

A Study of Mental Health Status and Quality of Life among the Adolescents in the Slum Areas of Kharagpur City, West Bengal

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Abstract: The development of slums in urban areas is decaying the metropolitan scene and making natural emergency through spreading of sicknesses, weakness, lack of healthy sustenance and making the city a focal point of violations and different disasters. The issue of ghettos development isn't just perceived in the metropolitan or million urban areas yet additionally in the creating class I urban communities like Kharagpur. Kharagpur city is the fourth biggest city and the fifth most populated city of West Bengal with an all-out populace of 2,93,719 (2011) registration in south-western part of Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal. The goal of the current review is to investigate the instructive status of the slum occupants of Kharagpur city. Instruction is straight forwardly related with pay and financial circumstances. The slums inhabitants are experiencing lack of education and obliviousness. This study depends on Primary information gathered from 9 slums which remembered 151 adolescents from Kharagpur city. Optional information was gathered from the Kharagpur Municipality Office, Meteorological Department Kolkata, Survey of India Kolkata, D.M. office of West Medinipur, Census Handbook and District Statistical Handbook and so on. The extreme populace development rate, poverty, illiteracy, absence of accessibility of appropriate supplements are the essential disadvantages among the adolescents living in slums regions. Work potential open doors, extension of social training, tidiness, sporting offices must be embraced for slums improvement and bettering the prosperity of the slums tenants in the city.

Keywords: *Mental Health Status, Quality of life, Education, Slums, Kharagpur City.*

INTRODUCTION

The quick development of urbanization in India has gotten its wake, a few issues. Slums are one of them which have turned into a danger to the metropolitan climate. Ghettos are the statements of the way of life of poverty" and falling apart peculiarities of vagrant settlements. The issue of slums development isn't just perceived in the metropolitan or million urban communities yet in addition in the creating class I urban communities like Kharagpur. The word "SLUM" went into English utilization somewhere near 1812 in Veuxs Flash Dictionary. The main conspicuous utilization of the term is by all accounts come from "Shaw" 1898 when he made "Slum Land-Lordism" the subject of his play "Widower's Houses". Ghettos was characterized as "a road, rear entryway, court and so on arranged in a jam-packed locale of a town or city and possessed by individuals of low pay class or by the extremely poor, some of these roads and courts framing a thickly populated neighborhood of a terrible and pitiable character".

The business and instructive open doors have drawn in the encompassing provincial populace which in term make intense issue in private clogs. Other than the engulfment of country regions in the city periphery by partnership and the flood of uprooted people from Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as movement from Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa have every once in a while, poured an overabundance measure of populace into the city. This populace accumulation has made the issues of deficient lodging and inadequate public conveniences. The expanded congestion in the city has brought about slums. These slums have arisen like mushrooms in and around Kharagpur city, presently being 297 in number. Destitution and chronic sickness of the slum's tenants, random structure of hovels and houses are to a great extent liable for the miserable situation

in these regions. These pockets have now turned into a danger to entire of the metropolitan local area of Kharagpur.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bansal, K. (1961) studied the “mental health level of the school students of Guwahati city. He had made a comparison between the preschool and high school children educational level.” Das (1963) “conducted an educational survey of the Dasnagar slum areas which came into existence during the industrialization process due to the migration of the rural areas. Bansal Richa (1992) studied the “Educational Status in Slums of Bhilai and Raipur”. Sharma Manju (2013) studied the “Educational level of the adolescents living in the slum areas of Kurukshetra City”. A Household Survey was conducted by Halder Somenath (2013) to “study the slum children educational level in English Bazar Town, Maldah District, West Bengal”. Mohd, Kaish (2014) studied the “Challenges of the slum dwellers related to education in the Slums of Aligarh city”. Subbaiah, R. (2015) studied the “Slums and urban community development giving emphasis on education: A study of slum students of non- industrial town”. Reddy Jayarami (2017) carried out a study of the “Educational status of the of the adolescents living in the slum areas in Hyderabad City”. Ramalingam (2018) give emphasis on “the educational problems related to a poor level of income in the slums dwellers in Aurangabad”. Ghosh, M. (2000) studied the “Socio economic status of the Muslim slum dwellers – a case study of Kharagpur city, West Bengal”. Ghosh, M., & Bhardwaj, A., (2000) studied the “Educational Status of the Slum Dwellers: Kharagpur City”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of the present study is to analyze in details the Mental health status and quality of life among the adolescents living in the slum areas of Kharagpur city. Attempt has been made to compare the mental status of the high school students between Tribal, Oriya, Telugu, Muslim, Hindu slum dwellers who have migrated to the city from different socio-cultural background. Also, to evaluate the slum development policies and programs run by the government for the development in the educational level in the slum areas.

