



Status of Women in Bhubaneswar Slums

KEYWORDS

WOMEN, STATUS, SLUM, BHUBANESWAR, SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT *The terms status signifies the slum total women of the various culturally & socially ascribed roles. One has to play & the right and dues inherent in a social position. This is what is known as 'ascribed statuses. Besides the ascribed status there is also the 'achieved status' which results from one's effort & personal achievement, the concept of status is used to indicate the ranking of individual in terms of attributes such as level of education, occupation, income, percentage of one's status within the home and in the community, decision making roles, number of restriction imposed one one's activities, freedom & the like, if we consider 'status' in the light of above attributed it is to be accepted that status of women varies from place to place & from time to time.*

A number of studies have been conducted in India on slum. They describe and analyze slum activities validly. Their emphasis is ore on economic and physical facilities available, organization, crime & deviance etc. but the problem of women have been described only a in cursory manner & as a part of family organization in general. In fact, the problem of slums is really the problem of women because life in slum is harder of slums is really the problem of women because life in slum is harder for women than men. There is no death of studies on the status of women in India but these studies often lead to opposite & misleading conclusions about the position of women in India; some others have quoting classical texts referred to high status of women in traditional India & some others have characterized women in modern India as exploited and appraised. Some other have compared means characterization of women in golden age with that of the present position women in slum any better notwithstanding the constitution as guarantee. In either case the mistake that is being made comparing an ideal types the empirical fact. A women in a slum may be openly beaten or abused by her husband & other may look at his as a common phenomenon but for a middle class or upper class women wife battering may be something that by taken lightly. Similarly like the women of the upper strata, who tend to keep up the image of respectability, the slum women do not think of their image. While evaluating the position of women it has to be looked at two levels, one is her public status and the other is at family level. With the constitutional guarantee man have accepted women as their colleagues or even bosses and theoretically, they are recognized as equals, though some discrimination and oppression as equal to that of man and the real problem arises in the treatment meted out to her in private life and in the family. In our patricianly system, the head of the house holdis always man and only in his absence, find women is treated as a private matter.

Slum is associated with industrial Revolution and slowly it became a part and parcel of urban life and resulted in an influx of migrants in to cities in search of livelihood. For the people who have migrated in to the city, a place of living has become the necessity and finding no proper place people started living anywhere and everywhere possible and his human struggle for shelter result in the growth of slums. Slum is harsh reality of urban life and slum living

is something is being done to improve it, yet much more needs to be done. Slums are generally in habited by poor people and though not all, many of them under poverty conditions. Urban slums have been studies by economic, ecologists, anthropologists, sociologists and other social scientists in all the important cities of India. Depending upon the nature of interest of their study, the social scientists have concentrated on different aspects of slum life. However a majority of them have emphasized on the economy of slum life.

Some scholars have pointed out that slum lack family, organization, community life and are disorganized in the sense that people there live in frustration, agony any despair slum is a society some uneducated, displace people. There are some areas of noise, confusion, dirty ill-health, tension & contention. These are areas of confusion & their problems are negative in character. Such areas of extreme negative character that is a slum. There place is not content they are change one place to another place. These people are uneducated also. They are much more labourer.

The conditions of women in slum in general, and of socially under privileged women in particular are most pathetic. Most of these women are engaged in activities which are at the bottom end of the scale of earning income and are amongst the poorest of the poor in the working class. The jobs other no attraction and require a great deal of physical or deal. The study has shown that in spite of many developmental programme most of socially under privileged women are still suffering. Early marriages having many children, illiteracy etc. are very common among them.

Slum life has never been easy for the urban poor insofar as housing and living conditions are concerned. For women, the problems are especially acute. In slums across the world, there is a noticeable lack of basic infrastructure, services, and basic shelter. Moreover, with the growing influx of slum dwellers to the informal and unplanned settlements they find themselves in, governments around the world are using increasingly callous methods to 'beautify' cities, erase the urban poor from sight, and clear urban lands (which are skyrocketing in value) for 'development'. Women living in slums are often susceptible to forced evictions by governments and other actors, and too often face gender-based violence before, during, and after eviction.

