

THE CHALLENGE OF SLUM DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA A CASE STUDY OF MELATALA-DASNAGAR SLUM AREA OF HOWRAH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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ABSTRACT:

Developing countries like India presently suffer to the enormous growth of urbanization. And the urbanized area similarly carried the problem of slum. Presently, Indian Population is 1/6th of the world population. Accelerating urbanization is forcefully effecting the transformation of Indian society. Slightly more than 28 percent of the country's population is urbanized, but unfortunately 21.68 percent (61.8 million) of the urban population live in slum area. As per Last NBO report total housing shortage was 19.4 million units. In urban are the shortage is 6.6 million unit and 90% of these shortage hits poor and LIG people. It's become a very common urban scenario that thousands of dwellings made of straw, mud, tin, and cardboard are squeezed into areas of a small city block. In these cramped dwellings, often only an arm-span in width, entire families live without running water, electricity. Few have beds; they sleep on scraps of cloth padding on the dirty floor. Rapid growth of industrialization creates enormous employment opportunity. It attracts the lower income peoples and the unskilled labours from the rural area. The high rate of migration from rural area to the urban sector formulated slum area, because these men are unskilled labours to industries.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY:

Melatala- Dasnagar slum area which is situated in the Ward no. 22 and 49 of Howrah Municipal Corporation is a highly constructed slum area. The slum is located in the site of Dasnagar railway station and railway line. Dasnagar is well known for the man 'Alamon Das'. Peoples called he was the founder of Dasnagar. If we search the history of Dasnagar, we found this area covered with forest, and Martine railway passed through this area. But after founded some industry its

characteristic was changed. Dasnagar, which is generally known for the small and medium iron based industry. Thus Dasnagar is also called the 'Sheffield of India'. In the period between 1960 to 1970 the three big industries named 'Arati Cotton Mills', 'Indian Machinery' and 'Bharat Jute Mills' are established in Dasnagar. It attracts many small industries and peoples from different parts of Howrah and West Bengal. The rapid growth of industrialization conducts the migration from rural area in such urban and industrial jobs. It lets to

slum formation, because these peoples are unskilled labours to industry.

By the interview of secretary, of 'Basti Unayan Parishad' and councilor of ward no. 22 I known that, the slum of 'Melatala-Dasnagar' was developed around 1970. It was a vacant land of railway. That's why the poor person who has no money to buy a proper land came here to establish a new colony. Most of the peoples came here for employment opportunity, which was created by the rapid growth of industrialization. The industrial atmosphere was a vibrant one. After the industrial collapsed (Indian Machinery), economic condition of the area was badly changed. Most of the peoples who are unskilled lost their jobs, thus peoples are gather in the slum area and founded a clustered congested slum area.



Fig-1: A Image of Slum

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- #. To focus on the physical condition of the slum scenario and many problems of the slum related to this location.
- #. To understand the living condition of the slum dwellers and their perception of urban amenities.
- #. To assess the socio-economic and cultural profile of the inhabitants, and find out the interrelationship between slum-dwellers

economical condition with mainstream urban economy.

#. To find out the policies and measures taken by the local bodies for its development and their attitudes towards development also taken into consideration.

#. To understand the reasons why many unsocial activities are conducted in the slum area what is the perception of local peoples on it.

METHODOLOGY:

The total 6491 slum population lived in the ward no 22. And 1365 population lived in 275 household in the Melatala slum area. This is one area of ward no. 22 of H.M.C. the slum area is situated near the Dasnagar railway station. Most of the peoples of the slum area are Bengali. The peoples are migrated from the rural part of Haora, Hooghly, and Medinipur. By the interviews I knew that the slum area is developed in the 1970. I surveyed 20% house hold of the total Melatala-Dasnagar slum area. I am surveyed 296 persons who lived in 54 household.

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE SLUM AREA:

Observation about the surveyed area(54 Household) :

The Melatala-Dasnagar slum area which is under the Ward no. 22 consist 1365population in 275 household. I surveyed 20% house hold of the total Melatala slum area. I am surveyed 296 persons who lived in 54 household.

