



CHILD EDUCATION PROBLEMS IN URBAN SLUMS

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Abstract -- India ranks second in the world in terms of population. Due to population growth, cities in India have an average number of slum areas. Census data shows that 13.7 million slum dwellers live in 63% of the towns and cities in the country. These slum areas are generally identified as the most polluted, wasteful, underprivileged, and hazardous waste areas in the city. One of the major problems facing the people living here is poverty. According to slums in India- A statistical compendium, 2015, 44.8% of households live in a single room, and 0.55 million households are in dilapidated condition. According to the ASER 2020_report, in 2005, the poverty level was set at US \$ 1.25 per person per day, according to the ASER 2020 report 5.3% of children aged 6-10 years old have not enrolled in school this year. Slum areas are mainly formed along large drains, landfills, and along the railway lines. Garbage piles can be seen around the slum area, where small children play. They spend most of their time in this garbage dump. Since the family members have no interest in education, most of the children get involved in some work when they are a little older. Due to the fact that they are earning money at an early age and a lack of proper guidance from their parents, they often commit various types of criminal activities. They need to be educated to fix this problem. For this, the Central and State governments need to work together. They need to adopt different types of development plans. so that they too can enter the mainstream of society.

Keywords- Child education, poverty, women education, Home environment, Unhealthy living conditions

Introduction --

From the past to the present, we have learned in different ways. In the past, we used to receive various lessons from gurus. Even today, we are learning different subjects in different ways. But is this education possible for everyone? Some sections of society are still far from this education. One of them is slum children's. With the growth of urban areas, slum areas developed at a very fast pace in the surrounding areas. Approximately 63 percent of Indian towns are home to the 13.7 million slam households counted in the 2011 census. Their biggest problem is that they do not have a conducive environment for education.

Methodology--

A number of published sources were examined for this paper's secondary data. It is necessary to gather information from a wide range of sources, such as books and reports from the NSSO and the Census of India. The academician's collected works on slum residents are used to show the general social and economic problems of the slum dwellers.

Definition --

According to the United Nations programme, a slum is defined as " a contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterised as having inadequate housing and basic services." In India , the definition of slum are brought out by the census and the NSSO - a compact area of at least 300 populations or about 60- 70 households of poorly built congested tenements , in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure



and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities in the state / UT are categorised as identified slums.

Objectives of the study --

A major problem in India is slum children and their education. So we need to identify their problems and help them find solutions. The reason for the dropout rate of slum children, what is their education rate? Identify the causes of all these problems and find ways to solve them.

Problems of slum children in education-- There are different types of problems in slum areas when it comes to flourishing education. The main problems are --

1. Value of education----It is generally seen that those who live in slum areas have very low family incomes. We can calculate their economic profile by their occupation, income, expenditure pattern, etc. According to the survey, more than 41% of urban slum households had an average monthly income of between Rs 5000 and Rs 10000, according to the survey. Therefore, earning is more important to them than education.

2. Lack of girl child and women education - Lack of women's education is an important aspect of the education of slum children. The mother is the first teacher for a child, if the mother is uneducated then the importance of education of the children decreases. If the mother is educated, then the importance of proper education, nutrition, health care, etc. for her child increases.

3. Lack of supportive elements in education - Education is not limited to schools. Education we can get from outside the school or some materials that help a lot in education. The elements that help in education are: - suitable environment, electricity, mobile phones for higher education, laptops, computers, radios, etc. But most children do not have all these facilities. Due to which they are not able to get education. From the information given below we can easily understand the situation.

ACCORDING TO SLUMS IN INDIA - A STATISTICAL COMPENDIUM ,2015

Number of rooms

4.4% have no exclusive room for living.

44.8% have one room.

29.5% have two room.

0.55 million houses are in dilapidated condition.

Electricity

Electricity was available in 68 percent of the slums.

There were just 6.5 per cent of the slums that did not have power.

Computer / Laptop

Computers and laptops are in use by 10.4% of all households.

3.3 percent of the population has access to the internet.

Mobile

Only 63.5 percent of the population has access to mobile facilities..

4. Neglect of Indian language - In an environment where children grow up, their education is of little importance. They mostly speak their mother tongue at home. But English is a major language of instruction in schools. Since they usually do not use any language other than their mother tongue. So it became a big obstacle for them to learn English. Since they do not speak English well, they have to face many difficulties in getting a job.



5. Poverty - Poverty is a major problem in the education of slum children. The economic situation of most slum children is very poor. The poverty line, set by the World Bank in 2005 at US\$1.25 per day per person, is used to calculate its poverty estimates. In this situation, it is not possible for the family to create a conducive learning environment for all.

6. Home environment - A conducive environment is required for study. But most slum children do not get that environment. Most people who have been affected by displacement or rehabilitation in India's poor urban environment are likely to be affected by transportation, population, health, and safety issues. According to the ASER 2020 report, 5.3 % of rural children aged 6-10 years have not enrolled in school this year. A higher percentage of female students (3.23%) are not in school. In most cases, the girls do not go to school, they help with various household works or take care of their brothers and sisters.

Total and Slum Population of Million Plus Cities in India, Census 2001					
Million Plus cities	T. Popn.(in '000)	Slum Popn. (in '000)	%of Slum to T. Popn.	Sex Ratio in Non-Slum areas	Sex Ratio in Slum areas
Greater Mumbai	11,978	6,475	54.06	859	770
Delhi M. Corp.	9,879	1,851	18.74	836	780
Kolkata	4,573	1,485	32.48	841	805
Banglore *	4,301	431	10.02	915	947
Chennai *	4,344	820	18.88	953	974
Ahmedabad	3,637	474	13.46	891	850
Hyderabad *	3,520	627	17.23	930	938
Kanpur	2,551	368	14.42	857	857
Pune	2,538	492	19.39	920	928
Surat	2,433	508	20.89	794	701
All India	73,346	17,697	24.13	874	820

*Million Cities of South India

*Reader, Dept. of Research Methodology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai – 400 088

7. Unhealthy living conditions and hazardous location - In most cases, unfavourable living conditions are found in slum areas. There is no access to safe drinking water, no sewerage system in the houses, and the residents usually do not get their basic needs. Slum areas are most often formed near large drains or dirty dumps. Childrens use that dirty space as their playground. Many people throughout the world die each year, and India is accountable for 25% of those deaths.

According to slums in India - A statistical compendium ,2015

0.79 Million census houses are temporary in nature.

6.17 million houses have only one room

There are no exclusive rooms for living in 0.6 million houses.

4.67 million homes do not have latrine facilities.

2.58 million households have no sewerage system.

There is no separate system for garbage disposal in 27% slum area of India.

23% slum located across large drain.



Recommendations for improving conditions

1. The government of India and all the state governments need to be given special knowledge in this regard so that no new slum area is created in any area.
2. In order to improve the economic condition in slum areas, various types of micro financial schemes need to be organised.
3. Schoolteachers in slum areas need to be made aware of the importance of educating students in that area. They need to focus more on their mother tongue while teaching so that they can understand easily.
4. Arrange some special schools in the slum area, where children can study during the afternoon, weekend and summer vacation.
5. To provide job oriented education along with general education to the children in the schools . so that their economic condition can be improved. If their economic situation improves, then maybe they will understand the importance of education.

Conclusion --

Slums are located in the city's surroundings. where the living conditions are very low. It is not possible for children to grow up in this hostile environment and get the nutrition, protection, and education they need in the right way. So we all need to think about this. It is our duty to educate every child in the country. If they understand the importance of education, they may be able to become suitable people in other adverse situations.

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