



SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE SLUM DWELLERS OF KHARAGPUR CITY, WEST BENGAL

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Abstract

The difficulties challenged by the people living in the urban areas of India have become most important concerns for the government. Slums are dignified to be the major issue within many urban areas; particularly problems related to transportation, population, health and safety. Seeing today's poor urban environmental quality in India, the majority of families affected by urban development projects are located in slum areas which are under consideration for relocation and/ or rehabilitation. This study examines the socio-economic status of slum dwellers in Kharagpur city, West Bengal. With the objectives to know the relationship between Monthly Income with Monthly Expenditure, Occupation, Education, Status of Residence, and Type of Residence. For this, the researcher used correlation analysis and suitable hypothesis was framed to compare these variables from the total respondents (N=560) and draw the inferences based upon the result. A structured questionnaire is designed and collect the data directly from the respondents. SPSS package is used to analyse and interpret the data.

Keywords: Slum Dwellers, Monthly Income, Monthly Expenditure, Occupation, Education.

INTRODUCTION

The sprouting of slums in urban areas is the direct outcome of better economic opportunities available in cities and towns. The phenomenon of rapid urbanization coupled with industrialization has brought with it an even more rapid increase in the growth of urban slums. The existence of slum is essentially a manifestation of poverty. Along with economic growth and with industrial development slums will continue to exist over a period of time. Slums have emerged even in the heart of cities which is due to various factors, namely, the shortage of developed land for housing, the price of land beyond the reach

of urban poor, large influx of rural migrants to the cities in search of jobs and inadequate provision of basic services and infrastructural facilities in the urban areas. Therefore, there is an urgent need to look into these problems in a more precise manner. The problems of slum dwellers have been attracting the attention of the government since the second Five Year Plan.

The Socio-economic condition of the slum occupants is mostly poor because of the absence of basic social amenities; well-designed skills, proper education, source of the income, hygiene and health resources. However, slum dwellers directly or

indirectly play an important role in nation building. With this point of view the study of slum dwellers becomes important. This paper attempts to analyze the socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers of Kharagpur city, West Bengal. Data was collected from 560 respondents by using questionnaire where respondents were selected by statistical simple random sampling method.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Kala Seetharam Sridhar and A. Venugopala Reddy (2014) in his journal titled "Contribution of the Urban Poor: Evidence from Chennai, India. "In this paper the researcher found that gender, education level and the salary status of the urban poor have a significant impact on their income. Finally the paper concludes that the slums which contains 19% of the city population contributes 14% of the city's economy, finally the researcher given startling findings in that paper there may be a cause for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India to replicate this effort in other cities of India in order not only formulate sustainable policies to support urban poverty reduction, but also to appreciate their contribution to the city at national economies as a whole.
2. Dr. M.D Khalilur Rahman, MD. Muhibbullah and Mohammad Samiul Islam (2015) in his journal titled "Socio- economic status of slum dwellers: A case study of Uttara Pheriphery, Dhaka". The present study was attempted to access the living status of slum dwellers at Uttara, Pheriphery, in Dhaka. It was observed that the peoples are living in unhygienic surrounds and they were engaged in day labourer, small job services, rickshaw pulling and little business. Finally, it concludes that the rural people migrate to urban areas for some causes like economic stagnation, high unemployment, natural disaster and social conflicts.
3. Mahmuda Binte Latif, Anjuman Irin and Jannatul Ferdaus (2016) in his journal titled "Socio-Economic and Health Status of Slum Dwellers of the Kalyanpur Slum in Dhaka City" The study was carried out to examine the socio-economic and health condition of slum dwellers of Kalyanpur slum area. The study was both qualitative and quantitative type. From this study it is observed that every family live in a slum in unhygienic environment in poor condition. Findings of the study concludes that the, lower level of income, inadequate sanitation services, substandard housing and the cramped environment in the slums might have impacted on the environment that led to higher morbidity among the slum dwellers.
4. Nisanth M Pillai , Jayagovind R L (2017) in his journal titled "Socio Economic Status of the Slum dwellers in Trivandrum". This study was carried out to analyze the socio-economic status of slum dwellers in Trivandrum city with the objectives to understand the education and employment conditions. The findings of the study conclude that Most of the slum dwellers are staying in the settlements because of low income and unemployment
5. A.Sree Bhagyalakshmi and Sherly Thomas (2018) in her journal titled "Quality of Life in Slums of Coimbatore City: A comparative Study. This study carried out to analyze the present situation of the slum dwellers and their social exclusion. The study finds that poor and very poor quality of life exists in the slums of Coimbatore city. Finally, the paper concludes that the future of humanity depends on how we deal problems and challenges of urbanization and unequal

