A STUDY ON PRESENT EDUCATIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF SLUM DWELLERS IN KANCHRAPARA

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ABSTRACT
The slum dwellers suffer from a lot of problems in day-to-day life in terms of social-cultural and economic environment. They can not avail proper education due to poor economic condition. So they are remained as unemployed and unemployable. They have to choose the professions of hawker, servant, car driver etc. the slum dwellers live overcrowding in lightless suffocating and unhygienic places. Moreover they suffer from steady malnutrition problems. As consequences they have to face many health hazards. In this paper, an enquiry has been conducted to highlight the present educational and occupational status of the slum dwellers of Kanchrapara Municipal area.

KEY WORD: lightless suffocating and unhygienic places, present educational and occupational status.

INTRODUCTION:
The most important identifying feature of the urban areas of the world is the presence of slums. Urban industrialization changes the face of the 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 provided better income in compare of rural area. So the surround rural population has provided better income in compare of rural area. This urban provide all season employment. It leads the process of migration. Rural threshold have been migrated towards city or urban area in search of jobs. These migrants are low educated, unskilled and skilled labor force for urbanization. This type of jobs provided low income labor force. For accessible purpose the labor are in search of house. But city have higher land cost, due to this labor can’t purchase their own house in city area. So they shelter in public open land, open pieces of city places, places nearer to industrial area and also footpath. This process gives birth to formation of slum and slum area.

According to UNESCO report (1952)” a slum is considered as an area characterized by overcrowding, deterioration in sanitary condition or absence of facilities or amenities which endanger the health, safety or morals of its inhabitants”. Slum area is a dirty place, it is unhygienic in condition. It is the adjustment with nature and compromise with life’s need for survival in worst condition. It is because of the vicious circle of poverty. The poverty is an inevitable part of slum dwellers. So the slum population is backward socially and economically.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:-
Akter T(2008) highlights the socio economic condition of slum dwellers. The study observed that living conditions 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 nonexistent solid waste disposal system was very common phenomenon in slum areas. The study found that
majority of them can’t afford nutritious food, socio economic factors like income expenditure and education were influencing food security in slums were also found.

Madhusoodhanan V(2008) had conducted a study in Trivandrum city to examine the problem of slum dwellers. The study shows that both the pull and push factors were influenced for the growth of slums. There has been a phenomenal increase in total area of slum and the number of houses. The study observed that both the urban and slum area very low social class household were educationally backward, their knowledge, level of diseases, available health services were found to be lower than of middle and high class households. The low and very low social classes used mostly the government health services because of their poor financial status.

Kumar R (2007) in the paper A look at Slum Problems has dealt with the problems of slum in detail. According to the author, slum dwellers are exposed to many problems like improper sanitation, unhygienic environment conditions, social, economic, health educational and many more. Lack of basic amenities like safe dinking water, proper housing, drainage and excreta disposal services make slum population vulnerable to infection.

Siddharth, Agarwal, Shivani,Taneja (2008) in their work have studied about the health of the children residing in the slums. Child mortality and morbidity (diarrhea in particular) have been associated with poor water quantity and quality, lack of sanitation and poor hygienic practices. Conditions differ with some slums having adequate water points, while people of other slums having to stand in queues to access poor quality water. Similarly, there are slums without any access to sanitation services. Studies show that children and adolescents who work as garbage pickers in refuse dumps have higher school dropout rates. In several communities, follow unhealthy practices affecting children’s health.

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY:-

In any urbanized area slum is one of the major problems for which the urban people have to face many nuisances. The slum pockets in the urban areas are created due to the amalgamation of the poor people coming from other places. They live in unhygienic atmosphere and lead unsophisticated lives due to lack of proper education, good health and a suitable career. As a result of it the slum dwellers face many problems related to their social, economic and cultural lives. So on behalf of Government and non-Government organizations field surveys are conducted to examine the real conditions of the slums in different places and many attempts have been taken through the implementation of various schemes for the development of the slum dwellers. So there is no doubt that this paper has a certainly quite significance in this regard.

SELECTION OF THE STUDY AREA:-

The study area chosen for this dissertation is Kanchrapara town. Kanchrapara is a large municipal town, 48 km. from Kolkata and located at the Northern most tip of North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal, between latitude 88.42’E to 88.47’E and 22.92’n to 22.96’N having 24 wards with an area of 3.5 sq. miles or 9.06 sq.km and population is 1, 26, 191(According to 2001 Census).

