

Economic Well being among Slum Dwellers: A Case Study of Puri

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ABSTRACT

Economic well being has varied meaning for various groups but in the contemporary context its significance has increased manifold. It is more significant for the marginal sections of society who live in squatter settlements. With increasing urbanization mushrooming of squatter settlements has become an important part of urban settlements. It provides shelter to the have-nots who have fled to urban areas in the search of greener pastures. Study of economic wellbeing needs special attention for this group as they are considered poverty stricken migrants. The present study area is an ancient town with religious and tourist importance. The study is mainly based on primary data followed by secondary data. Primary data has been collected using observation, focus group discussion and questionnaire survey. Different statistical tools like frequency distribution, percentage used for data analysis, co-efficient of co-relation. The living quality has been analyzed by Sustainable Livelihood Security Index (SLSI) methods. Based on the outcome of the analysis suitable planning measured has been suggested.

Key Words : Economic well being, Squatter settlement, Primary data, Dwelling unit, Quality of living

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a multidimensional social measure which varies from person to person and place to place. It mainly refers to the economic wellbeing of a person; whether the basic needs and amenities can be fulfilled by a person according to the regional context. In urban area the basic needs and amenities are more expensive than in the rural area. People are attracted to the urban areas in search of employment earning. The characteristics of poverty are low income, poor health and illiteracy - however, they are themselves the results of processes that have their roots in economic, social, political and cultural factors.

Different research studies are made by different scholars on urban poverty. It is a study of modern India which got its value in last few decades. First seminal study on urban poverty was made by Dandekar and Rath in 1971. They observed a continuous deterioration in the condition of urban poor and stressed that it was the consequence of continuous migration of rural poor into

the urban areas in search of livelihood. This leads to development of slums in the urban areas due to lack of adequate economic support to them.

Slum is typically an urban feature. These are identified due to their unsystematic development in the city areas. The concept of slum and its definition varies from country to country according to its socio-economic conditions.

A compact area with a population of at least 300 or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually within adequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitation and drinking water must be recognized as a slum (Census Slum Data, 2011). Urban slums includes not only squatter settlements but also severely run down older parts of the cities, which are overcrowded and often lacking in rudimentary urban services.

In slums the world over squatters' trade safety and health for a few square meters of land and some security of tenure. They are pioneers of swamps, flood plains,

volcano slopes, unstable hillsides, desert fringes, railroad sidings, rubbish-mountains and chemical dumps-unattractive and dangerous sites that have become poverty's niche in the ecology of the city. These are moves of sheer survival. And because the geographic location of slums is becoming more and more marginal, the destructive power of natural elements leaves today's slum residents in an ever more vulnerable state. The conditions creating the slums are human forces but they tend to affect the earth's natural forces.

Environment is interwoven in day to day life of human beings and as such man plays a great role in preserving and improving the environment for having a good quality of life. The quality of life of slum dwellers and environment of the area are closely linked. The quality of life of the people depends on the shelter environment of the dwelling units. This includes not only the amenities like drinking water, waste disposal, air purity, recreation, safety and security but also the means of livelihood.

With India becoming increasingly globalized and urbanized the slum population is also increasing and as per TCPO estimates of 2001, over 61.80 million people were living in slums. Indian cities have been grappling with the challenges of making the cities sustainable *i.e.* inclusive, productive, efficient and manageable. The sustainability of urban development in India is seen in the content at shelter and slums, basic urban services, financing urban development and governance and planning. The present paper studies the environmental quality of urban slums in Puri town of Odisha, evaluates the environmental development programmes and suggests certain measures for environmental up-gradation. With India becoming increasingly globalized, the slum population is also increasing and as per TCPO estimates 2001, over 61.80 million people were living in slums. Indian cities have been grappling with the challenges of making the cities sustainable *i.e.* inclusive, productive, efficient and manageable. The sustainability of urban development in India is seen in the content at shelter and slums, basic urban services, financing urban development and governance and planning.

Significance of the study:

The present study area, *i.e.* Puri urban area is an ancient heritage city. It is one of the four "Dhamas" of the Hindus and at the same time has beautiful golden beach attracting crowds from all around the world. Hence, plethora of employment opportunities attracted huge

number of migrants. As a result there is a proliferation of slum development. Basic characteristics of these slums are dilapidated housing structures with poor ventilation, overcrowding, inadequate lighting, lack of potable water, absence of sanitation facilities, faulty alignment of streets, inundation during monsoon, lack of access for fire-fighting and control measures.

METHODOLOGY

The objective of the present study is to find out the economic condition and quality of life of slum dwellers. The study is based on primary data. A sample of 20 per cent has been taken to study the socio-economic, demographic characteristics and quality of life of the slum dwellers of the city. Observation and interview technique has been used to collect primary information for which a questionnaire will be prepared covering all the required aspect of the study. Suitable quantitative and qualitative methods have been used to analyze the data collected through primary and different secondary sources.