HYPOTHESES

The assumptions in terms of research hypotheses are as follows.

1. Mental health status is directly related with income and socio-economic conditions.
2. 10-18 years students are suffering from lack of poverty & proper education

STUDY REGION

Kharagpur is fourth largest city of West Bengal in area after Kolkata, Durgapur and Asansol and the fifth most populated city of West Bengal, located at 22°17'30"N - 22°30'N latitudes and 87°15'E - 87°22'0E longitudes, covering an area of about 127 square km located in south – western part of Paschim Medinipur district. It has an average elevation of 29 meters. It is the most populated city of Paschim Medinipur district. Kharagpur municipality with a total population of 2,93,719 of which male and female are 1,47,103 and 1,46,616 as per as census 2011 is divided into total 35 municipal wards. With diversified functions, it is a fast-developing city.

SOURCES OF DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The study is based on Primary data collected through interview, schedule from 9 slums of Kharagpur city. The sample slums are selected purposely from Commercial, Railway, Industrial areas, Water bodies, Roadways and from the Fringe areas. Pretested schedule was filled up by the interview of the head of the family. Keen observations were made to identify their socio- economic status and problems. Schedule comprises questions regarding the (10-19) years students

their mental health status and quality of life.

Secondary data was collected from the Kharagpur Municipality Office, Agriculture Department & Meteorological Department Kolkata, Survey of India Kolkata, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata, D.M office of West Medinipur, Census Handbook, and District Statistical Handbook etc.

PROCESSING OF DATA:

The data and information have been tabulated and processed and analyzed using computer and various statistical methods like percentage, correlation and “t” Test etc. The data have been represented with the help of suitable maps and diagrams.

THE SAMPLE SLUMS

In view of these 9 numbers of slums selected purposely for comparative study. Bibekanandpally and the Water Tank are inhabited by the Hindu immigrants, 96 Basti, Wagon Shop Basti are inhabited by the Muslim immigrants, Potter Kholly, Boding Basti, Ramnabmai Basti, Dhobighat West, Raji Basti, are inhabited both by the Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jain immigrants. The below table gives a view of the sample slums. 96 Basti, Wagon Shop Basti and Potter Kholly lies along the Railways, Boding Basti along the C.B.D. and the Roadways, Bibekanandpally and the Water Tank lies along the Industrial areas and the remaining Ramnabmai Basti, Dhobighat West, Raji Basti lies along the Fringe areas.

POPULATION OF THE SAMPLE SLUMS

The sample size of surveyed area is 151. Among the total population of the adolescents of these sample is 151 in which 91 are males and 61 are females.

DISCUSSION

Education is a powerful instrument for the development of any nation, society or region. It is more essential for eradicating the poverty and create a peaceful and friendly environment. Education level is one of the major important indicators of any society level of educational change the human beings and improve the quality-of-life style. Knowledge can make smart thinking of any field of development. Literacy also represents the enteral advancement of any region or society. Based on the educational status of 151 number of adolescents the rate of illiterate is more than literate 57.17% male and 48.08% of female are found to be illiterate. The educational level of the primary school (25.06 % male and 26.14% of female) is found comparatively high than middle school (20.46 % male and 21.31 % of female), secondary level (14.07 % male and 14.2 % of female), higher secondary level (12.27 % male, 12.78 % of female), U.G. level (8.95 % male and 7.39 % of female) and P.G. level (3.84 % male and 2.84 % of female).

CONCLUSION

In the concluding part it said that the Education is the main asset for the mental health status and quality of life. It has been found that among the families of the adolescents, the percentage rate of very low income family (below 5000) is maximum 39.09%. When the income level rises the education level of the 10-19 years students will also rises. The average monthly income and the mental health status of the adolescents showing positive correlation 0.63. During the study of the slum areas it is been clearly seen that out of their total income of the adolescent families more than half part it is been spent in the consumption of food items, health and sanitation. The government facilitated compulsory and free education up to 8th standards. The drop out case is maximum because of the poverty. Male becomes rickshaw pullers, drivers, workers and laborers and the female gets early married. Recreational facilities,

Anganbadi, School should be built for the social welfare in the slum areas.

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