



Pattern of development effected women's in slums

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ABSTRACT

Lack of opportunities for gainful employment in villages and the ecological stresses is leading to an ever-increasing movement of poor families to towns. Mega cities are emerging and urban slums are expanding. Such rapid and unplanned expansion of cities has resulted in degradation of urban environment. It has widened the gap between demand and supply of infrastructural services such as energy, housing, transport, communication, education, water supply and sewerage and recreational amenities, thus depleting the precious environmental resource base of the cities. The result is the growing trend in deterioration of air and water quality, generation of wastes, the proliferation of slums and undesirable land use changes, all of which contribute to urban poverty. (World Population Datasheet 2007): pollution of water, air and land due to improper disposal of domestic and industrial wastes; pollution through oil spillage; pollution from noise; proliferation of slums in urban areas, unsanitary and unsafe housing; congestion of traffic and houses in urban areas and lack of open spaces for active outdoor recreation. All these affect human well-being (the most affected groups are women) especially the health and socio-economic well being of women in Varanasi. Therefore, this project highlights the dimensions, nature and characteristics of these phenomena. And further examines the implications of the environmental degradation on the health and socio-economic well-being of slums women.

KEYWORDS

Introduction

A woman who works as domestic help at some house holds, it is hard to meet the requirements of her family of six as she hardly earns Rs 1,000 a month. The petty contribution of her daily wagger husband also falls short of the requirements for the family

."Somehow, they manage to get two square meals a day. Thinking about good food and clothes is a luxury for us," The rapid growth of slums has not only put pressure on the existing land resources and infrastructure, but also led to deterioration of the physical environment of the city. Though the city is being covered under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for an overall development, the concentration of slums in different area leads to poor living conditions for the slum dwellers.

Women's in slums

The economies of all countries are merging through a trend in the globalization of business, government, services and even property. As a result, people in developing countries who are looking to improve their financial status or family standing are forced to live in shanty towns and slums under inhumane conditions, so they can live near the booming industries and job opportunities. (World Population: Area and Population of the Continents - 2006, 1950-2025." The World Almanac and Book of Facts. 2007. World News Digest. Facts on File News Services. 7 Dec. 2008.) According to the UN Habitat report, The Challenge of Slums, these 1 billion slum dwelling people are a majority are women who are taking the brunt of the suffering. (Bipasha Baruah. "Under One Roof." Women & Environments International Magazine 1 Apr. 2004: 5-7. Research Library Core. ProQuest. San Diego City College. 11 Dec. 2008).

For instance, one would assume that all people who live in slums are also living in poverty, but that is incorrect. Some people who live in the slums are unidentifiable in a crowd of middle class people. They may even make more money than those people who live in formal housing; housing with a legal address and the possibility of legal ownership. (Davis, Mike. Planet of Slums. New York: Verso Books, 2006.).

Hunger and poverty are more women's issues than men's.

Women Experience hunger and poverty more intensely than men. If one of the family members has to starve, it is an unwritten law that it will be the mother. The mother will also suffer the traumatic experience of not being able to breast-feed her infant during the times of famine and scarcity. (Robertson, John (1920): "Housing and public health" Frank and waghalls company). Poor women in Varanasi have the most insecure social standing. A husband can throw his wife out any time he wishes. (Davis, Mike. Planet of Slums. New York: Verso Books, 2006.)

The area of Varanasi is also, where women's rights are impeded and much more restricted than men's. In the book (Banker to the Poor, author and Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus writes) about the issues of women in Varanasi. The women residents of slums are in exponentially worse conditions because of the lack of clean and sanitary water. Without good water and sanitation, maternal and baby mortality rates rise and diseases thrive. The lack of hospitals and funding for proper hospital staff and supplies is a contributing factor. Recent efforts by the Indian government are meant to address the issue of health by providing health insurance for urban slum dwellers.(health insurance for urban slum dwellers in 489 cities. "News India - Times[New York, N.Y.] 16 May 2008,22. Ethnic NewsWatch (ENW). ProQuest. San Diego City College. 11 Dec. 2008 sdcity.edu/>) and in the Huffington Post.)

Slums women are at extreme risk for domestic violence, teen pregnancy, unemployment, low educational opportunities and systemic discrimination. Women are highest risk in these predatory environments. A woman was found unconscious in the railway station with no memory of her former life, not even her name..The lack of job security and poor working conditions may be a particular health threat among casual workers. In Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state Due to reallocation of industrial production as a part of globalization, many dangerous works and workplaces of developed countries have now been transferred to developing countries with parallel transfer of the health risks (**Hogstedt, Wegman & Kjellstrom,2007; WHO/Employment Conditions Knowledge Network, 2007 and WHO Globalization Knowledge Network, 2007**). The poorly-controlled working conditions in informal work activities constitute major determinants of health for men, women and children (child labourers and

street children) (**Stellman, 1998**). Globalization and urbanization may also affect child health in an indirect, generally ignored, manner through an increase in women's participation in the labour force. In East and South-east Asia, up to 80% of the workforce in export-processing zones is female (**Cornia, 2001**) and adequate child care is rare (10). The root cause of this problem is global: the systematic prevalence of the severe poverty of massive slum dwelling-areas, and a pervasive cultural problem of uneducated women with no chance of employment or upward mobility. (<http://kutumbfamily.org/>: <http://kutumbfamily.org/>)

