers as regards to education.

Research Methodology:

Data has been collected on the basis of the objective of this study.

Primary Data Sources: The Primary Data has been collected from respondents located at – Patliputra Railway Station, Adalat Ganj, Panwari Chowk (Patna City), Dargah Road (Pathar Ki Masjid), Digha Haat, Jhakri Mahadev (Danapur), Boring Road & Lal Kothi (Danapur) Slums in Patna through friendly interview. The data has been collected by constructing structured interview schedule. The interview schedule has been prepared to study the socio-economic condition of slum dwellers with special reference to slums of Patna. For this study, the interview method is used to collect the First Hand Data or Primary Data.

Secondary Data Sources : Secondary Data were collected from sources like Journals, Magazines, Newspaper, Books, Internet, Website, etc.

Hypotheses :

1. The socio-economic condition of the people dwelling in slums in Patna is very devastating.
2. There is a need to revamp these problems for alleviating poverty and creating source of livelihood for the Slum Dwellers.

Condition of Slums in Patna :

Bihar is the 12th largest Indian State with an area of 94,168 km sq. and 3rd largest State according to population. Patna, capital of Bihar has 63.5% of the total population living in slums. A slum area is highly populated and dense where living standards are comparatively poor as compared to normal residential area. The vulnerability of an Individual or a system and the ability to cope with an event, all these three factors are closely related to socio-economic conditions. As slum dwellers in Patna are subject to various problems and their livelihoods are often exceptionally weak, their

socio-economic conditions are poor and consecutively their vulnerability is rate is high. Recently, it was found that, after flood in Patna, the condition of slum dwellers became even worse, specially, slum areas such as Digha Ghat, Lal Kothi (Danapur), Adalat Ganj, etc., were adversely affected.

Major Findings of the Research :

The research has revealed some important observations. A total of 88 respondents were taken into consideration. In this study, out of which the majority belong to the Age-Group ranging between 20-40 years under earning category.

1. On the basis of earning

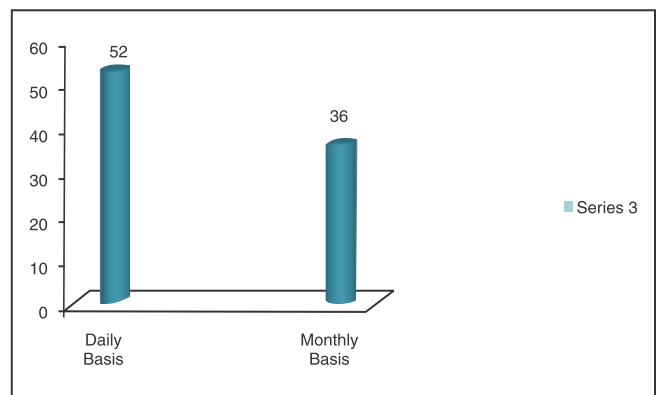


Fig. 1

Interpretation:

Due to lack of education, Slum Dwellers do not get jobs in organised sector. Most of them work on daily-wage basis and only a few get the opportunity to work in organised sector at lower levels and get monthly salary. From the above graph it is interpreted that about 52 slum dwellers, i.e–59% of respondents are earning on daily-wage basis and only 36 of them are having monthly income which is approximately 41% of the total.

2. Family Planning

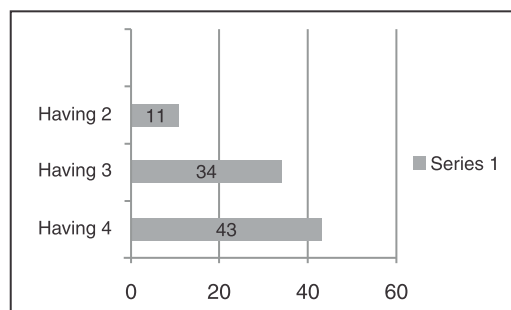


Fig. 2

Interpretation:

Due to lack of education and awareness among slum dwellers about family planning, majority of the Slum Dwellers are having more than 2 children and only 11 of them have 2 children. It shows that only 11 are aware of family planning which is just 12.5% of the total response.

3. Possess Bank Account

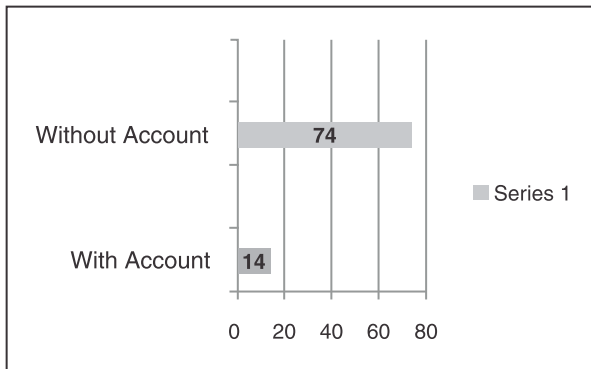


Fig. 3

Interpretation:

Slum dwellers have no access to basic amenities and because of poverty and no saving, most of them don't possess the bank accounts. 74 Slum Dwellers are not having bank account and only 14 are having.

4- Slum Dwellers educating their children

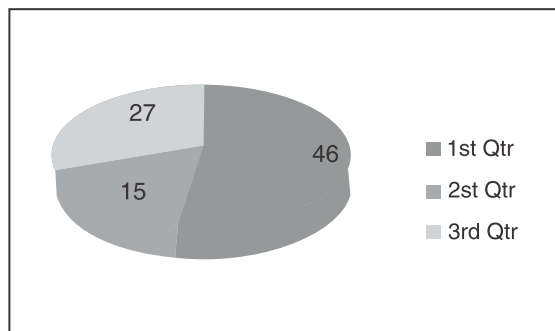


Fig. 4

Interpretation:

From the above pie chart, we can see that 46 Slum Dwellers are properly educating their children. This shows that despite their poor condition, they know the importance of education. While 15 Slum Dwellers do not actively take part in educating their children and about 27 of them do not educate their children at all.

