RESEARCH ARTICLE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF MARGINALISED SEMI-URBAN SLUM -DWELLERS OF BALLAVPUR MOUZA, MIDNAPUR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

Socio-economic status of a slum area is mostly depended on education, income and occupation. And all this trio always influence on the nutritional health of slum dwellers. Not only health but also lifestyle and livelihood status also been tracked by SES. Here all SES is depicted over a marginalized semi urban slum PatharGhata under Midnapur Municipality. Here in the area total 1100 respondant has been taken for survey which is precisely 10% of the total population of specific word. In education this slum area in 2001 census scores only 65.11% (19 no.word) but in 2011 census total district scores 79.04%, when in 2013 survey report cleary shows that only 55% population are educated literally not actually. In the case of income more than 88% of people earns 5k to 10k annually. But monthly average income is 1350/person which is far higher than the central Govt. given 840 rupees per month and monthly average expenditure is 1080/person. Then total average savings is 270 rupees/person/month. Most of the people engaged themselves with transportation being rickshaw pullar, cow-cart manager, trolly puller, daily laborers. The population of that area is distinctively unique; clearly shows that not only economic activity but also education and occupation also influences the poverty.

INTRODUCTION

In all progress made by/for mankind since the ancient era, always have some drawbacks besides that. Construction of ultra modern urban structure inevitably calls some negative premises. Slum is one of the major concerns all over the world. Most of the researchers worked on Nutritional status of slum dwellers. Socio-economic status of slum dwellers are been ignored. Socio economic status clearly shows the actual livelihood of slum dwellers. In many slum areas, poverty is not only common indicator for live a life in slum. There are so many factors behind the formation of slums. As the World Bank (1994, P. 9) rightly recognized, "Poverty is not only a problem of low incomes; rather, it is multi-dimensional problem that includes low access to opportunities for developing human capital and to education"Socio economic status of the slums might relate to some key that may help to turn out the whole scenario. A slum, as defined by the United Nations Agency UN-HABITAT, is a run-down area of a city characterized by substandard housing, squalor, and lacking in tenure security. The basic characteristics of slum are dilapidated and infirm housing structures, poor ventilation and acute over-crowding, faulty alignment of streets, inadequate lighting, and paucity of safe drinking water, water logging during rains, absence of toilet facilities, and non availability of basic physical and social services (Chandramouli, 2003). In any slum area, nutritional deficiency is common in nature; specially suffering persons are women, children and old aged people (Gomber, Kumar, Rusia and Gupta, 1998). It is very clear in slum Areas of Midnapur District that fifty percent of the slum pre-school children are counted as underweight due to malnutrition (Sinha, Maity, Samanta, Das and Banerjee 2012).

Ballavpur Mouza in Midnapur Town is very important for the location of marginalized slums. In Midnapur town, total 93 slum pockets are there. Actually this slum is situated at the periphery zone of the town.

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Actual location of midnapur town is lying beside Kangsabati river. This river influences the livelihood of people.

Objectives

The main objectives of present paper are,

1. To analyze the livelihood pattern of slum dwellers
2. Try to depict out clear picture about the living status of people.
3. Try to find out the factors behind the formation of slums apart from poverty
4. To assess the supposed to livelihood condition of slum dwellers and actual condition of slum people.
5. To analyze the relation between socio economic status and prevalence of disease in the study area.

Study Area

Midnapur town is an important district head quarter of Midnapur district formerly and now district head quarter of West Midnapur District. This semi-urban town is well known for education since last decade among whole district. This district town is located with close distance of Kharagpur, much known for rail junction and for world's longest railway platform. Actually Kharagpur town, located at distance of 14 KM is economically much developed than district town and importance of khargpur is a bit higher for the industrialists, companies. Many industries of iron and cement are been developed in the void zone of two towns. Most of the insurance and banking head-quarters are formed in this void zone, also enriched by giving services of vehicle, forming of most of the car and bike showrooms in that area. But Midnapur town is well developed for all the head quarters of Govt. offices. Local LIC four road crossing is most important and busiest area in the town because of the location of offices of District Magistrate, Motor Vehicles, Passport office, State Bank of India, forest office, District Police Head Quarter.