Effect of environmental degradation on socially excluded people

Social exclusion is seen as a process whereby individuals or groups and the environments in which they live are excluded from the resources and opportunities which are considered the norm in a society. It is not just about scarcity of material resources, but lack of opportunities, isolation, discrimination, marginalisation from decision-making and from an adequate quality of life. (**White Paper on Irish Aid** (<http://www.irish-aid.gov.ie/whitepaper/>))

Today, too many people in the India have become excluded from secure employment and access to property, housing, credit, good education, health services, enjoyment of their own culture, and a clean environment. Social exclusion has in turn led to a disruption of social cohesion—an increase in insecurity, migration, environmental degradation, and crime. Too many of us are unable to exercise our democratic rights to shape our national economies so that they meet everyone's needs rather than those of a small group of traders and investors. Too many people are excluded from meaningful participation in the economic, social, and political affairs of our nations. Too often, those excluded are female, young, and/or non-white. The socially excluded bear a long history of repression, particularly when they have questioned the dominant economic model. (**Indian Children in Poverty." Tulane University.N.p., n.d. Web. 5 Aug. 2010.**)

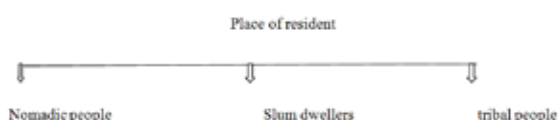
The slum life has not only affected developing countries but also the developed ones. The characteristic features of the slum areas are substandard, dingy houses of high density and congestion, overcrowding, insanitary conditions, absence of basic amenities like water supply, drainage and sewerage and disposal of garbage. It has been observed that the immigration to tourism places, where large working manpower is required, is greater. Thus slums co-exist with tourist places. There is a great problem of slums and unplanned development in **Varanasi**, one of the important tourist places of India, where more than half of the total population of the city is residing in slums. This project considers the slums and associated problems of slums women in **Varanasi**.

Development effected slums peoples

Indeed, **annals of history witnesses** that the environment in the past has been very healthy, neat and clean. Over the years, it has been polluted by human beings & human being also suffered vice - versa. The effect of environment in human life has been far reaching. Intensity of its affect is purely depend upon the following things, such as-

- 1)-Selection of place for residence
- 2)-food habits

In The following lines, I would emphasise how the residential condition of human being (slum dwellers) affected environment. The following diagram will explain everything-



A nomadic person has been roaming throughout the globe for sustaining their life and up brings their offspring. They dis-

turbed the ecological balance of nature by killing wild animals for their food and polluted the natural water to quench their thirst and bating their cattels and offspring's to the considerable extent. Sooner, the natural facilities at one place are over used; they shift from one place to another.

Similarly slum dwellers who are forced to stay in poor sanitary conditions due to financial constraints have been instrumental in affecting the environmental & vice versa, due to the following- :

- 1-opendefacation
- 2-poor damage system
- 3-Poor literacy to understand environment
- 4- Attack of epidemics
- 5- Adopting profession detrimental to the environmental interest such as-selling of burning wood cut out of forest and selling coal as source of energy .thus polluting the atmosphere.

The tribal race in our country is still living in forest only. The speaking dialect by them is not easy to comprehend. The natural resource has been their source to sustain their life and Upbringing of their off springs. They also have affected our holy environment by

- 1-cutting jungles there by reducing life sustaining oxygen gas in the atmosphere
- 2-overharness the jungles resources to destroy the basic balance of nature

There activities almost similar to the nomadic people.

The poor economic condition has forced the people to work in cities as sentinel of school govt building private factories /houses in the cities included B.H.U WORKERS, These workers stay under better sanitation and enjoy the same fresh air and polluting free environment rather than the other people of living in high class families of Varanasi city get it. Thereby I mean to say that the person having for economic condition has been blessed with different environmental condition due to the living, condition.

the people live in cities and villages if we compare their role which effect environment & vice-versa you will appreciate that their clean environment has saved them to a considerable extent from various diseases, again the density of population is quit high in cities, whereas the in villages is abnormally. The development of cities has reached to the villages and how no longer they are depend upon coal and wood for cooking their food. The light has illuminated the villages and L.P.G has been the main article of their kitchen. Hence I can say

The villagers of now are living in better environmental-condition in comparison to the cities. Though the villages may not be having much better economic condition but really they enjoy better air, water & vice-versa.

