Slums of Puri–A Socio-Economic Analysis

RASHMI REKHA BARIK*¹ AND SUJATA MISHRA²

¹Lecturer and ²Associate Professor & Head
¹Department of Geography, P.N. College (Autonomous), Khordha (Odisha) India
²P.G. Department of Geography, S.C.S. (Autonomous) College, Puri (Odisha) India

ABSTRACT

Slums are squatter settlements which provide shelter to the poor migrants in the razzmatazz of a urban settlement. In a way they are oasis in a desert in the reverse sense. This paper focuses on different physical and socio-economic issues found in the slums of Puri city of Odisha state in India. The major objective of this paper is to study the historical development of slums, to analyze the demographic profile, economic profile, social conditions and the gender issues found in slums. Further, suggession have been made to make developmental measures more people friendly. The study area Puri city is situated in the eastern coast of India along the Bay of Bengal and is one of the oldest Municipaity area of the country. According to 2011 census, the slum population constitutes about 34.53% of the population of the Puri city and the dwellers reside in 64 slum pockets. This study adopted both the primary and secondary sources of data. The demographic and broad economic data have been collected from secondary sources. However, the social data are collected from primary sources. The researchers have collected the primary data by primary sample survey, personal interview and PRA method. After analysing the data, this paper concluded with the overall development of the slum dwellers through awareness generation.

Key Words : Slum Growth, Poverty, Squatter Settlement, Dwelling Unit, SHG.

INTRODUCTION

Slum is an area of sub-standard, over-crowded housing occupied by the poor, the unemployed, the unemlpoyable and immigrants who can not afford to live elsewhere. Slums are judged by subjective criteria : a sub-culture within set of norms and values reflected in poor sanitation, poor schools, fire hazards and shops retailing over-priced goods. Socially slum stend to be isolated from there mainder of urban society and exhibit pathological social symptoms, like drug abuse, alcoholism, crime, vandalism and the associated values-escapism, a pathy and socialisolation. But slums are not always spicture sofdespair; there exist slum so fhope also. Slums of hope or temporary ghettos or urban village where integration with urban life may be expected eventually; whereas slums of despair are permanent ghettos or the urban jungle, where poverty and lack of ability are correlated (Goodall, 1987). "Slums are characterized by poverty, unemployment and minimum level of organization beyond family, bad habits, rivalries and conflicts among different caste and regional groups, and low level of political participation" (Gurumukhi, 2000). The Slum Area Improvement Clearance and Redevelopment Act, 1971 defines a slum "as an area which is or may be a source of danger to health, safety or convenience of the public of the area having in adequate or no basic amenities or being in sanitary squalid, over crowded or otherwise or the buildings in any area used or intended to be used for human habitation which are in any respects unfit for the human habitation.

Issues :

1. Rapid growth of slums in last 2-3 decades.
2. Slums becoming centers of decadence.
3. The congregation of poverty and socio-economic

---

deprivation leading to crime.

4. Increase in gender based issues.

Objectives :

1. Study of historical development of slums in Puri town.

2. To analyze the demographic profile of slums.

3. To analyze the economic profile of slums.

4. To study social condition of slums.

5. To know about the gender issues of slums.

6. To suggest developmental measures.

Hypothesis:

1. Older the slum, Better the socio- economic Status.

2. Economic Independence is notanana the mato domestic violence.

METHODOLOGY

The data used in this study is collected from both primary and secondary sources. The demographic and broad economic data have been collected from secondary sources. The social data are from primary sources. The primary data is collected by primary sample survey, personal interview and PRA method.

