



QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL) IN URBAN SECTOR OF JAMMU CITY

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ABSTRACT :

Quality of life in any area depends much on the socio-economic status of society. Indicators like health facilities and environmental awareness and degradation were selected to get an insight into the quality of life in urban sector of Jammu city. The study was carried out in all the wards of Jammu city where respondents were interviewed for the aforesaid indicators. The analysis of the results revealed that health facilities are average in Jammu city with public mostly relying on government hospitals for treatment/diagnosis of diseases. The environmental degradation manifests itself in the form of dirty sites, illegal encroachment of forest land, non availability of JMC transport in some of the regions of central zone and ignorance of society regarding seismic behaviour of Jammu city.



KEYWORDS : *Quality Of Life, Jammu City, Health Status, Environment Degradation.*

INTRODUCTION

Quality of life in the community development strategy includes the most important factor that determines the living conditions in the community. Different scholars from different countries have explained quality of life as per prevailing socio, economic, environmental and stage of society in their respective countries. The term "quality of life" refers to an individual's general well-being including physical, emotional and psychological parameters.

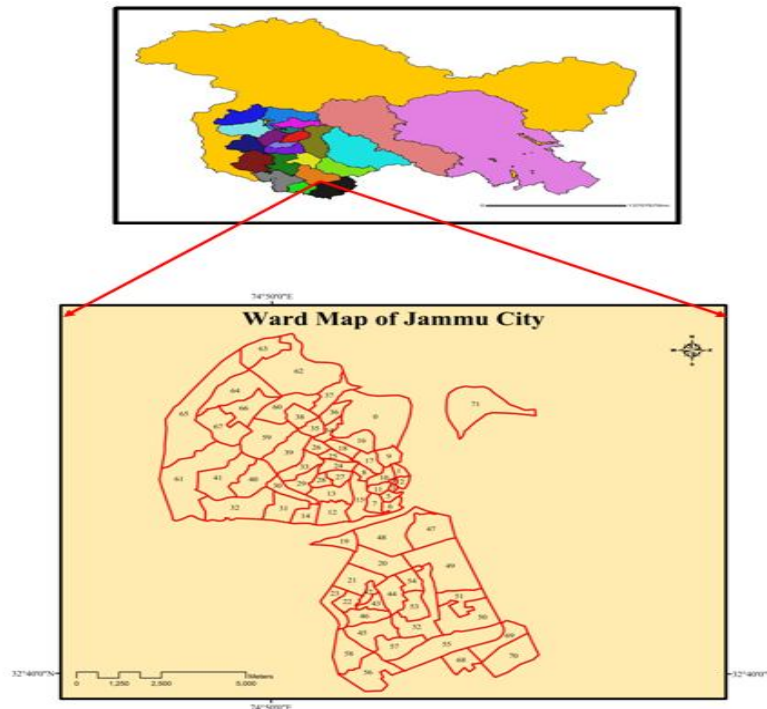
Quality of life (QOL) other concept in social science has been explained in different ways. It has not only created socio-economic problems but also an unprecedented concern of the physical environment degradation quality of life can mean different things to different people. Some argue that in order to enjoy a good quality of life, residents must feel safe from crime, live in affordable and high quality housing, and should have access to education and employment. Quality of life is a multi-faceted. Concept that seeks to include a wide variety of issues under one umbrella. Quality of life means having good quality of living standards such as personal safety and security, health issues, transport infrastructures availability of consumer goods and adequate housing and schooling and recreation opportunities. Quality of life is about a person's emotional state and personal life, one may live in the highest ranked city in term of quality of living and still have a very bad quality of life because of unfortunate personal circumstance, scholars opened that there is no definition of QOL that is universally accepted and other terms, such as social belonging, social welfare and human development are often used as analogues term. Unlike standard of living, quality of life is not a tangible and cannot be measured directly. It consist of two components i.e. Physical and psychological the physical aspect includes thing such as health, diet and protection against pain and diseases.