Our study area is located just beside the main state highway (SH-4) connecting Midnapur and khargpur town. National highway No. 6 is laid just 1000 meters away from this area. By crossing through the state highway, one can reach the river (Kangsabati). The area is under Midnapur Municipality. This area is moderately safe from flood for the location of natural dam.

This is area is being selected for survey because of,

- Location of this area is in transition zone of urban area and rural area.
- Locals of the slum can avail economic facilities though the market which is located at the middle of the town and the core of the town which is far away from this area but they are deprived from some municipal facilities.
- Location of the slum is just 50 m away from kangsabati river.

METHODOLOGY

Here the study mainly based on primary data. Purposive random sampling technique has taken here. In this method, random sampling is done from only a limited section of the population, considered by the investigator to represent the entire population faithfully with respect to the variable under study. But such a sample may be biased if the assumption about the representative nature does not hold good for the relevant section of population. Total number of samples of 205 has been taken for this survey. Information of Total 648 respondents are taken into consideration in this specific survey. The number of respondents has been taken higher than other survey to avoid statistical fallacy. As the study area are under midnapur municipality are in transition zone of both municipality and panchayet. Midnapur Municipality is much older than other Municipal corporation. But they have no specific regular process to collect data.

Analysis

Socioeconomic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and economic and social position of a family in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation. This analysis of the socio economic staus of this study area will be discussed through following heads,

Education

According to 2001 census total population in word Number 19 is 6473. In the slum area we investigated 1100 person that means total 16.993% population under survey. Overall total 65.11% people literate according to census 2001. But the comparison is clear when the survey work has been done in 2013 on specific congested marginal area, the literacy percentage is 55.45%, where literacy rate of Midnapur district is 79.04% according to 2011 census.

According to survey, out of total 1100 people, 648 are educated as reported by the local people. Out of 648, male are 356 and female are 292. In detail pre-primary educated person is 8.33% and primary is 35.03%, secondary is 39.96% and higher secondary is 10.95%. More recently evidence has emerged that low income does have an independent effect on children's outcomes after controlling for key aspects of family background and child ability (Gregg and Machin, 2000, and Hobcraft, 1998).

Thus the educational status of this area quite medium and it is merely same with the district educational status, but the working status of that specific area is much lower than the district specific area which is quite different (negative) with the state average.
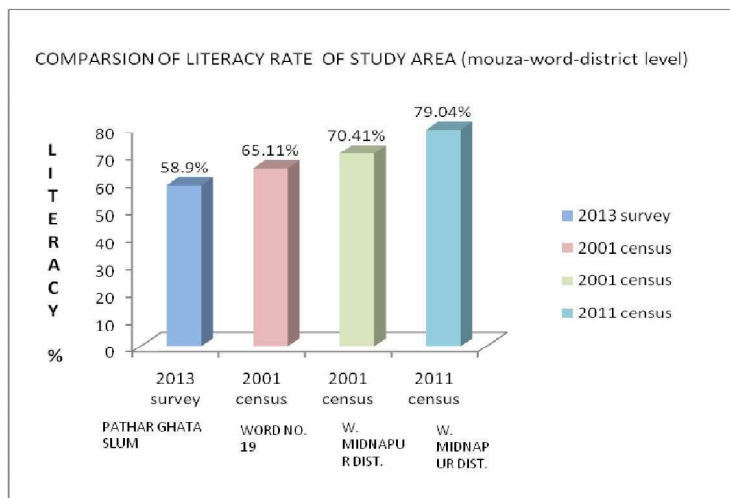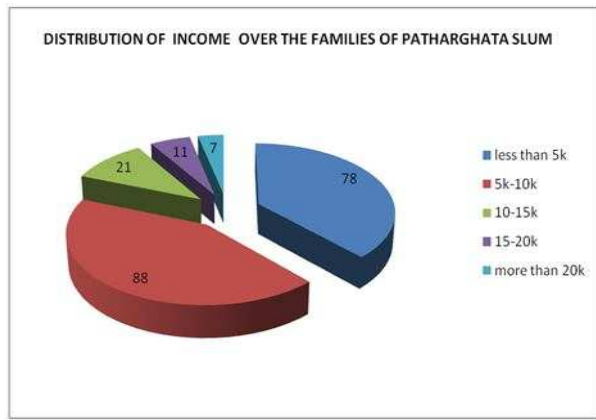
Table 1. Educational status