In environmental perspective, cities are better than the nomadic people and nomadic people are better than slum dwellers .we may express like this

Villages>life>cities life>nomadic life>slum dwellers

None of the creature in the universe that their own graveyard accepting human beings who have prepared atomic weapon & making buildings by cutting trees for sheer cause of development and proving their supremacy

'In developing countries those people living in slums their wages are very low because of low per capita income there living standard is low therefore they cannot avail the facilities of sanitation and other basic needs. Due to this reason slums in developing countries is directly related to the environmental pollution in comparison to developed countries.

Where as in developed countries, wages are high therefore there way of living standard is high & they can afford their basic needs because of high per capita income.

Industrial development is the ultimate aim of each nation. Economical development is directly proportional to inflation & national development; Institution of industry needs labour force at lower rate, market for product & means of transportation, easy to carry product up to market, for production security duties and transportation every industrialist needs work force on daily wages, thus a great chunk of people are low paid and forced to stay at inhospitable climatic, sanitary conditions. **(UN (2006). World Urbanization Prospects: the 2005 Revision. UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. United Nations, New York.)**

.These people do not have enough money to sustain there their living needs hence they prefer to live closer to industries at temporary residences in order to make themselves available for the industrial requirement at short notice. **(UN-HABITAT (2006b). Meeting development goals in small urban centres – water and sanitation in the world's cities 2006. Nairobi.)** Thus, the group of these people form a colony and stay there at the mercy of municipal corporation hands pumps for drinking water and other needs. These colonies often-do not have any organised sanitary pattern for daily routine of people. Thus, they resort to open defecation cutting of plants to use as burning wood for company food and other activities. So the discharge of industrial and household effluence wastes (untreated) into the water bodies and the growth of water hyacinth. **Okorie (1992)** there by the development of industries by the low paid workers (slum dwellers') These Growth of urban slums around the industrial area is a serious consequence of Urbanization. Slum is regard as the major problem of urban life. They are found in all our towns and our industrial area. They represent the highest form of human Degradation. They reflect the failure of our urban planners, municipal Authorities and urban technology to provide basic services like water supply, Toilets, drainage, and garbage disposal etc. These socio-economical factors effect Environment.

(1Dr. Subha Kumar .Ch, 2Dr. Ravindra.K, 3Mr.Gangayya Marapatla)

In view of the above, it is sure that development is not possible without such labour force because India is still on the way to development of robots to carry out such works, no matter, whatever the development may take place in future too with the help of robots, but ultimately it is man who works behind the mask.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In the United Nations Millennium Declaration, World leaders pledged to tackle immense challenge posed by mushrooming growth of slums world-wide thereby setting 'the specific goal of achieving 'significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020'. This means addressing not only the needs of slum dwellers for shelter but also the broader problem of urban poverty, especially unemployment, low incomes and lack of access to basic urban services.

The following strategy may be looked into for improving living conditions in slums.

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Wherever in situ development is feasible, such slums shall be identified and taken up for in-situ improvement for the provision of basic facilities to make the areas habitable.

The slums located in congested and unhygienic areas of the urban centres wherein equitable distribution of space is not feasible should be cleared and tenemental schemes put up.

Wherever neither tenemental scheme nor *in-situ* development is feasible, rehabilitation and resettlement in tenements in nearby locations should be adhered to.

As far as the process of rehabilitation is concerned it seems to be not feasible. Various judgements have been delivered which have not supported the rehabilitation schemes. The Delhi High Court has scrapped the rehabilitation policy of the Delhi Government. The High Court order says that Government bears a substantial cost of slum rehabilitation which is illegal as it amounts to buying back the encroached public land from Jhuggi dwellers. First the land is acquired using public money making farmers landless. Then it is allowed to be encroached upon and again cleared at public cost. The Court also observed that the acquisition cost of 7500 acres required for resettling the Jhuggi-dwellers would be a whopping Rs.1725 crores. Further development would cost Rs.4200 crores, all coming out of tax-payers money. The rate at which land is being acquired for jhuggi rehabilitation, it would take 272 years to relocate all of them.

Security of Tenure to women: In India, women in urban slums live in dire poverty and are prone to violent crimes and limited employment opportunities and contribute substantially to the growth of the family. As such only the women should be admitted as members of the cooperatives. This will give status and respect to the women in the family and improve their contribution to the community. The title of the land should be given to the women members and selling of their right should be prohibited and if at all they want to leave they should surrender their right to the cooperative.

The U.N. Habitat campaign for 'secured tenure' is very note-worthy as it is the most important element for attracting institutional and individual investment in order to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers. *Hernando De Soto* - a well known economist from Peru also advocates for giving formal title deeds to the poorest slum dwellers. It is legal proof of their ownership which will enable them to raise loans for improving their houses and environment and starting business. The Peruvian Government has issued one million titles to slum dwellers thereby improving their living conditions by raising loans from various sources and by contributing themselves.

Basic services: Cooperatives should sensitize slum dwellers about the constant threat posed by lack of basic services. Further the cooperatives should be entrusted for providing basic amenities like water, electricity, sanitary services for their members with the help of local bodies. These cooperatives will ultimately transform them into new communities wherein "each is for all and all are for each".