The quality of life of the people will be assessed by using Sustainable Livelihood Security Index (SLSI). It is a composite index which indicates the relative status of various components integrating ecology–economy–equity interactions, and can be used for measuring the sustainable livelihood security of any region. Livelihood can be described as means for living or sustenance. Security indicates protection, assurance or a secure condition. By using these conditions the quality of life of a region can be assessed. The four essential components considered for developing the SLSI at the household level are:

- a) Income Status
- b) Asset ownership status
- c) Educational status
- d) Nutritional status

$$SLSI_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij} - \text{Min } X_{ij}}{\text{Max } X_{ij} - \text{Min } X_{ij}}$$

where X= Specific Parameter

i= Specific Variable

j= Specific component of particular HH

Here i^{th} variable represents the j^{th} component of the particular HH of the particular slum.

Step-1: According to the ecological sensitivity the following parameters have been adopted:

(i) Income status, (ii) Nutritional status, (iii) Educational status and (iv) Asset ownership status. In

nutritional status, educational status and asset ownership status different weightages are assigned.

Step-2: The derivation for computing the indices SLSI of each component say monthly income in a household is given by above formula.

Step-3: Composite Index is calculated by using SLSI value.

Study area :

Puri urban area is located at 19° 47' 55" N and 85° 49' 55" E along the eastern coast of India, on the shores of the Bay of Bengal. The area of Puri Municipality is about 16.32 sq.k.ms. There are 64 slum pockets in Puri urban area, out of which we have selected 5 large slum pockets. The following map gives an idea about the selected slums.

Hypothesis :

- Proliferation of economic activity leads to proliferation of slums.
- Development may not always lead to better quality of life.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Urbanization and development:

Historically Urbanization is always associated with the expansion of economic, social and political life of the people. Urbanization led by the industrialization in the third world countries might be a relatively new

phenomenon, though India has experienced trade and urbanization during Harappa and Buddhist period before fifth century B.C. (Mears, 2001). According to UN-Habitat report (2006), in 2000, world population reached 6.1 billion and now it is growing at an annual rate of 1.2 per cent and which will be projected to reach 8 billion by 2030. According to "The Economic Review 2011", "India has more than 3000 million people living in its 5000 cities and towns – which is like accommodating the entire United States in one third of its land area".

Urban refers to a place which is meant for Non-Agricultural activities where as rural refers to the place which is not urban. In other words population is not the only factor for determining a place as urban; economic activities play an important role in an urban area. For example a village having 10,000 people maximum involved in primary sector should not be called as an urban area; but a tourist place having 5000 people with all modern facilities can be termed Urban.

Puri, being an uni-functional religious town like other religious towns of India, experienced a very slow growth. Though the population of the town reached one lakh in 1981 after a span of 34 years of Independence, it was a very well known town due to its religious and historical background. The town experienced a negative growth from 1901 to 1931 and reached a population size of almost same as of 1901 in 1951 and only after 1961 the population increased on account of improvement in infrastructure to highlight its tourist potential. As per 1991

Table 1 : Slum Profile of Puri Town		
Salient Features	City (2011)	Slum (2011)
Total Population	2,00,564	70,457
Total Male Population	1,04,086	36,094
Total Female Population	96,478	34,633
0-6 Age Group Total Population	18,471	7,865
0-6 Age Group Total Male Population	9,610	4,067
0-6 Age Group Total Female Population	8,861	3,798
Total SC Population	15,627	10,809
Total SC Male Population	7,869	5,383
Total SC Female Population	7,758	5,426
Total ST Population	1022	360
Total ST Male Population	587	194
Total ST Female Population	435	166
Total Worker	71,788	26,766
Total Male Worker	58,806	20,530
Total Female Worker	12,982	6,236

Source: PCA Data 2011, Orissa, Census of India

census report of the city population was 1,24,835 whereas as per 2001 census it had a population of 155,776 with the growth rate of 23.6 per cent. Again in 2011 the population reached at 2,00,564 and the growth rate is 27.11 per cent. During 1971-1981 the growth rate was 38.3% where as it decreased to 27.11% in 2011 census.

Tourism activity in Puri:

Puri is a religious and cultural town where it is found that tourism is the most dominant economic activity. Tourism has three important components known as three 'A' i.e. *attraction, accessibility and amenities*. Attraction of climate, scenic beauty, historical and cultural features attracts more tourists to a place. To access the particular tourist place, communication must be good. It may be the road, railway, airway or waterway as well as tele-communications. For the comfort of tourist the social

amenities like accommodation, drinking water, electricity, local transport, availability of food and recreation are necessary. Though this sector is not highly developed, still this place tries to fulfill the basic requirements of tourists ensuring the inflow of tourists in last two decades. This tourism activity also supports the city economy and social life. Table 3 give a broad idea regarding the domestic and international tourists coming to this city. The inflow of tourist has been increasing in every year. The inflow in the year 2015 reaches so high that roughly it covers 47.39% of the city population. Tourism activity mainly encourages the informal economic activities which are mainly under tertiary activities.