It is a part of the area covered by Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority. It is butted and bounded by Gayeshpur Municipality to the East, Kampa-Chakla Gram Panchayet to the east and south east, Bager Khal to the north and Halisahar Municipality to the west. It comprises of mauzas, Bizpur, parts of Halisahar, Mallicker Bag, Bahirbag Jonepur, Pallada Kampa and Jethia, as pe West Bengal Land Revenue records.

Since 1869 Kanchrapara was within Naihati Municipality, extending from southern most boundary of Bhattapally or Bhatpara to Kanchrapara along the east bank of Bhagirathi, Kanchrapara being ward nos. 3,4,5 of Bhatpara. On the 1st July of1903 Halisahar Municipality was established with Halisahar and Knachrapara. Kanchrapara Municipality became a separate Municipality on 1st October, 1917 with an area of 3.5 sq. miles and a population about 30,000.
I have chosen three wards namely ward no 6, ward no 8 and ward no 22 which are mostly affected by the slums for the household survey. The slum areas in ward no 6 are Oriya para, Nichbasa Bustee. The slum areas in ward no 8 are Dharambhir Colony, Behind of College bustee, Khalidhar bustee. And slum areas in ward no-22 is Sarat Ply, Bombay Town, Babasaheb Ambedkar Bustee.

**OBJECTIVES:-**

- What is the concentration of slum population in different wards of Kanchrapara Municipality?
- What is the educational status of slum population in the selected wards of Kanchrapara Municipality?
- What is the occupational structure of slum dwellers in selected wards of Kanchrapara Municipality?
- What measures have been taken from government for improving living condition of slum dwellers of Kanchrapara Municipality?

**Data base:-**

The study entails the collection of both secondary and primary level data to analyze the education, occupational status of slum dwellers in Kanchrapara town.

**Secondary Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No</th>
<th>Variables collected</th>
<th>Source organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Total Population of 24 Wards under Kanchrapara Municipality, 2001</td>
<td>Census of India, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Slum Population of 24 wards under Kanchrapara Municipality, 2001</td>
<td>Census of India, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No of Govt and Non-Govt Health Units under Kanchrapara Municipality</td>
<td>Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Govt. of West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No. of Family welfare Centers in Kanchrapara Municipality</td>
<td>Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Govt. of West Bengal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary data**

Primary data has been produced from household survey running a structured questionnaire (provide in Appendix) in three wards (selected randomly following the slum population data ward wise of Kanchrapara Municipality, 2001 prepared by Census of India).

To carry out the household survey in three wards, the sample houses are elected following Random Sampling Procedure (Without Replacement).
METHODOLOGY:-

In order to accomplish the entire project on education, occupational structure of some selected Kanchrapara Municipality, some particular methodologies have been followed like collection of census data from census office, organizing perception survey in some selected wards by preparing a definite questionnaire format and so on and so forth. These methodologies adopted during the study can be divided under three broad sub-heads which are as follows:

PRE-FIELD STUDY

During this phase, I have done all possible literature reviews. I have gone through different books, journal, gazetteers, and reports etc. on the problem that I have selected to prepare my project-report. In order to get these literatures, then I have visited the municipality offices, where I am working. Several
technical and professional institutions etc have also been visited by me in search of secondary databases. During the pre-field phase, I have collected all sorts of secondary databases from different official records.

FIELD STUDY

In this part, questionnaires survey was conducted in the slums of ward no-6, 8 and 22. Care was taken in selecting the samples to include all segments of populations as far as possible including people with different religion, castes, languages group etc. I have prepared a detailed oriented questionnaire where I have penned-down all my queries associated with the problem on which I am studying and thereafter I have collected all necessary primary databases. This questionnaire survey is of paramount significance because this is one type of ground-truth verification and by the type of survey; the surveyor can do a good comparison between the figures and facts written in official report (as secondary data source). This perception survey helps the surveyor a lot to reach to a conclusion or to draw correct inference from the study.

POST-FIELD STUDY

In this phase, the primary and secondary data sets have been thoroughly analyzed using the related statistical tools and techniques. The information collected from the primary and secondary survey have been quantified absolute and converted into percentage figure in each and every case because perception survey by random sampling cannot portray the fact in any facet of the entire population size in absolute number because it is one type of compartmentalized as selective survey and therefore the conservation of absolute database into percentage figures can help in citing correct inference. Lastly several thematic maps or cartograms have been prepared in order to represent the data pictorially and at the same time, when thematic maps will be constructed, automatically the overall picture of educational, occupational structure and health condition of slums in Kanchrapara Municipality etc. will be depicted clearly.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

