

A Profile of Sudgad siddaru of Dharwad District in Karnataka



Social Science

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ABSTRACT

A majority of cities in India have a sizable number of slums. Unfortunately, slums are increasing in terms of size and in terms of population. Owing to high land value, many urbanites are not in a position of areas of the city. Slums are the most disorganized. They have become an inseparable part of city life.

Introduction

A majority of cities in India have a sizable number of slums. Unfortunately, slums are increasing in terms of size and in terms of population. Owing to high land value, many urbanites are not in a position of areas of the city. Slums are the most disorganized. They have become an inseparable part of city life. Constructing their own homes. Due to low wages and high rent, people are facing the problems of housing. A majority of city dwellers are living in single roomed houses. There is a shortage of residential dwellings in urban areas. The continuous influx of migrants has also aggravated generated the problem of housing. It has increased the number of slums in cities.

Methodology

Field work is a general descriptive term for the collection of data. It is more technically known to the researchers. The interviewing or observing of people to learn their languages, folklore, and social structures constitutes field work. Hence the Article has helped me to do an authentic and sincere study on Ecological condition of Danu Nagar.

Application of anthropological tools and techniques being used in collecting data. The holistic approach and the insiders view was kept in mind. Methods like census, informal interviews, observation, questionnaire was used. I went house to house to ask the information. Later the key informants were interviewed and observations were selected according to the convenience. Collective discussions, analysis of personal documents were used.

The People Sudgad Siddru of Danu Nagar

Danu Nagar is situated adjacently to the Railway station. It is around 10 Km from C. B. T. Bus stand. Danu Nagar has around 800 houses, attached to each other. These belong to different religions mainly Hindus, with many casts and sub castes, Muslims, Christians and Sudgad Siddru. Though each follow their own religion and have their own worship places yet they have unity among them. Especially a government agent in charge of Danu Nagar named Danappa, who is responsible for keeping these people in unity. He recently built a new school for the children's education. Yet many children go to school to the neighbouring schools for the quality education. On the whole people here live as one and participate in each others cultural, religious and emotional walks of life.

History of Danu Nagar

Danu Nagar, around 60 to 70 years ago used to act a dumping ground of the city garbage. But slowly after the dawn of Sudgad siddru some tents came up, then slowly Hindus and Muslims and Christians, who came to Dharwad in search of job, occupied the places and built their houses so do Sudgads, who built their houses and lived in a separate lane. Now the Danu Nagar has become very thickly populated with people working of all class and children running about.

Significance of the Name 'Danu Nagar'

Danappa is the Government agent for Danu Nagar, who was born and brought up here in Danu Nagar in a Hindu family. After his education he got the government job to look after many backward tribes and castes in and around Dharwad city. Though he and his family moved to the city yet in the course of 25 years of service, he brought about many facilities and built schools,

brought many schemes for the people of Danu Nagar. So the people and friends of Danappa kept the Name Danu Nagar after his name, for his valuable services done there. Now his office is situated in front of the Basil Mission School in Dharwad city.

Flora and Fauna

Danu Nagar has not much diversity of flora and fauna. The absence of forest in the vicinity of the slum has created places with lot of waste dumping grounds. The people rear the domestic animals and use for food. Domesticated animals comprise ox, cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, dogs, cats etc. rats and bandicoots are found more often. Pigs rolling in the gutters are a common scene. Some species of trees like neem, papaya trees are found here and there.

Since the railway station is very close at hand the smell and stench of dirty railway tracks force the people to avoid Danu Nagar and especially the lane of Sudgad Siddru which is next to the railway track.

Environment

The physical environment of Danu Nagar is very pleasant. Though, in summer, hot and dry climate prevails yet in rainy season the slum will be flooded. Winter will be very chill. Since the gutters are attached to the houses black coloured stagnant water is visible throughout the year and no body is bothered about it. And pigs have made their heavenly abode in these gutters and their number also is quite high. Some people in and around railway station and the lanes behind the school.

The slum is situated at the altitude of 1,500 feet. The annual rainfall is 25 to 35 degree. Total area of the slum is 15 acres. The main types of soils found are.

- Black sandy soil
- Red Sandy soil
- Sand

People do not grow anything here because of the natural absence of fields.

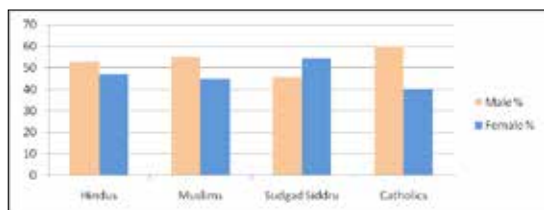
Facilities available for the slum dwellers

There are lots of facilities for the people in Danu Nagar. Like drinking water, hand pumps which are located in different parts of the village. There is a tank constructed by the government, water taps are made available in every lane and at the end of the lane. Tank and tap water is used for everything for drinking, washing clothes, for cattle, for bath and daily household chores. Small grocery shops are available. Two schools have come up. No bus can go up there because of the railway station so they have to walk from attikola. Telephone services, electricity, mobiles, TV and other private vehicles, auto rickshaws for day today communication and transport are found. Each lane has a street light.

Table-1
The total population of Danu Nagar, Religion

Sl. NO	Caste	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %	Total%
1	Hindus	335	299	634	52.84	47.16	100
2	Muslims	185	150	335	55.22	44.78	100

3	Sudgad Siddru	59	70	129	45.74	54.26	100
4	Catholics	15	10	25	60	40	100
	Total	483	422	1123	55.54	44.46	100



The population of Danu Nagar is estimated according to the government school is around 1,123. Among them Hindus number 634 in all. Muslims number 335, Sudgad Siddru come next with the population of 129, and then come the catholics who are just 25 in all. Almost 95% live in the village except Sudgad Siddru who migrate seasonally sometimes for months together to different places in search of good salary. People here are working as daily labourers, auto drivers, private firm workers, milk men etc.

Conclusion

"Sudgad Siddru" meaning those who live in cemeteries and who monitor the burning of the dead bodies or burying the bodies. But these people never took that profession nor did their an-

cestors. They were simply nick named by the local people of Dharwad with this name when they arrived here around 50 to 60 years ago from Andhra Pradesh. This name implies that they belong to lower caste and they are to be kept separately.

When the Sudgad Siddru came to Karnataka, they settled down in many districts of Karnataka. But the chief among them are Dharwad and Belgaum Districts. They mainly came to beg and live. They were the people who used to dress like a sadhu beggar and go on begging. Some were also telling the future (Jataka). They also cleaned the ears and eyes of people, going on foot from one village to the other by using their own instruments. They are in piranvadi which is bordering the Belgaum city. They are found in big number in Dharwad District and mainly in and around Dharwad city. They are in Siddeshwara Nagar, Danu Nagar, Anjaneya Nagar of Kelgeri Road, Siddeshwar Nagar beside Gandhi Nagar.

Sudgad Siddru have been recognized by the government in the category of Scheduled tribe and it is trying to improve their living conditions. All Sudgad Siddru, except in Danu Nagar, have occupied good posts and even gone in to government jobs and police jobs, with the help of education, and have improved their standard of living in a substantial manner, but only this patch of Sudgad Siddru in Danu Nagar have remained without any improvement in life nor marching towards better living. This is because of their unemployment and excessive drinking and laziness to study.

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