5- Awareness of Schemes

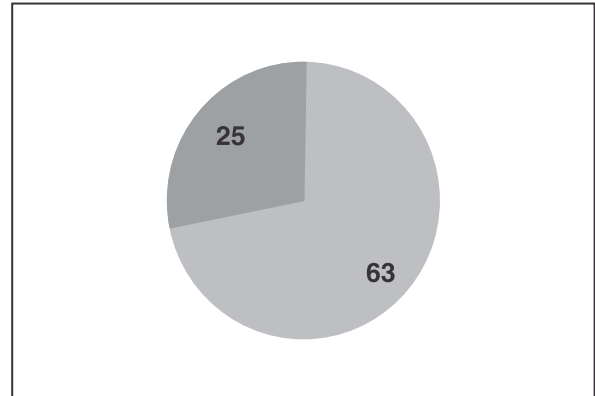


Fig. 5

Interpretation:

Due to lack of awareness and education at large, poor slum dwellers are not aware of multiple schemes initiated by the Government. Many do not even have televisions at their home so that they cannot get access to various news channels. In this chart, about 63 Slum Dwellers are not aware of the schemes by the Government whereas, only 25 of them are aware.

6. Access of Toilets

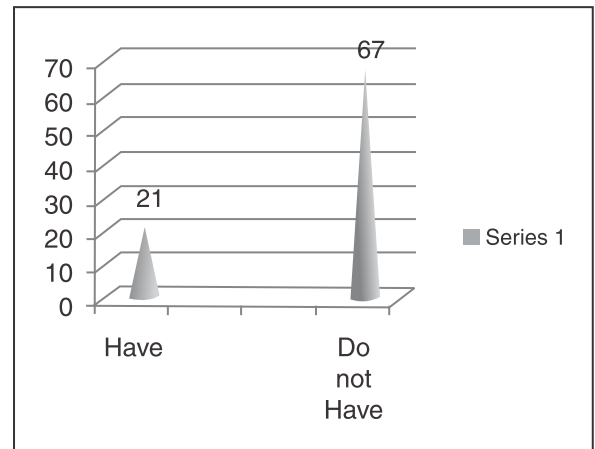


Fig. 6

Interpretation:

Indian economy is growing rapidly but still several basic issues are seen among the poor slum dwellers. One such is the issue of personal toilet. Most of them have to go out for this purpose. In this chart, 67 slum dwellers do not have personal toilets and only 21 of them have.

7. Ration Cards Availability

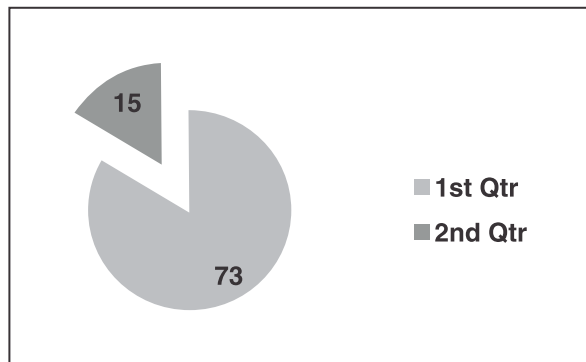


Fig. 7

Interpretation:

A document issued by the State Government showing the Bearer's entitlement on certain rationed goods is known as Ration Card. It also defines an individual's economic status. It is distinguished on the basis of Income of the Slum Dwellers. It is seen from the above chart that, 73 slum dwellers have Ration Cards while 15 of them do not have. It was observed that, these Slum Dwellers were supplied with certain poor quality items while some items were alright.

Conclusion :

The problems and difficulties of Slum Dwellers of Patna have been analysed. It is concluded that the Slums of Patna are overcrowded and have rundown housing. Slum dwellers are economically very poor and because of low level of skill, they are working in unorganised sector. Although Government has initiated multiple Schemes, slum dwellers are not able to take the advantages because of lack of awareness. So, it is concluded that everybody including "Higher Authorities" and "Young Generation" needs to work for the better future and flourishing economy.

Suggestions :

Few suggestions to Higher Authorities based on the study:

- To look after the condition of slum dwellers and give them the privileges to come forward so that they can express their agonies and pangs clearly.
- To address their pathetic and disappointing living condition and other issues. Such as

helping them in terms of drainage system, clean drinking water, proper housing and many more.

- We are aware of this fact that every slum dweller is getting a Ration card. According to which they have the facility to get good quality of wheat and rice but because of middlemen they do not get good quality of rice.

Few suggestions to Slum Dwellers

- Slum dwellers need to be aware and not to be in oblivion phase because Government does a lot for people below poverty line such as launching new schemes, Yojnas to help them in a lot many ways.
- They don't need to actualise the essence of both Central and State Government schemes for alleviation of poverty and then everybody needs to work for themselves.
- They also need to educate their children as much as possible because children are the future of this country and for them too.

Few suggestions to Young Generation:

- Everyone should utilise the opportunity to educate oneself so that there would be no poverty in the future.
- Youngsters should take initiative to help the underprivileged ones of the society.
- To help them in raising their voices against their problems to the Higher Authorities by means of various networks like social network, etc.

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