development. Finally, the attitude of people towards better living should be developed through proper intervention and educational programmes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the relation between the monthly income with the expenditure, occupation education, status of the residence and the type of house of the sample respondents.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- H₀ –There is significant relationship between the monthly income and the occupation of the respondents.
- H₀ –There is no significant relationship between the monthly income and the occupation of the respondents.
- H₀ –There is no significant relationship between the monthly income and the education of the respondents.
- H₀ – There is significant relationship between the monthly income and the type of house of the respondents.
- H₀ –There is no significant relationship between the monthly income and the type of house of the respondents

SAMPLING DESIGN

The study has used both the primary data and secondary data. Field survey method was employed to collect primary data from 560 respondents framed questionnaire is used for data collection. Secondary data were collected through various journals, booklets magazines, reports and newspapers.

SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SLUM DWELLERS IN KHARAGPUR CITY WEST BENGAL

Slum is the product of industrial civilization, capitalist mode of production, growing urbanization, modern mechanism of urban settlement, high prices and rentals on urban lands and housing, and to add to these, increasing rural-urban migration in the hope of good living and opportunity in the city. Slum dots every city on the globe. Slums are areas lacking basic services or access to clean water, where houses are poorly built and over-crowded. They represent the worst urban poverty and inequality. A high incidence of slums is concomitant of rural to urban population. The ‘culture of poverty’ has to be seen in the slums. People with ‘culture of poverty’ produce very little return. In this sense, slum is an area consisting of people considered as earning low wages, suffering chronic unemployment and underemployment and incapable of saving, reducing the possibility of effective participation in the growing economic system.

Occupation, Monthly income, status of the residence, type of house is playing an important role in socio- economic status of slum dwellers. It affects other elements like living standard of population, socio-economic status of population and development and progress. 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.

Therefore, the researcher in this article analyses whether there is any relationship exists between the Occupation hold by them, Monthly income in which they earned Monthly Expenditure they spent, status of the residence and type of house they live. In order to know the relationship, the following hypotheses are framed.

H₀ –There is no significant relationship between the monthly income and the expenditure of the respondents.

Ha – There is significant relationship expenditure of the respondents between the monthly income and the

Table No 1.1: Comparison between the Monthly income and Expenditure of the Respondents

		Monthly Income	Total
Monthly Income	Pearson Correlation	1	.157**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	560	560
	Pearson Correlation	.157**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	560	560

Source: Computed from primary data

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table No 1.1 enlightens the comparison between the monthly income and the expenditure of the respondents. The result reveals that the r value of the variable average monthly expenditure is 0.157, and it can be seen from the above analysis that the monthly income is perfectly correlated with their monthly expenditure. The result shows that it is significant at the level of .001 level and the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence it could be concluded that

there is significant relationship between the monthly income and the expenditure of the respondents.

H₀ – There is no significant relationship between the monthly income and the occupation of the respondents. Ha – There is significant relationship between the monthly income and the occupation of the respondents

Table 1.2: Comparison between the Monthly income and Occupation of the Respondents

		Average Monthly Income	Nature of Occupation
Average Monthly Income	Pearson Correlation	1	-.324**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	560	560
Nature of Occupation	Pearson Correlation	-.324**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	560	560

Source: Computed from primary data

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table No 1.2 enlightens the comparison between the monthly income and occupation of the respondents. The results reveal that r value is -0.324, and it can be seen that the monthly income is negatively correlated with the nature of occupation and the results is significant at the level of 0.001. Hence, it could be concluded that the null hypothesis is rejected and there is significant relationship between the

monthly income and the occupation of the respondents

H₀ –There is no significant relationship between the monthly income and the education of the respondents. H_a – There is significant relationship between the monthly income and the education of the respondents