As the whole work has been done within a short and limited period, all the observations, analysis and recommendations, which are given in this dissertation paper, are not elaborately stated. The study would be more effective if the total socio-economic conditions of the slum dwellers in Kanchrapara Municipal area would have been analyzed through temporal variation. A more detailed household survey could help to explore many hidden facts regarding the present study. Cooperation from the slum dwellers in responding to the questionnaire schedule is not always available. Lack of proper time, man power and other survey related constraints have made it precise. Still the present study is quite helpful to enquire the above mentioned aims and objectives.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SLUM POPULATION IN KANCHRAPARA MUNICIPALITY

Kanchrapara had a population of 126191 in the year 2001. Its geographic area is about 9.07 sq. km. comprising 24 wards and all of these wards are slum affected. The total slum population in Kanchrapara Municipality is 25243. In Kanchrapara Municipality area 62 notified slums has been seen. Ward wise concentration of slum population has been shown in fig. no. 2.

From the fig no.2 it is seen that maximum value is 2.05 in ward no 8 and 22 while minimum Location Quotient value 0.40 is seen in Ward Nos. 7 and 15. The rest wards have the Location Quotient values between these two extreme values Ward Nos. -8, 10,11,12,22 and 24 are lying within the high location quotient range while ward no-7, 15, 17, 18 are lying in lowest location quotient range and rest wards are lying in moderate location quotient range. Among the study areas, Location Quotient values are 1.30 in ward no 6, 2.05 in ward no 8 and 2.05 in ward no 22. So, all three wards are belonging to the group of LQ values > 1. Therefore it can be said that the selected wards are implying the higher concentration of slums.

Analysis :-
1. Education level:

Male female literacy rate depict us about what percent of male and female population are literate. Specifically woman literacy is of very much important in this occasion because depend upon this progress of any society will be determined. In this scenario male female literacy of slum dwellers depict us a clear picture about ward wise male female literacy status and proportion of male-female literacy condition. Literacy rate is higher for the surveyed male slum dwellers than the female slum in ward no-22 and 6. But in the ward no-8, female literacy is quite higher (i.e. 64%) than male literacy rate (63%) (Fig No: 1.1). It has been known that most children from these wards attend school even though most families are first generation learners.

Level of education means standard of education of surveyed population. Here the educational level has been classified into six broad categories, i.e., illiterate, primary education, secondary level, higher secondary level, under graduation and post graduation level of education. In ward no 8, 36% of males (maximum value) are belonging to the illiterate group. In case of primary
education, maximum figure is 36% among the males in ward no 6. 49% male in ward no 22 have been recorded as the highest value in case of secondary education. In case of under graduation, maximum 5% males in ward no 22 and in case of post graduation, maximum 3% in same ward. No graduate or post graduate slum dwellers have been recorded in ward no-6.(Fig:1.2)

In ward no 6, 44% among females which scores the highest are belonging to the illiterate group. The percentage of surveyed female slum dwellers completed primary education is maximum is 35% in the ward no-22. But the percentage of surveyed female slum dwellers completed secondary education is maximum in ward no-8.i.e. 42%. But if we go for the higher studies, it is seen that the percentages of female graduate and post graduate have been reduced than the percentages of males in the ward no-8 and 22. But there are no graduates or post graduate female slum dwellers in ward no-6(Fig: 1.3)

School dropout means drop out from school at the stage of his/her reading period because of some socio economic condition. So it is a vital problem in the society especially in slum affected wards. In the ward no-8, 54% male students (maximum figure) are belonging to school dropout group. In the ward no-6, female drop out rate is maximum i.e. 55% In ward no 6, female drop out (55%) is quite higher than the male drop out(55%)Fig:1.4

The causes for school dropout are interred in our society. Social, economic and cultural background of us controls the fact of dropout. A school going boy or girl leaves his/her school for ever when they are forced to do it due to various social and economic barriers. Prolonged poverty is the main cause reasons for school drop out in ward no-6, 8 and 22. More than 50%students of the three wards cause drop out due to this problem.Early marriage is one of the vital causes of school drop out for female slum dwellers in the surveyed wards in Kanchrapara Municipality. Sudden death of parents or one of them especially the death of father creates a terrible economic scarcity in family. So this sudden economic crisis (maximum 7% in ward no 6) is also the important factor for dropout in the surveyed slum affected wards in Kanchrapara Municipality. (Fig:1.5)
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Kanchrapara is a multi-linguistic place where Bengali, Hindi and English speaking people are living in both slum and non-slum wards. So presence of Bengali, Hindi and English medium schools is quite necessary. Percentages of Bengali medium school selected by the slum dwellers in ward no-6, 8 and 22 are 32%, 89% and 95% respectively. But in ward no-6 percentage of Hindi medium school selected by slum dwellers is maximum i.e. 68% whereas only in ward no 22, 2% residents chose English medium school for education of their children. (Fig: 1.6)