Economic development:

".....twenty five per cent of Indians live on less than a dollar a day and seventy per cent live on less than

Table 2 : City Economic: Occupation Pattern of Puri City in last three decade							
Occupation Patter of Puri Town							
Sr. No.	Category	1991		2001		2011 Projected	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
Primary							
1.	Cultivators	291	14.89	301	12	314	10
2.	Agriculture	304	15.55	351	14	377	12
3.	Live Stock	61	2.12	101	4	34	
4.	Mining and Quarrying	1	0.05				
	Total	657	33.61	753	30	785	25
Secondary							
1.	H.H. Industry	150	7.67	201	8	283	9
2.	Other than HH	77	3.94	100	4	157	5
3.	Construction	20	1.02	75	3	125	4
	Total	247	12.63	376	15	565	18
Tertiary							
1.	Trade and Commerce	454	23.22	603	24	785	25
2.	Transport	169	8.65	226	9	283	9
3.	Others	428	21.89	552	22	722	23
	Total	1051	53.76	1301	55	1790	57
	Grand Total	1955	100	2510	100	3140	100

Source: Puri City Development Plan, 2006,
URL: jnnurm.nic.in/wpcontent/uploads/2010/12/CDP_Puri.pdf

Table 3 : Decadal Slum Growth			
Year	No. of Identified Slums	No. of Slum growth	% of Growth
1971	8	-	-
1981	15	7	87.5
1991	24	9	60
2001	46	22	91.66
2011	64	18	39.13

Source: Municipality office, Puri and PKDA office, Puri

two dollars a day.” The forgoing was the headline of May 9, 2005 in a major international newspaper. Others headlines are not any less mischievous. These are all meaningless analysis. The general prosperity is not affect the poor people living standard in this country. Economic development of a particular place is not effective for development of poor quality of life of these slum dwellers. So the issue of poverty and slums in Puri city and its relationship to the general people those have better economic condition is analyzed in this paper.

The Table 2 shows the occupation pattern of Puri city in last three decades, where it is found that the

percentage of primary workers decreases in a constant speed and the secondary and tertiary sector workers increases day by day. This shows the constant growth of city economy along with rapid urbanization. Due to the scope of tourism activities, it shows that economic activity is dependent on tourism, and this causes more poor people to be attracted towards this city. They prefer to live on any vacant land, govt. land or in any slums and in these ways the no of slums increases in this city. Table 4 and 5 gives decadal growth of the slums in puri city and Occupation Pattern of Slum dwellers, respectively. It can mark that the percentage of slum growth is increasing

Table 4 : Slum Economic: Occupation Pattern of Puri Slums

Sr. No.	Category	2014	
		Frequencies	%
1.	Primary	216	22.95
2.	Secondary	363	38.58
3.	Tertiary	362	38.47
Grand Total		941	100

Source: Primary Conducted November 2014- January 2015

Table 5 : Correlation analysis

		Correlation										
		V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	V11
Spearman's rho	V1	1.000	1.000**	.500	.866	.500	-1.000**	-1.000**	-1.000**	-.866	-1.000**	-1.000**
	V2		1.000	.500	.866	.500	-1.000**	-1.000**	-1.000**	-.866	-1.000**	-1.000**
	V3			1.000	0.000	-.500	-.500	-.500	-.500	0.000	-.500	-.500
	V4				1.000	.866	-.866	-.866	-.866	-1.000**	-.866	-.866
	V5					1.000	-.500	-.500	-.500	-.866	-.500	-.500
	V6						1.000	1.000**	1.000**	.866	1.000**	1.000**
	V7							1.000	1.000**	.866	1.000**	1.000**
	V8								1.000	.866	1.000**	1.000**
	V9									1.000	.866	.866
	V10										1.000	1.000**
	V11											1.000

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed).

Index

V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	V11
Cultivator	Agriculture	Live Stock	Mining	HH Industries	Other Than HHs	Construction	Trade and Commerce	Transport	Other	Slum Growth

from 1971-2001 where as the percentage of growth decreases from 2001-2011.

The occupation Table 4 shows that there is 22.95% slum dwellers are involved in Primary activities which is mainly fishing activities where as 38.58% and 38.47% slum dwellers involved in secondary and tertiary activities, respectively.

