



Shelter, Sanitation and Drinking Water: Basic Problems of Migrants- A Case Study of Ward No. 13 of Bhadreswar Municipality

KEYWORDS

Migrant, National Building Organization, River Water pollution, Open Defecation.

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ABSTRACT *The present paper is based on the study of conditions of housing, sanitation and drinking water of people migrating from various parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa. A case study under ward no. 13 of Bhadreswar Municipality is completed to understand the various problems faced by migrants. Nearly 80 percent population are migrant and suffer from lack of basic facilities like housing, sanitation and drinking water. The study reveals that there is absence of implementation of various programmes launched by central and state Government. Study reveals that although local body is making effort for betterment of migrant due to but lack of fund, high density of population, unplanned migration and lack of community participation facilities and awareness the goal is still not fully achieved.*

INTRODUCTION

From the dawn of the Human civilization Food, shelter and clothing are basic needs of each and every human being. With the change of time need of society changes but need of Shelter, safe drinking water and sanitation are basic requirement. As per United Nations Guidelines adequate housing in terms of legal security of tenure; availability of services ,materials facilities and infrastructure ,affordability ,habitability,accessibility, and location and cultural adequacy (Shaw,2004) are important. About one in three urban inhabitants, estimated to one billion people now live in slums, but the proportions are much higher than this average in South Asia.

Safe drinking water on the other hand is fundamental right of every human being. A recent study of water supply shows that on an average, only about 18% of households have access to water for a few hours once or twice in a day only one in two days (E&P weekly).Some social scientists propose that the continuing water deficit is the result of middle class disinterest in building infrastructure for clean, safe and adequate drinking water and scientific sewage disposal.

In respect of supply of safe drinking water and sanitation India is far behind the other countries of the world. The level of investment in water and sanitation, albeit low by international standards, has increased during the 2000s.

The present paper is focusing on the problems of Housing, Drinking Water and Sanitation in the ward no. 13 of Bhadreswar Municipality. The paper is primarily dealt with the migrant who reside Hooghly District of West Bengal within Munshi premchand Bustee. Migrant under the study area mainly belong to the various districts of Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh and majority them of whom work as laborer in the nearby jute mills. Majority of population lives in squatter in unhygienic condition with a very poor standard of sanitation and housing condition. people get inadequate amount of safe drinking water.

STUDY AREA

The area selected for the present study is Ward No. 13 of Bhadreswar Municipality which is located on the western bank of river Hooghly. Geographically its location on the globe is 23°5'N and 88°17'E. Administratively the study area comes under the Block and police station of Bhadreswar and District

of Hooghly.



Source: official website of Bhadreswar Municipality

OBJECTIVES:

Migration is a big issue in respect of social, economic, cultural and political scenario. The issues related to migration and migrant are the major concern for Economist, Political Scientist, Demographer, Sociologist and particularly Geographer to understand the spatial pattern and problems. From the micro level (District) to macro level (international level) migration is an issue of debate. In case of inter-state and intra-state migration people generally migrate from rural to urban area in search of employment. In most of the cases they settled in slums of nearby factories in rented squatters irrespective of the facilities of proper sanitation and safe drinking water.

Following are the objectives of the present study:

1. Analysis of housing condition, pattern, hygienity, own ership etc.
2. Analysis of availability of drinking water problem and solution.
3. Analysis of services of sanitation, sewerage etc.
4. Analysis of role of river Ganga in sanitation and drinking water.
5. Brief Analysis of different Government projects associated with Housing, water etc.
6. Sanitation and drinking water etc. and role of local body.
7. Problems and its effect on human health.

METHODOLOGY

To fulfill the said objective and complete the study data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data is collected by random sampling method. Household surveys were conducted to obtain the socio-economic data. For this purpose 50 households belong to migrant family were selected. Data has also been collected from official website of Bhadreswar Municipality. In the post field session data were analyzed with suitable mathematical and statistical techniques and presented with suitable graphs and cartograms.

HOUSING SCENARIO:

From the survey it is found that about 70 percent household population belong to labor class who are in majority engaged in the nearby jute mills (Victoria Jute Mills Ltd. , Hooghly Jute Mills Ltd and shaymanagr North jute Mills Ltd. Etc.) while rest of the population are engaged in small business , Private and Government Jobs. These people are migrated from the neighboring states Viz., Bihar , Uttar Pradesh, Orissa etc. on the basis of the period of migration they can be classified as Pre-independence (those who migrated before 1947) and post independence migrant. The reason of migration was mainly pull factor of Hooghly jute industry which attract the poor people from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Orissa.

After migration people started to settle down nearby locations of factories and mills. Poverty compel them to live in narrow and unhygienic squatters called Bari (A bari consist of some houses ranging from 5 to 20 and even more in numbers) . Owners of these Baris are also migrant.

Features of houses under surveyed area:

1. 80 percent of houses are made of brick plastered by soil.
2. About 80 percent populations live in these rented squat ters.
3. The average size of a single house is 14'x10' out of which 4'x2' space is used as kitchen which is absent in case of many houses.
4. There is absence of bathroom and toilets inside the houses.
5. The average number of person living in each house is 5 which is far from the recommendation of world Health Organisation, 1975 (2 person each single room) and Environmental Hygiene Committee (1947).
6. Floors are both Kaccha and Pucca .
7. More than 80% roofs of these houses are tiles.
8. About 95 percent of these houses are getting electricity.
9. About 15 percent houses of migrant family have pucca house with all modern facility and bathroom and toilet inside the house.
10. about 5 percent migrant have their own house with electric facility but there is absence of bathroom and toilet inside the house.
11. In case of big family some members live outside the house.
12. The rent of a single house is Rupees 50-100 for old tenants while Rs. 300 -600 for new tenants.