The quality of urban environment depends a great deal on the quality of infrastructure and their appropriate management. Utility services like sanitation, sewerage, drainage, drinking water supply, garbage disposal, electricity gas and fuel for cooking are important physical infrastructure for maintain the urban environment quality. However, the tremendous population pressure has far exceeded these facilities, which are deteriorating the quality of such services. A study of environmental quality is considered timely. There is a dearth of published data and research studies to validate quality of life. The indicators to measure quality of life are also crude. Here an effort has been made to assess the environment and quality of life by considering health related issues, services and people's awareness regarding environment and its degradation.

STUDY AREA

Jammu city lies between 32°44'N to 32°73'N (latitude) and 74°52' to 74°87'E (longitude). Jammu is a city of temples beautifully situated on the slopes of a ridge and the Tawi River that is the lifeline of the city lies in the south western part of Jammu and Kashmir State. The Jammu city situated at an average elevation of 327m (91.073 ft.). The city lies on uneven ridges of low heights at the Shivaliks foothills. It is bounded by Shivaliks range to the north east, and south east while the Trikuta range, the abode of Shri Mata Vasihno Devi in the North West. Foothills of Shivaliks, spurs of a river Tawi, Plateaus and plains characterize its topography. It is about 600 km away from national capital, New Delhi and is connected with national highways, railways, airports. The city is lined by four bridges and three fly over's crisscrossing the old city. The old city is confined to the right bank and the expansion of the new city has taken place largely on left bank of river. But the number of new colonies such as Roop Nagar, Janipur, Anand Nagar etc have come on the right bank.

Location Map



OBJECTIVES

- 1) To analyze the quality of life and environmental condition in study area based on field observations and people's perception and its impact on environment as foreseen. .

- 2) To assess and evaluate the choice of indicators to determine the environmental problems in the Jammu city.
- 3) To study various socio-economic environmental problems of the study area and to estimate the health status.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The sample for the study consisted of 1200 respondents from various wards of Jammu city. The data was collected in April-may 2016. The study was conducted in all the five zones of Jammu city thereby taking a cognizance of the prevailing situation by seeking people’s perception regarding health issues and environmental awareness and degradation of Jammu city. Different wards were visited to seek answers to desired questionnaire framed in conformity with the factors affecting the quality of life. Collected information was then classified in the light of objectives set forth for the study and analysed to derive conclusion. The classified data was then tabulated, plotted on graphs and interpreted in the context of study area. The quantitative technique based on average method was used to derive results. The tabulated results were presented and discussed to arrive at tangible conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To determine health related facilities in the Jammu city, present study is incorporated with three vital indicators like Health facilities, diseases caused and Diagnosis of serious diseases. In order to measure the health related facilities a three point scale ranging from very good to bad has been used to measure the diseases caused by three diseases in term of Eyes, skin, Diarrhoea, has been taken into consideration. Finally the diagnosis of serious diseases from private or govt. hospital is also been measured. In each zone as per survey the respondents declare health facilities as very good, good and bad.

The study reveals that majority of respondents in central zone of Jammu city experience very good health facilities followed by south zone, east zone, north and west zone. West being the most affected wherein 46.7% respondents believe that the health facilities are very bad.

Table 1 Ward wise Status of Health Services in Jammu city.