Educational status	number	percentage
MSK	24	2.18
SSK	30	2.72
PRIMARY	227	20.63
SECONDARY	259	23.55
HIGHER SECONDARY	22	2
OTHER	49	4.45
TOTAL	611	55.54
UNEDUCATED	489	44.45

Income

This study area namely Pathar Ghata Basti (slum) is possess very lower category according to economic status. Most of the people are engaged themselves with marginal type of works. For the distance with the core area of midnapur town, people of this slum area are compelled to form a different type of settlement formation in that area. The roadway adjacent to this area, now is developed for the active execution of urban plan by MKDA (Midnapur-Kharagpur Development Authority). In the specific area, total government service (instead of Govt. Service Group) only found 1.90% and business is 3.55% and most important is 24.45% people is related to marginal job.
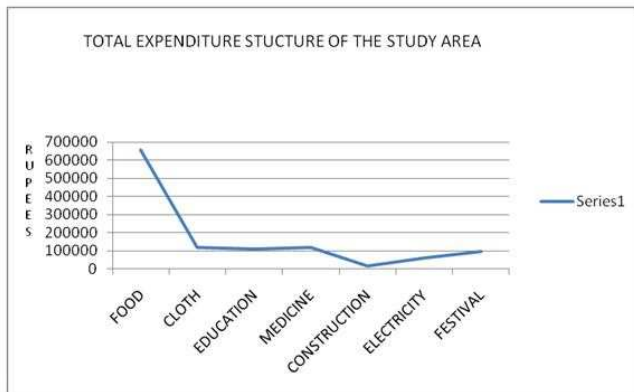
Most of the marginal related workers are engaged themselves with pulling rickshaws, having cow-cart, engaging daily laborers, and with daily wage services. It is clearly shown that most of the people are under poverty level. From the survey, it is depicted that average income of this slum is 1350 rupees per month per man and total expenditure is 1080 rupees per month per man. Per month average savings is (1350-1080) 270 rupees per person. When we discuss about the ownership of asset then the use of savings could be easily understood. Accodding to Govt. below 28 rupees per day earning

COMPARSION OF LITERACY RATE OF STUDY AREA (mouza-word-district level)

Table 2. Occupational status

Occupational status	number	percentage
Govt. service	21	1.90
business	39	3.55
Transport	88	8
Construction	44	4
Agriculture	8	0.72
Industry	23	2.09
others	106	9.63
Unemployed	771	70.09

person can be called BPL in urban area that means 28*30= 740 per month. But in urban area it is nearly impossioble for a minimum four member family.