Sources of data and key variables :

Major sources of the secondary data use to analyze the study are from hard and soft copy of Census of India 2001, publication in books, journals website were taken into consideration for the analysis. The primary data related to the Melatala-Dasnagar slum area collected by field survey and interview. The key variables of the studies are related to different development issues undertaken by the govt. and local bodies.

Method of data collection :

The data has been collected through the method of structured questionnaire. Some information also has been collected through informal and formal discussion with the respondent in face-to-face situation and through observation by home visit to assess their opinion and levels of awareness.

Sampling procedure:

My research is based on non-probability random sampling. In this sampling we have to choose household randomly. In the area most people's economical condition are same. Since I have studied on the slum area and developed issues, I have adapted this random sampling of my survey.

RESULTS:

Category of Population :

I have developed a questionnaire which consisting both close ended and open questions. A close ended question is one, in which is presented with a range of alternative answer to the question and ask to choose the most appropriate one. Whereas ended question response categories are not specified and respondents are liberty to formulate a reply as their wishes. The method of face-to-face interview was also adapted for collecting data.

Table-1: No. of Household and Population of ward no. 22 and surveyed area

S.L. No.	Area	Household	Persons	Males	Females
1.	Ward No. 22	1341	6491	3533	2958
2.	Surveyed area- Melatata	54	296	136	160

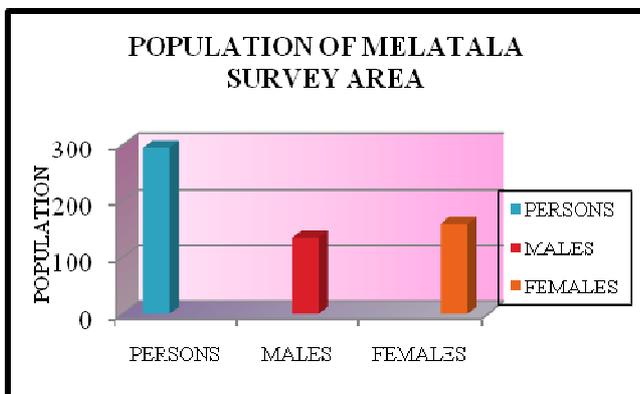


Fig-2: No of Population

Table-2: Population Category of surveyed area- Melatala, Dasnagar

Population Category	General	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	O.B.C
Population	148	130	6	12
% of population	50	44	1.8	3.7

Source: Primary Survey.

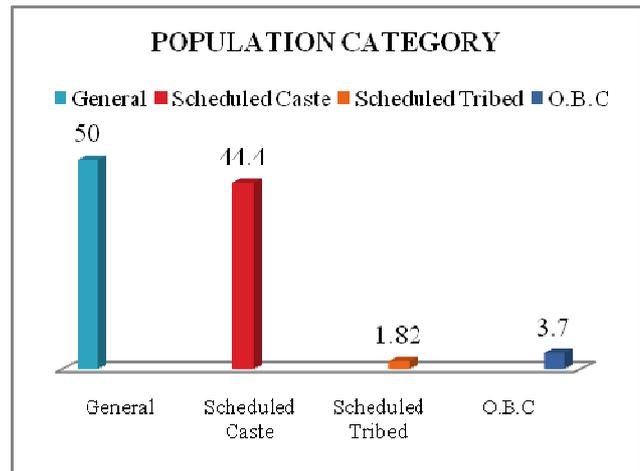


Fig-3: Population Category of surveyed area-Melatala, Dasnagar

Most of the people of the survey area are general. In 296 populations 148 or 50% are under the general category. 44% are Scheduled Caste and 4% O.B.C. only 6 people or 2% are scheduled Tribe lived in the survey area.

Migration from Rural Area:

This slum area is developed due to the migration of peoples from rural area. The characteristics of this slum show that most of the people who established first here, came different rural parts of Haora districts, e.g. Amta, jujarsha, Jhikira, Domjur etc. But in recent migration trend is change, now peoples of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and U.P came to gather this slum area. Thus this slum area increases his boundary.