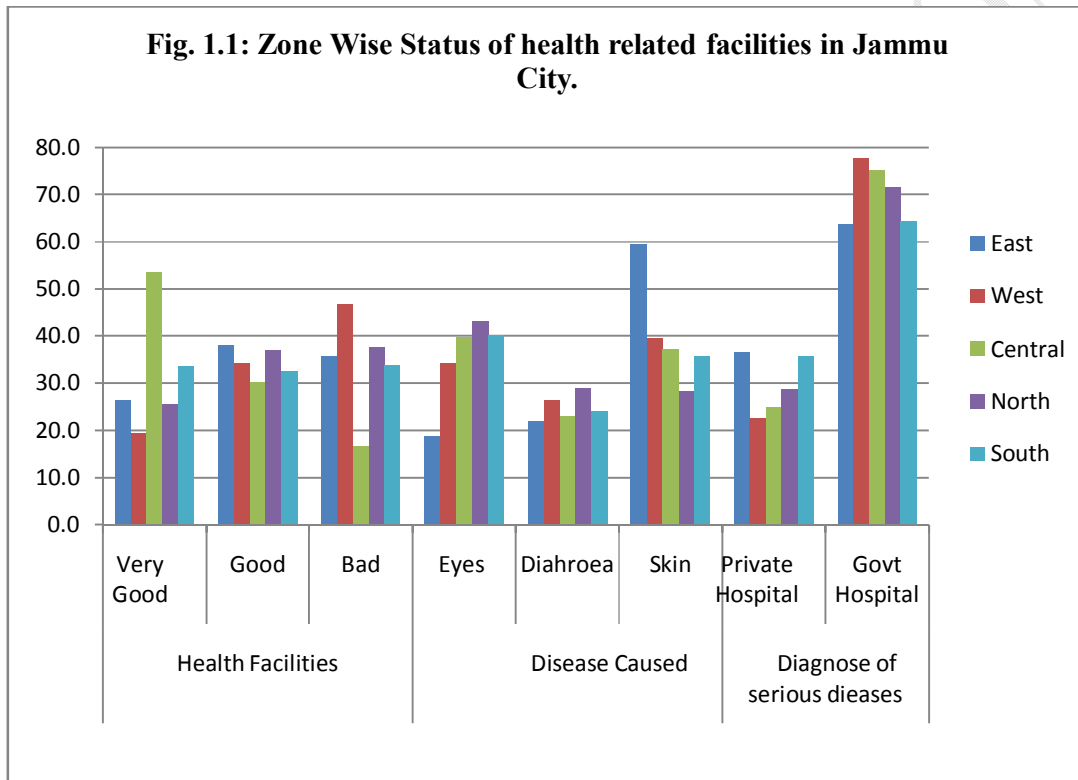
Zone	wards	Health Facilities (%)			Disease Caused (%)			Diagnose of serious diseases	
		Very Good	Good	Bad	Eyes	Diarrhoea	Skin	Private Hospital	Govt Hospital
EAST	1	27	40	33	20	25	55	25	75
	2	32	45	23	22	12	66	40	60
	3	30	44	26	30	19	51	27	73
	6	20	35	45	21	25	54	44	56
	17	43	37	20	14	30	56	40	60
	47	17	25	58	15	20	65	19	81
	71	16	40	44	9	22	69	60	40
		26.4	38.0	35.6	18.7	21.9	59.4	36.4	63.6
WEST	32	20	31	49	22	24	54	30	70
	39	20	35	45	26	32	42	12	88
	14	35	40	25	27	30	43	10	90
	41	20	29	51	47	23	30	37	63
	61	18	28	54	48	21	31	23	77

	65	10	18	72	30	25	45	15	85
	66	12	58	30	39	29	32	30	70
		19.3	34.1	46.6	34.1	26.3	39.6	22.4	77.6
CENTRAL	12	50	44	6	49	23	28	21	79
	13	78	21	1	45	27	28	5	95
	21	59	12	29	22	24	54	45	55
	25	45	28	27	35	23	42	6	94
	27	89	10	1	45	17	38	28	72
	29	30	48	22	43	22	35	39	61
	33	23	47	30	39	25	36	30	70
		53.4	30.0	16.6	39.7	23.0	37.3	24.9	75.1
NORTH	35	28	57	15	43	31	26	36	64
	37	32	48	20	44	26	30	40	60
	59	38	40	22	42	32	26	15	85
	60	27	36	37	37	27	36	23	77
	62	24	30	46	48	28	24	22	78
	63	10	21	69	43	31	26	28	72
	64	19	27	54	44	27	29	36	64
		25.4	37.0	37.6	43.0	28.9	28.1	28.6	71.4
SOUTH	43	44	35	21	27	26	47	65	35
	52	50	30	20	30	23	47	41	59
	49	25	38	37	40	28	32	30	70
	55	28	31	41	28	23	49	20	80
	56	22	29	49	47	21	32	28	72
	58	25	30	45	49	25	26	35	65
	69	41	35	24	60	23	17	30	70
		33.6	32.6	33.9	40.1	24.1	35.7	35.6	64.4