Study area:

Puri town is located at 1947'55''N and 8549'55''E along the eastern coast of India, on the shores of Bay of Bengal.
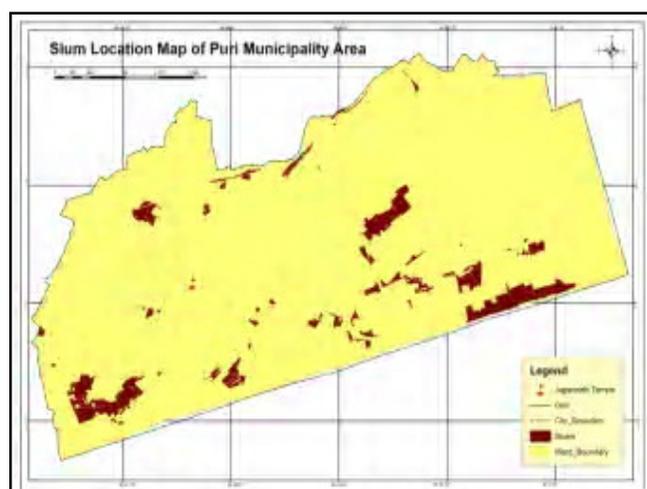
Source: Puri Municipality, 2011

Fig. 1 : Slum location map in Puri Municipality Area

The area of Puri municipality is 16.32 sqkms. The total no. of slum HHs are 14522 spread over 64 slums in different parts of the town. The total slum population according to 2011 censusis 70457 out of which 36094 are male and 34363 are female. The slum population constitutes about 34.53 % of the population of the town.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Growth of slums:

Puri being are ligious town, it has always remained as a center of attraction for destitute because of easy availability of alms. Availability of jobs in unorganized sectors and unskilled labours due to tourism has always attracted a number of migrants from far and near to settled own here. The Table 1 gives us a decadal growth rate of slums.

Table 1: Decadal growth of slums		
Decade year	Existing number of sum	Grows in number
1971	8	*
1981	16	8
1991	29	13
2001	46	17
2011	64	18

Source: Puri Municipality Office

– Slums started to grow in 1961 after independence.

– The number of slums has squared up in half a century.

– Maximum increase in the number of slums is observed after 1999 super cyclone followed by kalinganagar firing and kandhamal riots.

Demographic profile:

Analysis of the Tables 2 and 3 gives us the following facts:

– About 34.53 % of total city population live in slums.

– Slums consist of mostly SC and ST population.

– About 85 % of total ST population of Puri town live in slums. About 48.23% of marginal workers belong to slums.

– Only 32.32 % of slum dwellers are literate.

– About 34.24 % of population in 0-06 age group live in slums.

Table 2 : Comparative Demographic analysis of city and slum

Characteristics	City			Slum		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Population	204028	106190	94838	70452	36094	34363
Child below 6	22973	11965	11008	7865	4067	3798
SC Population	18791	9645	9146	10809	5383	5426
ST Population	420	258	162	360	194	166
Literates	148351	82472	65879	47948	26242	21706
Illiterates	55677	23718	31959	22509	9852	12657
Total workers	61576	52800	8776	26766	20530	6236
Main workers	57058	50329	6759	24587	19265	5322
Marginal worker	4518	2471	2047	2179	1265	914
Non worker	142452	53390	89062	43691	15564	28127

Source : Primary Cenus Abstract, Odisha, 2011

Table 3 : Comparative demographic analysis of slum with the main city

Characteristics	City Total	Slum Total	Slum as % to City
Population	204028	70452	34.53
Child below 6	22973	7865	34.24
SC Population	18791	10809	57.52
ST Population	420	360	85.71
Literates	148351	47948	32.32
Illiterates	55677	22509	40.43
Total workers	61576	26766	43.47
Main workers	57058	24587	43.09
Marginal worker	4518	2179	48.23
Non worker	142452	43691	30.67

Source : Primary Cenus Abstract, Odisha, 2011

Income and occupational structure:

Table 4 and 5 give us an idea about the occupational structure and income scenario of slum population.

Table 4 : Occupational structure

Occupation	Per cent
HH and construction labours	35.1
Small Road side Business	15.6
Fishing	21.5
Govt./Pvt. Job	11
Old Age Pension	1
Transport work	5.5
Other	10.3
Total	100

Source: Primary Data

Highest numbers of slum dwellers engaged in construction work and household industry followed by fishing. Other work is mainly household work by women. About 1% of Slum dwellers received old age pension.