Unskilled Labours:

The peoples of this slum came from rural area for better economical condition and livelihood. But they had no proper educational or technical

eligibilities to work an industrial labour. Till now the human resources of this area is not generated and most of peoples are unskilled. These unskilled labours are not suitable in different industries. So they have to work as a lower division labour or thika labour. For economical instability children are also forced to go to different kind of work. Because the slum is situated in the industrial area most of peoples work in the different small and medium industry.

Table-3: Unskilled labour of surveyed area-Melatala, Dasnagar

Occupation	Industrial Worker	House Servant	Household Industrial Worker	Marginal worker	Other worker
% of Workers	70%	08%	03%	06%	11%

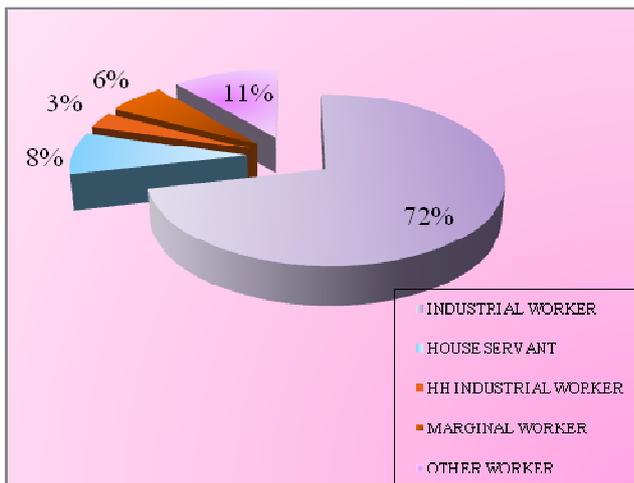


Fig-4: Unskilled labour of surveyed area-Melatala, Dasnagar

Informalization of labour:

After 1990's Haora industrial area faced a big industrial collapsed. Dasnagar industrial area also faced several problems. Among three big industries, one factory named 'Indian Machinery' completely shut down and other two factories become sick. As a results of industrial decline in the urban area informalization of occupation take place. Thus peoples who worked in the industries forced to move in different kind of informal sectors.

Table-4: Formal and Informal workers of surveyed area-Melatala, Dasnagar

FORMAL SECTOR		INFORMAL SECTOR	
MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
17	03	57	19

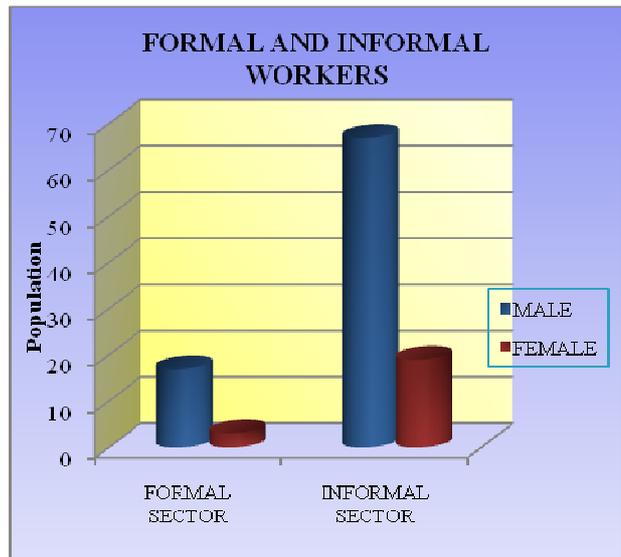


Fig-5: Formal and Informal workers of surveyed area-Melatala, Dasnagar

Unemployment:

The slum area is faced a crucial economical back drop. The uneducated and unskilled people have no job. For the industrial breakdown the opportunity of employment of this area is sinking. Under the '100 working days programme' some people get work. The West Bengal Govn. And H.M.C organized some programmes under K.U.S.P plan, which gives some opportunity of employment. But most of the peoples are unemployed and jobless.