Primary Survey 2016

Table 1.1 (a): Zone wise Status of Health related facilities in Jammu city

Zone	Health Facilities			Disease Caused			Diagnose of serious diseases	
	Very Good	Good	Bad	Eyes	Diahorea	Skin	Private Hospital	Govt Hospital
East	26.4	38.0	35.6	18.7	21.9	59.4	36.4	63.6
West	19.3	34.1	46.6	34.1	26.3	39.6	22.4	77.6
Central	53.4	30.0	16.6	39.7	23.0	37.3	24.9	75.1
North	25.4	37.0	37.6	43.0	28.9	28.1	28.6	71.4
South	33.6	32.6	33.9	40.1	24.1	35.7	35.6	64.4



Wards like 2, 14, 27, 14, 27, 59, and 52 falls in the category of very good health facilities while as ward no 47,72,33,63 and ward no 56 fall in the category of very bad health conditions.

Table 2. reveals the status of health facilities and diagnosis of various diseases in different locality/wards of the city. The revelation of diseases enlisted in the table shows that disease caused by eyes in different zone of the city. In the East zone, 59.43% of the people are having skin related diseases, followed by diarrhoea (21.86%) and 18.71% suffer from eye problem. In the West zone the maximum have skin related diseases (39.57%) followed by eye problem (34.14%) and (26.20%) with Diarrhoea problem. In the central part of the city having eye problem with 39.71% share followed by skin problem with 37.29% and 23% with Diarrhoea. On the other side North zone having eye problem with 43% share followed by Diahorea problem in 28.86% and 28.14 with skin related problem and in South side also have eye problems with 40.14% followed by skin problem with 35.71% and 24.14 with Diahorea problem.

As per survey the common disease in different wards are eye and skin related where the maximum eye related problem in different wards. Ward no.3, ward no.61, ward no.12, ward NO.62, Ward No.69 are having maximum eye related common issues followed by ward no.17, ward No.39,

ward no.13, ward no.59, ward no.49 having Diarrhoea related common issues and similarly ward no.71, ward no.32, ward no. 21, ward No. 60, ward no. 55 having common skin related issues. Therefore there are common no. of people reported eyes, skin, and diarrhoea diseases. It is due to environmental degradation which led to the people suffering from there diseases and some disease are water born disease because the overall quality of water in there ward are poor. Apart for this majority of people around 65% used to visit government hospitals for the diagnosis of serious disease in the study area. In the East zone 63.57% people visit Govt. hospital and 36.43% to private hospital followed by the West zone where 77.57% like to visit Govt. hospital and 22.43% remaining to private hospital of city, in central part 75.14% visit to Govt. hospital and 24.86% visit private hospital, in North zone 71.43% visit Govt. hospital and 28.57 visit private hospital and in the south zone 64-43% visit govt. hospital and 35.57% visit private hospital to diagnose their serious disease.