Table1.3 : Comparison between the monthly income and the education

		Monthly Income	Education Level of Beneficiary
Monthly Income	Pearson Correlation	1	.551**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	560	560
Education Level of Beneficiary	Pearson Correlation	.551**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	560	560

Source: Computed from primary data

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table No1.3 shows the relationship between the monthly income and educational level of the respondents. The results reveal that the r value is 0.551, and it can be seen that the monthly income is positively correlated with the educational status of the respondents. Hence the statistics is significant at the level of 0.001 and it could be concluded that the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted and there is a

significant relationship between the monthly income and the education of the respondents

H₀ –There is no significant relationship between the monthly income and the status of the residence of respondents.

H_a – There is significant relationship between the monthly income and the status of the residence of respondents.

Table 1.4 : Comparison between the monthly income and status of residence

		Monthly Income	Status of Present Residence
Monthly Income	Pearson Correlation	1	-.154**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	560	560
Status of Residence	Pearson Correlation	-.154**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	560	560

Table No 1.4 shows the comparison between the monthly income and status of residence of the respondents. The results show that the r value is -0.154, and it can be seen that the monthly income is negatively correlated with the status of the residence of respondents and the statistics is significant at the level of 0.001. Hence, it can be concluded that the null hypothesis is rejected and the analysis concluded that

there is relationship between the monthly income and the status of the residence of respondents.

H₀ – There is no significant relationship between the monthly income and the type of house of the respondents.

H_a – There is significant relationship between the monthly income and the type of house of the respondents.

Table 1.5 : Comparison between the monthly income and type of residence

		Average Monthly Income	Type of House
Rf	Pearson Correlation	1	.305**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	560	560
Type of House	Pearson Correlation	.305**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	560	560

Source: Computed from primary data

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table No 1.5 shows the comparison between the monthly income and the type of house of the respondents. The result shows that the r value is 0.305, and it can be seen that the monthly income is positively correlated with the type of residence of respondents. Hence, it can be concluded that the null hypothesis is rejected and the analysis proves that there is significant relationship between the monthly income and the type of house of the respondents.

FINDINGS:

The Table No.1.2 show that, the income of the beneficiaries is highly correlated with their monthly expenditure. Hence it has been found that their expenditure pattern is moving based on their income earning capacity.

The Table No.1.2 shows that the income earning capacity of the respondents is

negatively correlated with their occupation. Hence it has been found that there is no change in the occupational status of the respondents with the increase in income.

The Table No .1.3 demonstrates the relationship between the income and education of the respondents. The results of this table reveal that improvement in their educational level is having a positive impact with their income.

The Table No.1.4 shows that the relationship between the income and the status of the respondents. The results exhibit that there is a negative relationship between these two variables. Hence it can be concluded that there is no change in the status of residence when their income increases.

The Table No 1.5 indicates the relationship between the income and the type of residence. The results show that there is a

positive correlation among these variables. Hence it can be understood that the variables are moving on the same direction and it shows that any change in their income will have an impact on the type of the residence.

CONCLUSION:

Social inequality is a primary characteristic of the structure of society. Rich or poor, advantaged or disadvantaged, privileged or underprivileged, each dissimilarity speaks to differences among people that are significant for the lives they lead. Whether in describing patterns of inequality or examining the cost of inequality, the results depend upon how inequality is conceptualized and deliberate. Socioeconomic status is among the most well-known concepts in inequality study. The findings of the study indicates that the income level of the respondents are highly correlated with their pattern of expenditure, education, occupation, and type of residents and the status of residence. This study identifies most of the slum people are engaged as semi-skilled labourers to maintain their lifestyle as well as they are working very hard for their livelihood, but they are not getting paid as per their occupation. Likewise, income of the respondents has not been changed based on their status of the residents as a result this will pave the way for the social inequality within the society in which they live. Hence, the respective authorities have to take necessary steps to eliminate this kind of social discrimination in the society.

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