Source : Primary data

Fig. 2 : Occupational Structure
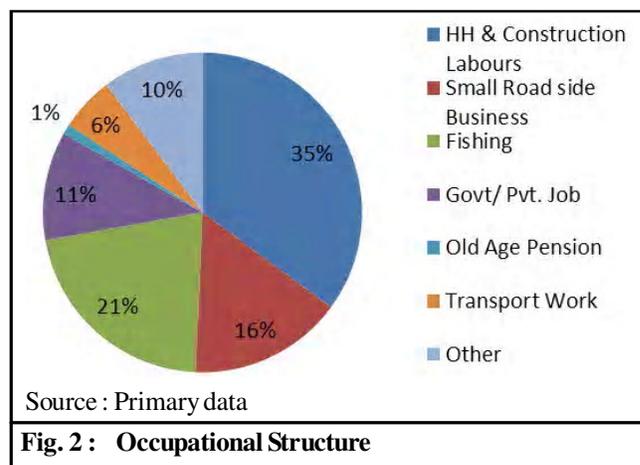
Most of the people earn between Rs. 7000- 10,000/-. About 5.3% of population earn less than Rs. 5000/-.
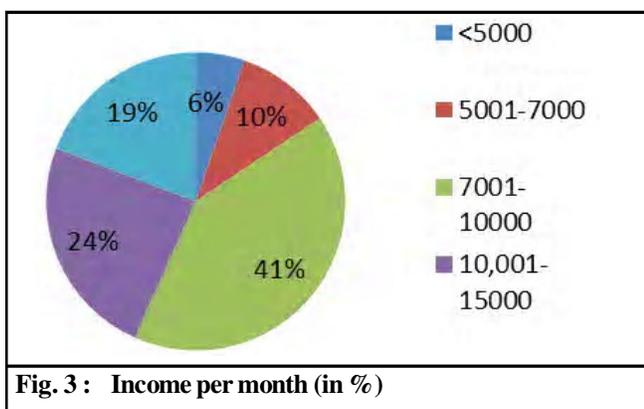
Basic amenities:
Dwelling indicator:
Dwelling units represent the level of comfort and

Table 5 : Economic condition	
Income	Per cent
<5000	5.3
5001-7000	10.3
7001-10000	41.1
10001-15000	24.1
>15001	19.2

Source: Primary Data

Fig. 3 :   Income per month (in %)

availability of private space of an individual.

Table 6 : House type	
Type	Percentage
Wall	
Mud	41.3
Brick	58.7
Floor	
Mud	33
Cement	67
Roof	
Thatch	44.99
Tiles	39.55
Asbestos	15.46

Source: Primary Survey

Neighborhood indicator:
Dumping yard:

Dumping yard is a place which is generally found in the periphery areas of a city. All the unused things and household garbage and other industrial garbage are dumped in that place by the City Sanitation Workers. For the poor people this open area is like a heaven as slum can easily grow in these areas. Many dumping ground are also found with the slum areas which is responsible for bad environmental conditions. The places ultimately affect the people; those who are living nearby both from environment and health point of view.

Sanitation:

Good sanitation is the symptoms of a good health. The garbage cleaning, sewerage and drainage cleaning and defecation system and some other household sanitation come under the sanitation condition of a place. But at the slum level it is found that the sanitation system is not properly maintained. In slums of Puri, the situation is not different, which becomes worse during the rainy season.

Open bath:

In the slum area people's economic conditions are bad due to which they can't afford a normal life style. So generally it is found, the slum people used to take their bath in the open water sources like tube well, open well, ponds, municipality water taps etc. This open bath also affects their environmental condition, health problem and their social life style.

Open defecation:

In most of slum separate latrine are not available in the slum dwellers home due to which they are used to go outside for open defecation. In Puri, it found that people used open spaces besides the roads, on the beach and the municipality drains for their defecation purpose. Some of the places of defecation is situated at about one to half a kilometer distance of the houses.