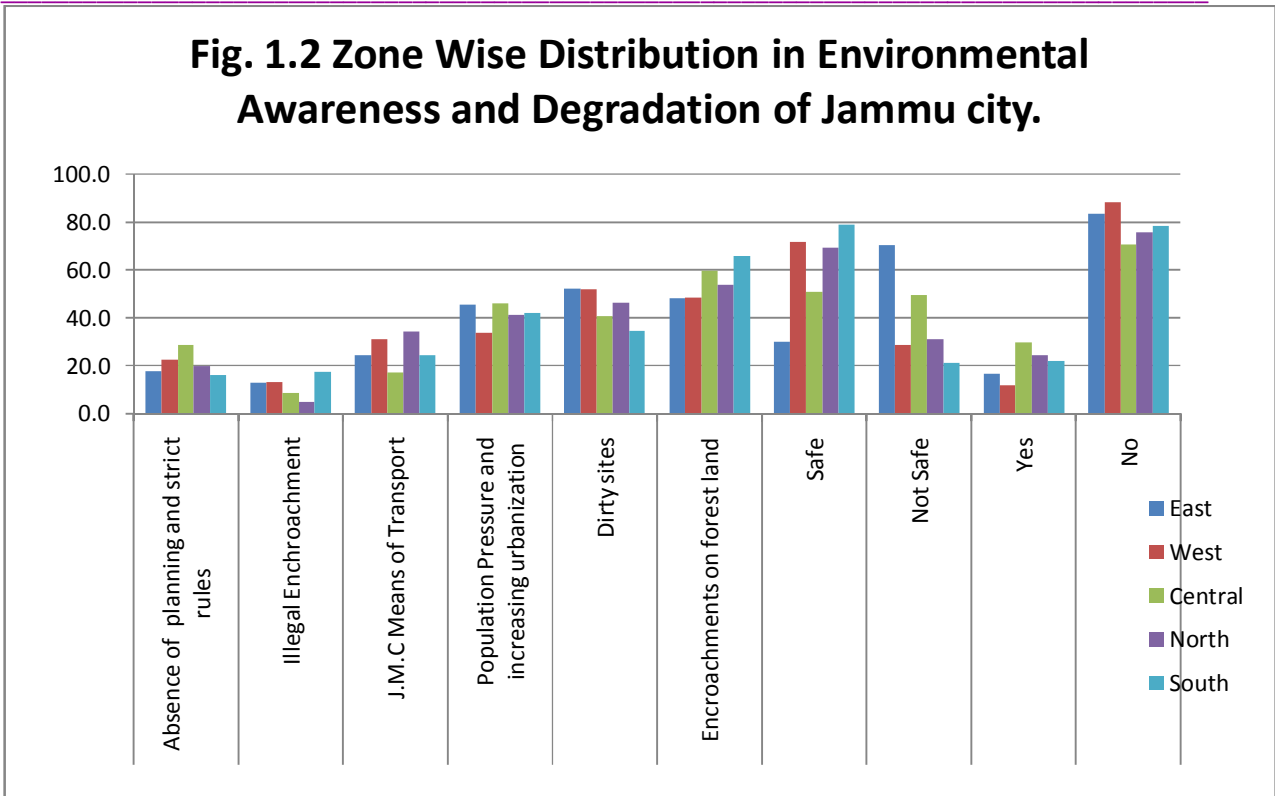
Environmental Awareness and Degradation:

There are four major indicators depicting the cause of environmental awareness and degradation like causes of environment degradation, glimpses of degradation, safety from earth quake and Awareness about seismic location responsibility. The below table highlight some of the surveyed data about people’s perception regarding the city. In the east zone there is absence of any worthwhile planning and strict rules, as said by about 17.6% of the respondents, yet another 12.9% viewed it illegal.

Table 2 Zone Wise Distribution in Environmental Awareness and Degradation of Jammu city.

Zone	Causes of environment degradation				Glimpses of degradation		Safety from Earth Quake		Awareness about seismic location	
	Absence of planning and strict rules	Illegal Encroachment	J.M.C Means of Transport	Population Pressure and increasing urbanization	Dirty sites	Encroachments on forest land	Safe	Not Safe	Yes	No
East	17.6	12.9	24.3	45.3	52.0	48.0	30.0	70.0	16.6	83.4
West	22.4	13.1	30.9	33.6	51.7	48.3	71.7	28.3	11.7	88.3
Central	28.4	8.6	17.1	45.9	40.4	59.6	50.9	49.1	29.6	70.4
North	19.7	4.9	34.3	41.1	46.1	53.9	69.0	31.0	24.4	75.6
South	16.1	17.4	24.4	42.0	34.4	65.6	78.9	21.1	21.9	78.1