Availability of Urban Amenities:

Housing:

The slum of Melatala-Dasnagar area is on the land under railway, which means contract for temporary possession. As per High Court order, they cannot build permanent roof. The slum dwellers are occupying their land illegally. For the economical condition and above mentions reasons, most of the houses are concreted. For development

of railway line of South-Eastern railway, western part of the slum area is abandoned. Thus most people of this area were homeless. Now new houses are constructed under the observation of 'Basti Unayan Parishad'.

Transport:

The slum area is well connected with Road and Railway. The Howrah-Amra road is passed beside the slum. By the Dasnagar station of South-Eastern railway this slum is connected all over Haora. Under KUSP project a well new road is constructing by brick.

Water supply :



Fig-6: A Image of Water Supply

The water supply system in the total slum area is more or less good. Water from 'Padra Pukur Pumping Station' supplied here 3 times in a day. Beside this, deep tube well for underground water has also provided. 'Basti Unayan Parishad' and councilor of ward no. 22 jointly constructed 10 new time tap.

Health care service:

Various health programmes is running in the area like – immunization, DOT centre, maternity programme, Polio programme etc. But no instant medical facilities are in there. For major problem, peoples have to go 'Howrah Hospital' which is located 5 km. away.

Education:

Numbers of school, college are located around Melatala-Dasnagar slum area. Chapala Debi Balika Bidyalaya, Netaji School for Boys, Netaji School for Girls, Rajlakhri School etc is situated near the slum area. One college named Narashingra Dattra College is also located 2 km. away. But the educational qualities of the peoples are not so good. Many of the peoples are illiterates. The average monthly expenditure is very low, between Rs. 2000-5000. Economical instability of family forced to drop-out to school. Primary survey conduct 54 children are drop-out within 5years. The other social and cultural reason also effect on the educational situation of the slum area.

Table-5: Literacy rate of ward no. 22 and surveyed area- Melatala, Dasnagar

S.L No.	Ward/Area	Persons	Male	Female
1.	Ward no. 22	100%	59.68	40.68
2.	Melatala- Dasnagar slum area	100%	66.43	33.56

Sewerage facilities:

The sewerage system of the slum area is not sufficient in everywhere. Most of the slum area has open drainage system. The drains are very much dirty, unhygienic and undeletable which need renovations. The sewerage system of this area is needed to improve.

Sanitation facilities:

The sanitation facility of this area is not too good. The open ground and railway tract is used to sanitation works. But now, under the 'Indira Abashan Programme' 'Basti Unayan Parishad' construct 17 common latrines. Temporary it solves the problem, but its need to be improve.

Urban Crime to slum is Related:

Peoples called "Slum" are a black spot and often an unwanted component in urban civilization. For economical backdrop unsocial activities are generally conduct by the some slum peoples. In the Melatala-Dasnagar slum area many unsocial activities are to be held. The most vibrant problem

is unsocial alcoholic business. Also the other problems like Murder, Theft, and Extortion is organized here. Recently new migration from Bihar, Jharkhand increase the unsocial activities of the slum area. The peoples are not the slum dwellers, they are outsider. They conduct unsocial activities and covered them into the slum area. For better economical and urban facilities the young generation of the slum area also moved towards the specific path.

CONCLUSION:

Slum formation is closely linked to economic cycles, trends in national income distribution, and in more recent years, to national economic development policies. The U.N. report finds that the cyclical nature of capitalism, increased demand for skilled versus unskilled labour, and the negative effects of globalization – in particular, global economic booms and busts that ratchet up inequality and distribute new wealth unevenly – contribute to the enormous growth of slums. The issue of slum habitation has often been resolved via a simple policy of clearance, however more creative solutions are emerge such as Nairobi’s “Camp of Fire” program. Where established slum-dwellers have promised to build proper houses, school, and community center without any government money, in return for land they have been illegally squatting on for 30 years. The “Camp of Fire” program is one of many similar projects initiated by Slum Dwellers International, which has programs in Africa, Asia, South America. But it is not suitable for India. The development of the slums cannot done with the proper cooperation of slum dwellers. To develop the slum area we have to increase awareness in respects of proper education, family planning, human rights, girl’s education, health care, HIV etc.

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