In many slums, the majority of occupants living in densely packed shacks in fact do not own them, but rather rent them from landlords. Owners often rent out their shacks at high costs relative to the income of the majority of occupants, and this is especially problematic for indigent women who tend to be the lowest income earners. Add to this the fact that women are even less likely to have recognised rights over their homes, as these rights, in practice, are vested with the husband. For women, while they may not have control over their housing situation, nonetheless have to deal with all of the problems inherent in inadequate housing. Construction and repair of slum housing is appallingly inadequate most of the time, exposing occupants to leaking roofs, abysmal sanitation, security risks, flooding, and fire outbreaks. It is women who are disproportionately affected by all of these problems, as they spend more time in the home and community caring for their families and their households.

In contrast to income from agricultural activities, income in urban areas can be higher and more stable. In most places, industrial and manufacturing jobs are located in or near urban centres. Even if formal employment is scarce, migrants to urban areas can often find work in the informal sector. Whether formal or informal, work in the city is generally not seasonal and thus can be used to supplement income from farming. Indeed, a significant proportion of urban migrants is either temporary (seeking work in a nearby city in response to an urgent but temporary need for income) or has moved to the city to provide income to family members who have remained on the farm or in rural areas. By sending one family member to the city to work, a family can diversify its sources of income and guard against the vagaries and uncertainties associated with rural life.

Although urban sprawl is usually considered a problem of developed countries like the United States, it is also a growing problem in developing countries. For example, the urban footprint of Khartoum, Sudan was forty-eight times bigger in 1998 than it was in 1955. Land that was once used for agriculture is now developed with residences. The encroachment of urban uses, including industrial, into rural areas brings with it air and water pollution, further degrading the remaining agricultural uses. As this report clearly demonstrates, the interrelated questions of urbanisation and the growth of urban slums raise a number of human rights concerns. The first such concern is the lack of safe, healthy, and affordable housing itself. For women, a lack of adequate housing also increases their risk of abuse and exploitation.

Empowerment is not essentially political alone; it is a process having personal, economic, social and political dimensions with personal empowerment being the core of the empowerment process. In fact political empowerment will not succeed in the absence of economic empowerment. The Scheme of Micro-financing through SHGs create empowerment promoting conditions for women to move from positions of marginalisation within household decision making process and exclusion within community, to one of greater centrality, inclusion of voice.

Bhubaneswar is the capital in the state of Orissa. Increase & Urbanization & Industrialization has resulted in the growth of slum. The city's slum population now has been estimated to be 30.0 percent of city's population. In Bhubaneswar most of the slums of dwellers belong to backward castes, scheduled caste & scheduled tribe. Who earn money for their livelihood as daily wage labour, fisherman quarry worker, vegetable vendors and as other petty traders? The data for the present study was also collected from aforementioned reference.

Economic indicator were used as main criteria for measuring social development in earlier time, but now, there is growing emphasis on social and ecological indicators in the measurement of development. It is also acknowledged that societal and human development is rarely possible without the development of the women, which constitute nearly half the population of the globe. But now the world has been witnessing a new phenomenon, the feminization of poverty, with 70.0 percent of the poorest being women and this feminization of poverty is standing as an obstacle in the women's development. Recent feminist literature is a product of the writing of several feminists who were eloquent in expressing their own problems and need for their development Emancipation and empowerment of women are widely talked topics now, because of the fact that women suffer from a number of disabilities gender prejudices, exploitation, discrimination and oppression. Women's development in terms of education, employment and health are linked to the question of women's empowerment; and empowerment does not necessarily mean getting elected to public offices, but essentially it would have to be empowerment of women at family level so that women are able to take their lives in their own hands and takes decisions or themselves and their families. Empowerment of women is now regarded as the one that includes the right to hold & dispose of property, right to education & political participation. The absolute right to property including land is an essential part of empowerment of women along with political participation & education. But still the women of slum areas have been facing several problems.

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