Primary Survey 2016



The causes of absence of planning and strict rules is high in the zone of central 28.4% followed by minimum in West Zone 22.4%, average in North zone 19.7%, Low in East zone 17.6% and very low in South zone 17.61 of the respondents. The table depict that illegal encroachment is high in the zone of South 17.4% followed by minimum in West zone 13.1% average in East zone 12.9%, low in central zone and very low in North zone 4.9% if the respondents. Apart from this increase in the means of transportation blames as the route because where the table elucidates. The people perception the North zone 34.3 followed by minimum in the West Zone, 30.9% average in the East zone 24.3%, low in the South Zone 24.4% and very low in the central zone 17.1 of the respondents. But urban centre, the respondents of the Jammu city attributed the menace of environment degradation to growing population pressure and increasing urbanization in the study area highlights high population pressure in central zone 15.91 followed by minimum in i.e. East zone 45.3%, average in the South Zone 42.0%, low in the North zone 41.1% and very low in the West Zone 33.6% of the respondents.

Yet another the lasting imprints of degradation are seen in the form of dirty sites of Jammu city. Further East Zone is having high 52.0% of dirty having minimum 51.7%, North zone having low 40.4% and South zone having very low 34.4% of the respondents. The incident of encroachment and destroying the greenery area are visible form of Glimpses of degradation where maximum in south zone 65.6%. The city followed by Central zone 59.6% is having average, West zone 48.3% is having low and East zone is having 48.0% of the respondents. In spite of this the most dangerous and attention driving thing can be depict from the table that. Jammu lies in high seismic zone. There was a very high percentage of the respondent felt that they unsafe in case of earthquake. Where in the East zone 70.0% face unsafe due to earthquake followed by Central zone 49.1%, North zone is having 31.0%. West zone is having 28.3% and unsafe if earth quake occurs. In spite of this people hardly adopt any earthquake resistance measures. The awareness regarding seismic activist is less. Hence the maximum awareness about seismic having central zone with 29.6% followed by North zone having minimum awareness South zone having average awareness with 21.90, East zone having low awareness with 16.6 and at last

West zone have 11.7% of seismic awareness. Therefore prepared as they caught unaware regarding any natural disaster occur.

CONCLUSIONS:

The above table reveals health facilities have not seen much growth and is still below average in Jammu where majority of inhabitants visit govt hospital for treatment due to lack of private/specialist hospitals. The cases of eye and skin diseases are high keeping the urban nature in mind. The absence of planning and strict rules is maximum in central zone of Jammu city and least in southern zone. Illegal encroachment is maximum in southern part and least in north zone of Jammu city. Illegal encroachment is the main hurdle due to lack of negligence and improper role played by Jammu Development authority and Jammu Municipal cooperation. Although majority of respondents believe that strict rules and planning are in place in almost each zone except certain places in central zone. The JMC means of transport are readily available in majority of zones except central zone where only 17% population consider that sufficient JMC transport is available. The growth of population is leading to rapid urbanization in almost each zone with central and south zone being affected the maximum. West and east zone have been listed in the category where glimpses of dirty sites are maximum, south zone being the cleanest of all. The cases of encroachment of forest land are rising with more than 50% population in each zone supporting the fact. Central zone, south zone and north zone have higher cases of forest land encroachment. However majority of urban population of Jammu city have no knowledge of seismic zone characteristic of Jammu city. Majority of people believe that Jammu city is safe from earthquakes and have no idea its seismic behaviour.

Since these factors/indicators in consideration do not give much picture about quality of life in Jammu city but an insight can be extracted. The Jammu city is under pressure of urbanization due to rising population growth and civic facilities are not fully sufficient. Health care facilities need to be updated and expanded along with imparting of knowledge about environmental degradation and awareness.

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