In the ward no-6, 8 and 22, respectively 97%, 95% and 91% people chose Govt. school. In the study wards private school selected few numbers of slum dwellers. The slum dwellers are poor in economic condition. So they prefer to send their children to the Govt. schools where education is delivered almost in free of cost. It has been known from that all students in Govt. schools are offered midday meals, free books and annual grants for uniforms under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme by the West Bengal Government. (Fig:1.7)

### 2. OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

People’s income, standard of living as well as their luxuries is dependent on their occupations. We can easily understand the economic as well as the social conditions of the concern people by studying their occupational characteristics. So occupation is treated as an important indicator of socio-economic life.

In this study, among the working population maximum proportion is male. Percentage of male worker higher in ward no-8 i.e. 65% than two wards. Work participation of female slum dwellers is very low in ward no-8 and 22 i.e. 14%, 18% respectively. So it can be said that in case of maximum families, generally male members participate in the works whereas the female family members are getting engaged themselves in the domestic or household work. (2.1)
From the door to household survey, it has been revealed that male slum dwellers are engaged in various types of occupation viz. rickshaw puller, carpenter, service, daily labour and business. In ward no-22 majority of male worker are involved in two type of occupation i.e. carpenter and daily labour i.e. 41% and 36% respectively and few people engaged in rickshaw puller, service and business. In the ward no-8 majority of male workers are involved in service (including railway service, municipality service, and hospital service) which figures as 29%. In the ward no 6, percentage of rickshaw puller and daily labour is high i.e. 29% and 27% respectively and percentage of serviceman is low i.e. 4 %.( Fig: 2.2)

It has been known through house hold survey that majority of female workers are engaged in two types of occupation viz. business and maid servant and few female workers are engaged in business, service and other occupations (including beedi binding, sewing and tuition). Percentage of female slum dwellers engaged in maid servant is high (60%) in ward no-22 and the percentage of female workers engaged in business, service is very low. In the ward no-6 female workers are involved in business and maid servant i.e.58% and 42% respectively and no female workers engaged in service. And the percentage of female workers engaged in maid servant is high i.e. 72% in ward no-8(Fig: 2.3)

Monthly family income has been shown by fig:-2.4. it is clear that in the study wards more than 50% surveyed families come under monthly income group of Rs. 2000-4000. 20% of the surveyed families of ward no 6 have monthly income group below Rs.2000 and 2% of the family income
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above Rs. 8000. 12% surveyed household comes under monthly income group of below Rs.2000 and 8% of household comes under income group above 8000 in the ward no 8. And in the ward no 22, 10 %family comes under income group below Rs.2000 and 5% family comes under income group above Rs.8000.

As the surveyed slum dwellers are poor, many of them have informed that they do not save any money for their future. In ward no 6, 91% people has replied that they cannot put aside money because of low income. Moreover, in ward no 8, 85% people and 83% people in ward no 22 are also relied that they cannot save money. Maximum male slum dweller spend away their limited income in drinking, smoking etc. (Fig: 2.5)

It is clear from the household survey that percentage of BPL card holder is high in the study wards. Percentage of bpl card holder in ward number 6 is maximum i.e.83%. In the ward no-8 and 22 percentage of BPL card holder is 64% and 79% respectively. (Fig: 2.6)

FINDINGS:-

In most of the Third World countries, the rapid urban growth occurs through slums and squatter settlements. These uncontrolled settlements often face many problems in day to day life. The residents of Bustees or slums are large in size and their allotment of space is very little. So they have to live in a gathering situation. Moreover their surroundings are dirty, unhealthy and polluted. So the slum dwellers in any slums have to live in a problematic condition. This chapter aims to investigate the problems to comparative analysis of these aspects in terms of the prevailing socio-economic conditions.

The major problems faced by the slum living people in these three selected slum affected wards of Kanchrapara are:

1. The percentage share of females decrease with higher educational attainment. The number of females enrolled in lower grades is higher in number than number of females enrolled in higher level of education.
2. Number of free schools for the slum living children is not good. So the poor slum dwellers have to face monitory problems to send their children to salaried schools.
3. Cases of school dropout are prevalent in these slums. So the school living students are engaged in many other works other than studying.
4. Female participation rate in work is lower than the males.. So it can be said that female members of the selected slums are engaged only in household activities.
5. The occupational structure of the slum people is not satisfactory. It is far behind than the existing non-slum people of Kanchrapara Municipality. As a result of it social distance is created between the two poles of people.
6. Problem of unemployment is one of the major problems faced by the surveyed people. The less educated and unsophisticated people are not able to occupy any better job. So many of the respondents are facing the problem of unemployment.