Role of Government and Local Body in solving problem:

As per the criteria of National Building Organization under the Ministry of Housing and poverty Alleviation Government of India the Housing situation of Study area comes under the category of Un-Habitat. Under the scheme of BSUP (Basic Services for Urban Poor) a total amount of

Rs. 3288 lacs have been sanctioned for housing by Central Government, State Government, ULBs etc. Loans have also been sanctioned under JnNURM for building purpose. Although steps are taken by the Local Body to provide shelter under various state and central Government schemes but that is not sufficient.

SANITATION

Most of the Slum dwellers do not have toilet facilities. People used to go in open space for defecation which is hazardous to environment and public health. To improve this situation proper sewerage systems connected with single seat, double seat & three seated latrine have been considered by laying to distribution of underground intercepting sewer which will be connected with existing STP. To make the STP functioning properly sewerage system is very much essential.

Condition under study area:

1. At an average per 10 households there is only one toilet.
2. In most of the cases both male and female uses same toilet.
3. Some people also use open space for defecation.
4. Children often use drains and open space for defecation.
5. A section of people also use the riverside places for toilets which is also polluting the River Hooghly.
6. A single small drain serves 10 to 20 houses.
7. For the disposal of solid waste open space are used in absence of dust beans.
8. There is only one community toilet in the whole ward while there is absence of any community bath place.
9. Drains are connected with master drains which ultimately fall in River Hooghly, causing River Water pollution.
10. One sewerage treatment plant is established for the treatment of polluted water.
11. Conservancy department is engaged in the management of solid waste.

Although Bhadreswar Municipality is working at its best to improve the condition of sanitation through various Central and State Government schemes like BSUP and JnNURM but it is not up to the mark. The construction of only one community toilet and use of open space and drains for defecation are proofs. As a result probability of serious problem like sudden break out of Cholera is during less rain and summer is expected.

DRINKING WATER

The condition of drinking water in the Bhadreswar Municipality area is far better than the other municipality in west Bengal .There are about 6 reservoirs 24 pumping stations and water treatment plant .The total percentage of water supply through pipe line is about 89% .A good number of houses are connected with the daily routine the supply of water . There are about 624 street taps, 226 nos. of tube well, 24 nos. of deep tube well in well condition for the public as a source of safe drinking water .The daily water supply for general public is 150 LPCD.

An area with 8.28 sq kms and a total population with 106071 (2001), the Bhadreswar Municipality area has a population density of about 12810 persons per Sq kms. The ward no.13 is presently suffering from availability of water due to inadequate supply of pure and safe drinking water. Although local body made effort to solve the problem in past but there is an alarming situation due to non

working of one pumping station and another one occasionally not functioning?

Features of availability of Drinking Water in study Area:

1. About 75% household collect water from roadside tap.
2. For every 10-20 household there is only one tap.
3. Private connections are only 10-15 percent.
4. Quality of water is not up to mark.
5. There are the incidences of contamination of drain water with drinking water.
6. Most of the people suffer from gastrointestinal diseases.
7. People residing near the riverside use river water for bath, cleaning of utensils and clothes.
8. Supply of water restricted to 8 to 10 hours.

PROBLEM AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Problem of housing and space is identified as major problem of the study area.
2. Lack of space and crowding causes deterioration of health.
3. Lack of space and basic services causes the lack of concentration among students which ultimately reflects in their examination performance.
4. Use of single tap by more number of households causes conflict.
5. Use of single toilets by more number of persons causes unhygienic and spread of disease.
6. Disposal of solid waste in open space cause environmental pollution.
7. Defecation in open drains and near the bank of rivers causes water pollution.
8. Contamination of drain water with the drinking water in case of leakage causes abdominal disease.
9. Overutilization of drinking water causes contamination of fine sand which is harmful for human health.
10. Lack of awareness, people participation and training are reasons of acceleration of such problems.

Suggestions for solution:

1. In case of lack of space local body should take steps for the vertical development of buildings with the help of central and state funds.
2. Community toilets should be more in numbers.
3. Sulabh Souchalya (pay and use community toilets) should be constructed near river banks or ferry services to stop the River Pollution.
4. Drinking water pipes should be maintained carefully so that it could not contaminate with drain water.
5. Number of community tap should be increased.
6. Owners of houses should cooperate with local body and tenants for the better environment of living.
7. Educational, Social and political awareness is necessary.

FINDINGS

1. The area is still backward in respect of adult education although the literacy rate of Bhadreswar Municipality is 89 percent.
2. Nearly 80 percent populations of the study area are migrants and belong to states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar (95percent) and other states (5%).
3. About 70 percent of migrant populations belong to labor class whose income is less than Rs. 5000 per month.
4. About 80% migrant live in narrow shanties and squatter on a low rent.
5. Unplanned migration, more number of children, joint family, causes crowding.

6. Unhygienic condition, lack of facility non-use of filter water causes abdominal diseases.
7. A poor sanitation facility causes spread of water borne diseases.

CONCLUSION

Poor infrastructural facility causes degradation of both environment and quality of life. The housing and sanitation conditions are far from the recommendations of World Health Organization, National Building Organization etc. for a developing nation where infrastructural facilities need rapid growth, these areas need development.

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