Sewerage:

Sewerage System is not well managed in Puri city as this city's elevation is within 2mts from the sea level. So the sewerage water can't pass properly due to which the people of Puri face difficulty from the sewerage point of view. It ultimately affects the city sanitation. The people of low lying areas affect more in this problem. In the rainy season the sewerage dirty water flows on the road and enter into the houses of the people which creates very unhygienic situation.

Surrounding areas indicators:
Drinking water:

Good food and clean drinking water is the prime need of a human being for maintain his life. But it found that the slum dwellers used to take the direct water from the municipality tap and tube well.

Table 7 : Source of drinking water	
Total Number of Population (2001)	33,768
No. of Municipality Tap	35
Number of Hand-pumps/Tube-wells	79
Average people Demand on one source	297

Source: Municipal Office, Puri

But this open source water is not good for health. They can't use water filter and boiled water due to poor economic condition and high cost of fuel respectively. It causes different health problems in many times.

Road:

Roads are meant for better communication. Roads may or not available in every slum. Slum develops unauthorizedly. Within the slums there are some unplanned narrow paths are available which are katcha in nature. Due to these narrow paths people faces different communication problems like the ambulance, fire brigade and Municipal Garbage cleaning Vehicles can't enter into the slum at the need of people. It is directly affect the living condition of people.

Electrification:

Due to poor economic condition the slum dwellers can't take an electric connection to their house. A few people take electric connection to their house and many people used the electric connection unauthorizely. In many slums Puri Municipality gave the electric stand posts. But some unsocial people break those electric posts for some bad intensions due to which the slum people face problem in the evening and night time within the slum area.

Education center:

Education Centers major social infrastructure from the awareness point of view. Now-a- days Govt. provides anganabadi and old-age education centers in many slums or nearby areas of the slums. Its success is depend on the no. of children and illiterate people avail this facilities and aware about their rights and duties.

SHG:

Self-Help Group may be registered or unregistered. It typically comprises a group of micro entrepreneurs having homogenous social and economic back-grounds, all voluntarily coming together to save regular small sums of money, mutually agreeing to contribute to a common fund and to meet their emergency needs on the basis of mutual help. It is a group which is consists of the slum dwellers of that concern slum which is working for helping slum people and gave them a better condition of life. These groups are very active in the slums of Puri town. They aware people regarding developmental projects, different extra small sources of income like preparation of candles, papad, appliqué works and some other hand works etc. This is a good means of earning some extra income by the women for the family. In some SHG they also keep a Mini Bank where the members keep some money and can take loan from that fund at their difficulty and somehow solve their economic crisis.

Health care:

Health is wealth. So all people need a good health to maintain a smooth life. But in slum areas due to bad environment condition and due to their food habit and fluctuated lifestyle they face different health problem frequently. People are dependent on District headquarters Hospital and some Homeopathy Doctors. But in most serious health problems they can't avail good health services and in some cases the patient lost their live. But in some slums some health services are available like medicines and some injections for the children. This is mainly maintained by the anganabadi workers. But in most case it is found that the anganwadi workers don't maintain properly.

Social condition:
Breeding grounds for criminals:

Slum is like a heaven for the anti-social people and criminals. The hidden cause behind these people is the political leaders and criminals. Their major works are theft, creating a fear within the people and leadership in the slum areas, collecting ransom from the nearby market area, murder etc.

Child labour:

In the slum area poor people are living who have a great misconception that the more no. of children in their home bring more income for their home. So they prefer more no. of children or the male child. In the age of studying at primary or upper primary level, they have been engaged in different petty works like a service boy in a small hotel, petty hawkers, as a beggar, at garage, news paper distributer and sometimes in various antisocial works etc. This is very bad for their future as these

children can't enjoy their childhood properly like a normal family child. This leads to a dark future for them.