7. Certain sections of the slum dwellers, apart from rickshaw pullers, do not get work throughout the year, leading a frustrated and unhealthy life.

8. It has been noticed from the respondents that earlier marriage of both males and females is an important crisis. It is occurred due to poverty and lack of education as well as lack of minimum awareness of the elder family members.

9. About 50% people of all the three wards, earn Rs. 2,000 - 4,000/- per month. So it is very difficult for the people to continue their daily life when market price of any commodity is so high.

GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES FOR IMPROVING LIVING CONDITION IN SLUMS:

This chapter aims to investigate the prospects and upgrading measures taken for the slums in the selected municipality with special reference to comparative analysis of these aspects in terms of the prevailing socio-economic conditions and measures adopted by the local government, non-Govt. organizations and developments on the self-help basis. The comprehensive improvement of housing, living and environmental conditions is the main aim of the various pilot projects undertaken for the urban squatter communities.

The comprehensive improvement of housing, living and environmental conditions is the main aim of the various pilot projects undertaken for the urban squatter communities. An important finding is the strong integrating role played by the site planning, reblocking and housing in effective improvement and development of the slum areas. The component is applicable to a composite strategy involving slums or bustees upgrading on the one hand, and site and service or resettlement on the other hand. Other components of strong integrating effect are the employment generation by job training, job placement as housing schemes are often very expensive for the poor. So clearances of such squatter settlements or slums and rehousing, the population in more distant areas are problematic. During the Five Year Plan in India many steps have been taken for the urban slum development. Among them this the National Urban Renewal Mission in 2005 that for the first time involved the three tiers of government—the central, state and local in urban development and made central assistance to cities conditional and contingent upon mandatory reforms in governance at the local level. JnNURM comprises two sub-missions that focus on 65 mission cities:

- Sub-Mission on Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG)
- Sub-Mission on Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP)

Like other slums in West Bengal, slum affected wards of Kanchrapara Municipality have been chosen for the JnNURM programs.

PROPOSED PLANS

- Improvement of drains for mitigating water logging problem, construction of town hall, setting up of new public toilets, arrangement of vapor land, maintenance and renovation of road, tree plantation, reconstruction of Shibani Arogya Niketan and construction of primary schools
- Construction and renovation of drains, metalled roads and guard walls; erection of light posts, improvement of bituminous roads, spraying mosquito oil and arrangement of vocational training.
- Construction of sanitary and community toilet, construction of drains, connecting water pipe lines, improvement of street lightening, improvement of health sub-centers and beatification of primary schools
SOME RATIONAL SUGGESTION

At last we can say that the slums of Kanchrapara Municipality would be more developed if the governmental projects are implemented in favour of the slum poor. They are the have-not groups in the urban areas. So we should be more careful and unbiased in case of the resettlement, rehabilitation and redevelopment of the slum people. However, more suggestions can be given for the betterment of the slum people:

- Low-cost housing can be done for the slum people.
- A specific area should be selected for the new migrants so that they can live in a specific place. It may help to decrease the unnecessary gathering in the slums.
- Heap of garbage should be cleared regularly from the slum wards by the Kanchrapara Municipal authority.
- The concern school authorities as well as the guardians must be helpful to reduce the rate of school dropout.
- The parents must stop girl’s early marriage before age of 18. They should be aware of the demerits of earlier marriage.

CONCLUSION

The present micro level study has tried to assess the education, occupational status of slum dwellers in Kanchrapara Municipality. The concentration of slum people is seen in all wards of Kanchrapara; but it varies in quantitative figures. The selected slums are facing many socio-economic problems in terms of education, occupation. Both female and male literacy rates are not in satisfactory condition. Many children are the first generation learners of their families. Child labour is also present in this area. It has been observed during the study that male literacy rate is higher than the female literacy rate. The percentage share of male and female decrease with higher educational attainment. Dropout is the common feature for these slum dwellers. Prolonged poverty is the main reasons for school drop out in three wards. So the school living students are engaged in many other works other than studying.

Occupational scenario of these slum people is also unsatisfactory. Male members cannot get a better job than rickshaw pulling, hawker or carpentry due to their unskilledness, lack of education and unsophistication. Female members have to engage themselves in the work of maid servant and some other low level jobs to increase monthly income. Problem of unemployment is one of the major problems faced by the surveyed people. In these three wards income level is not so high. So it is very difficult for the people to continue their daily life when market price of any commodity is so high.

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