The Table 6 shows the results of Spearman’s correlation analysis, which was carried out to study the relationship between economic activities and growth of slums in Puri City. It is found that economic activities is significantly and positively correlated with the growth of slums, $r = +1$ at 0.01 level of significance. This indicates that improvement in the economic activities of the people leads to increase in number of slums in the city.

Quality of life:

For finding the quality of Life, the collected primary data has been analyzed by using the SLSI method discussed in this section of this paper. Table 7 and 8 depicts the calculated values in a tabular form.

SLSI Category	SLSI Value
Very low	0 - 0.25
Low	0.26 – 0.50
Medium	0.51 – 0.75
High	0.76 – 1

Source : Primary Data collected during November, 2014 - January, 2015

Category	Quality of life	% of Slums in this group
I	Very Low	16%
II	Low	18%
III	Medium	35%
IV	High	31%
	Total	100%

Source : Primary Data collected during November, 2014 - January, 2015

The above table gives the quality of life of people in different categories in the slums of Puri town.

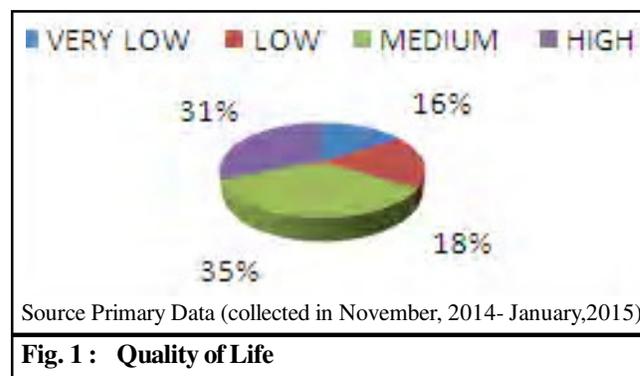
Category –I (Very Low):

This category of slums has being very lower quality of life due to their bad environment condition. These people belong to the north-western part of Puri town. Matitota, Markandeswar Sahi Harijan Basti, Gokha sahi

etc. slums are coming under this category which are situated in the periphery areas of Puri town. This areas are situated far from the city centre and have low quality of life both from economic and environmental perspective. Social amenities like drainage, sewerage, roads are not properly available here. Though water stand posts and supply lines for electricity are available, they do not fulfill the requirement of the people due to various reasons. There are no dispensaries or primary health care centre available and people are dependent on the District Hospital which is at a distance about 4 K.m.s. Their quality of life is mainly affected due to their economic condition. 16% of the slums come under this category.

Category-2 (Low):

The second category of people mainly reside in different parts of coastal belts and railway siding areas, where they can get better quality of life than the category – 1 people. Though their economic condition, their environment is very unhygienic and unsafe, these slum dwellers mainly reside within the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) areas. Most of the slums are on the beach area near the coast line. They do not have internal road facilities, electric connections, sewerage system in their slums. Though there are some tube-wells are available within the slums, gives brackish water which is used for other uses. For drinking water they are dependent on the water posts, tube-wells and other sources far from their dwelling units. Anganawadi and primary schools are available in these areas. Their economy depends on sea fish business and huge number of tourists in Puri. Penthakanta-A, Penthakanta-B, Nolia Sahi, Baliapanda Slums etc. are coming under this category. 18% of slums are belonging to this category.



Category – 3 (Medium):

This third category people belongs to the core area

of the city; though having bad economic conditions but living under a better environmental condition as they can avail all the social amenities properly than the above two categories. For example Mochisahi which is a slum situated in the main trunk road connecting Jagannatha temple to Sea beach and getting all social amenities within their reach and most people have their local handmade shoe shops (both shoe making and shoe repairing). Their income status is very low. Nearly 35% of slums belong to this category.

Category – 4 (High):

The slums under this category are in close proximity to the main market centers of the city. They have average economic condition, better environmental condition and other social infrastructures (street light, water stand posts, roads, sewerage, sanitation facilities etc.) which show their high quality of life than others. Kumbharapara, Ghoda Bazar, Dhoba sahi etc. are coming under this category. 31% of slums are belonging from this category.

Conclusion:

Development is multifaceted which has resulted in concentration of population in urban areas. The spiraling growth of population is creating tremendous stress on urban environment and all these together are affecting the quality of life of the lower section of urban areas. The Global Report on Human Settlements 2003 is about slums – places where poor people struggle to make a living and to bring up their families, the places where about one third of the world's urban population lives. Quality of Life has emerged as a distinct field of study largely in reaction to the practical and philosophical

drawbacks inherent in the conventional economic measures of welfare, notably Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. Economic activities are the major cause behind the inflow of population from the periphery areas to the main town and growth of slums in urban areas. Though the economic development of an area may change the living status of the people of main flow but it is not applicable to the economically deprived people who live in the slums. Situation is more or less equal for every place. Govt. effort cannot be successfully run in these areas which is the major cause behind the bad quality of life.

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