For that reason there are so much controversies are there all over the world. Some Empirical work in india shows that there is significant lack of overlap between the methods with, for example, nearly half the population identified as in poverty according to monetary poverty but not in capability poverty, and conversely. (Laderchi, Saith and Stewart, 2003) Thus the income level is well understood from the diagram that the most of the people are engaged themselves with business and transport related jobs. Actually here all the jobs are marginal jobs except from service and industry. This income level and occupational status directly affect the education level and life expectancy (Mirowsky, Ross, 2000).
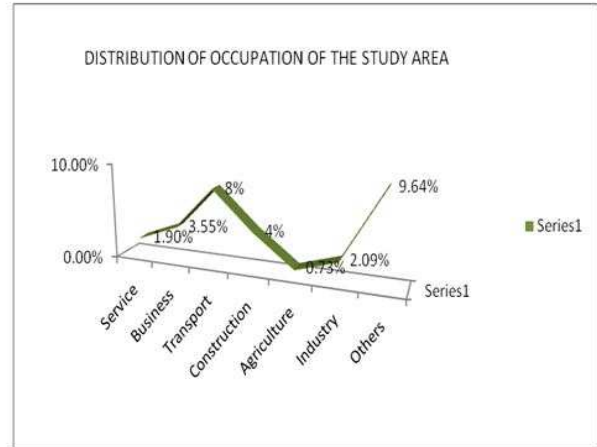
According to 2001 census, total working population is 30.712% including marginal worker, and non working population is 69.3% (word no 19) in comparsion with surveywork that shows that the total working population in the local area is 29.90% included to marginal worker and non worker is remaining 70.09%. that data shows that the economic condition is not much higher than 2001. Apart from this important three factors, there are so many factors are there that influences socio-economic status of any area.
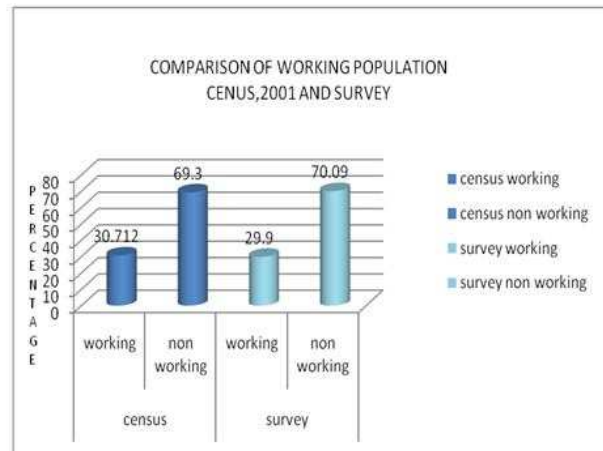

Occupation

Here in PatharGhata slum area is mostly associated with marginal group of laborers. Most of the labourers are related with transport purpose. The work pattern of the slum dweller is related to the types of job opportunities available in the city (Dutt, Tripathi, 1994). Here in the midnapur has least scope of occupation available for uneducated and inefficient worker. Most of the people engaged themselves with the transportation. For a inefficient slum dweller people, he has only scope to earn money is daily laborer. In the middle and busiest portion of midnapur is keranitola chawk (keranitola four square road junction) it is easier to find daily labourer in early morning. There they has to face tough competition with the workers who came from outskirts of midnapur town like Chandra, dherua, keshpur etc. only 1.90% servicemen are there in the area. But most of the people are not native of this place, they are migrant. Worker groups are always having a job. But unfortunately most of the dwellers are pseudo employed. Apart from that 70.09% people are purely jobless.

Household amenities

Household amenities are very important for slum area. It is impossible to maintain hygienic design at the time of formation of slum. (Strachan, 1989). Here in the household amenities there some factors are there that could affect on the health and education.

- Ownership of House
- Type of House
- No. of Rooms (Rooms per person)
- Type of sanitation
- Source of drinking water

Here in the patharGhata slum area, since a long time Municipality has been working a lot on that area. Now a day's MKDA also working on that area. Apart from that some NGOs are there who helped the common people. But the basic parameters which are critical for the socio economic status are not so much higher found on that area. In the case of ownership of house, most of the people has own house. Out of 205 household 197(96%) has their own house and only 8 (4%)families live on rented house. but in that area most of the house found semi pucca precisely 52.68%. The reamining pucca house are 28.78% and kacha house found only 17.56% and under construction building only 0.97% seen.

Through the whole survey procedure, 2-3 rooms/person are found only 69.76% including kitchen. Most of the family are consists of 4-5 family members. Then without kitchen only 1-2 rooms are there for their whole livelihood. That is much problematic for the family members. Acoording to hygiene, this is not recommended in congestion area.

Conclusion

The whole area is under the midnapore Municipality. This study area has basic distinct features. The location both physical and cultural are unique. The people of that area is under BPL category. but according to asset assessment, most of all the families has bi-cycle, dvd player, mobile phone, expensive tv, some of them also has latest LCD/LED tv also. Some of them has bike and other expensive amenities. Here most of thing that already been discussed earlier that UNESCO already told that only economic poverty are not the reason that can throw the people in slum, but there are so many factors that changes the whole system. In modern urban culture economic activity cannot define a man that he is poor. Actually economic activity as well as health condition, food habit, maintain hygiene are also important. In my local study area, actually could not been found only economic deprivation. So here through socio-cultural status has been depicted the whole livelihood system that must be influenced the poverty.

Acknowledgement

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