Early marriage:

In a slum, parents are not feeling secure with their teen age girl child or young girl child due to various antisocial people in the slum areas. Different type antisocial crimes, rape, prostitution etc. are the major causes for which parents want to marry their girl child in their early age. That's why early marriage is commonly found in the slums of Puri town. Due to this early marriage, the female section faces different health problem and so also different social problems in the slums. ST and SC population are out-side the urban fold which is creating a social divide

Gender issues:

Gender based violence is now recognized as a crucially important dimension of wider gender inequalities and gendered power relations in all societies of the world specially in developing countries. Slums are the most vulnerable areas for such violence. The makeshift dwellings in insecure settlements makes women vulnerable to burglary, theft and rape, with little recourse to protection either formally or informally (Chant, 2013). Lack of sanitation facilities near place of dwelling makes women of all age groups vulnerable to violence. Slum women are working in irregular, low paid and casual jobs of low quality experience more domestic violence because of their job insecurity.

Suggestion and conclusion:

Urbanization and growth of slums go hand in hand. Above analysis speaks that slum people have mostly seasonal employment and poor living conditions. Hence the following steps may be taken for their up-gradation.

– Provision of Employment during lean season of tourism and rainy season. Provision of housing under RAY.

– Female headed houses must be given special attention by both Govt. and NGOs. Implementation of special programmes for ST and SC people run by Govt. must be well monitored.

– Enhancing urban safety and security through effective urban planning, design and governance from a gender perspective in cities.

– Community-based approaches to enhancing urban safety and security and reducing risk factors from a gender perspective.

– Non-violent resolution of conflicts from a gender perspective.

Slums are an obvious concomitant of urbanization. The unusual growth of slums in Puri town is a result of a natural disaster like flood or cyclone, and manmade disaster like communal violence. We cannot say that slums can be up-rooted completely from the urban landscape. Slum dwellers provide some of the basic services to the urban area and hence existence of the slums is a hard reality. We cannot also overlook the fact that about 34.53% of urban population resides in slums. Therefore steps must be taken for a comfortable living of slum dwellers which can only be achieved by improving the environmental quality of the squatter settlements. Although a no. of Govt. initiatives are in place but they are too little. Furthermore the beneficiaries must also know the programmes. So we can conclude that up-gradation of quality of urban settlements can only be achieved with proper involvement and awareness of the slum dwellers.

REFERENCES

Agbola, T. and Agunbiade, E.M. (2009). Urbanization, Slum Development and Security of Tenure: The Challenges of Meeting Millennium Development Goal 7 in Metropolitan Lagos, Nigeria. *Urban Population-Environment Dynamics in the Developing World: Case Studies and Lessons Learned. Paris: Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED)*, 77-105. Retrieved from http://www.populationenvironmentresearch.org/workshops.jsp#W2007.

Chant, S. (2013). Cities through a "gender lens": a golden "urban age" for women in the global South? *Environment & Urbanisation*, **25**(1) : 9-29.

Davis, M. (2006). Slum Ecology. *Orion Magazine*. Retrieved from https://orionmagazine.org/article/slum-ecology/

District Census Hand Book Puri (1991). *Bhubaneswar, India: Census of India.*

District census Hand Book (2001). *Bhubaneswar, India: Census of India.*

District Gazetteer, Puri (1977). *Gazetteer Unit, Dept. of Revenue Govt. of Orissa.*

District Statistical Hand Book, Puri (1997). *Bhubaneswar, Orissa: Statistical Bureau, Odisha.*

Draft Comprehensive Development Plan of Puri-Konark Region (2013). *Puri, Odisha: Puri-Konark Development Authority.*

Fakhruddin (1991). *Quality of Urban life*. Raipur: Rawat Publications.

Gurumukhi, K.T. (2000). Slum related politics and programmes. *Shelter*, **3**(3) : 57.

Haque, M. (2003). Water, sanitation and hygiene in Bangladeshi Slums, An evaluation of the Water-Aid Bangladesh Urban Programme. *Environment & Urbanization*, **15**(2) : 46-56.

****