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Socio-Economic Aspects of Slum Dwellers in Karachi - A Case Study of 14 Slums in District Malir

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Abstract
Karachi is one of most populated cities in the world. Like every other most populated cities of developing world, slums are the major part of Karachi's population contributing almost 50 percent of the city's population. So, for the wellbeing and development of a city like Karachi, study of slums in the city and their wellbeing is of utmost importance. Slums in Karachi are widely spread throughout the city making it really difficult for the researchers to study the slum problems. This study is an exclusive attempt to study the socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers in Karachi. 14 slums from Malir district of Karachi were considered for this study as Malir district comprises of almost 15-20 percent of the total slums in Karachi. Major factors assumed and considered for finding socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers included gender, marital status, occupation, education level of household head, monthly income of household, household size and room occupancy and duration of their residence and status in a particular locality. At the end, policy recommendations were developed to improve the overall living conditions and socio-economic well being of the slum dwellers.
Keywords: key words, orkforce sizing, job-shop production, holonic model

1. Introduction

Urbanization brought a great shift from agricultural to industrial development after 2001 all over the world and particularly in Pakistan, and it attracted many people to migrate from deprived areas to Karachi along with flood playing a vital role to increase the pace of migration specially from interior Sindh, southern Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtun Khuwa to big cities especially Karachi, these migrants were settled in fringes of Karachi towards east, west and north. As being the most populous city and economics hub of country, Karachi is facing a great challenge of housing backlog. Today Pakistan is facing a shortage of low cost housing of about 4.5 million residential unit with annual addition of 150, 000 units (Ministry of Climate Change GOP, 2015). According to unofficial estimates, there are 702 katchi abadis(Slums) in six districts of Karachi, where 557 of these slums with 415,000 housing units are identified to be regularized in future (Director General SKAA, 2013). Due to the significant lag among demand and supply of affordable housing for urban poor, inhabitants are forced to live in slums and informal settlements. Slums develop primarily as illegal invasion built in low laying area, for example beside water ways, natural drain, nearby the work locations within fringes of low-cost dwellings (Arif & Hamid, 2009), because the safety and rights of land owners are not being protected by law enforcement authorities highlighting poor urban governance. On the other hand slums are characterized by migrants from rural to urban centers, seeking better economic opportunities and social environment due to anticipated better opportunities at mega cities. Slum formation is not only specified to urbanization, several researchers had disagreed that its apart from urbanization, but several other factors are also lay behind slum formation which include inadequate and ineffective provision of public service facilities, poverty, and poor urban management (Chandrasekhar, 2005). Slums and deprived neighborhoods can be regarded as shadow of cities, and dominant vicinities with high delinquency, social breakdown where residents violate laws and the regulations (Gazdar & Mallah, 2013). House rent in slums is observed relatively lower as compared to other planned neighborhoods, due to lack of services, poor household and neighborhood environment, which attracts migrants to initially settle in slum and manage resources (Hasan, 1992).

The varieties of definitions possess a challenge for both policy makers and researchers while trying to measure slums. Particular for an apt identification of slums, criteria adopted by Chandramouli, (2003) can be useful to justify slums as a neighborhood with dilapidated housing structures, high rate of room occupancy, poorly oriented and ventilated structures, highly density, narrow streets, scarcity of safe and affordable drinking water, open water dumping, street water logging during rain and sludge, and inadequate and ineffective basic public services (Chandramouli, 2003). The living and environmental conditions in deprived urban neighborhoods are habitually unhygienic due to lack of water and sanitation services, which is causing serious harm to health and living condition of dwellers.

Nickel & Eikenberry, (2010) highlighted the relationship between health policies, slums dwellers and environment, whereas World Health Organization (WHO) characterized health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (Nickel & Eikenberry, 2010). Such condition is affected by several factors such as the genetic, social and emotional factors, as well as natural and built environment. Accordingly to the concerned, such health condition should consider various factors, like

financial affairs, development objectives and strategies, and general social structures, beliefs and value structures in communities. This study is significantly conforming to the agenda of identification and solving problems arising out of globalized and urbanized modern world. Studying the socio-economic volatility of slum dwellers is one of such extremely important topics of the research today. Poverty alleviation governs the 21st century International Development Agenda, as well as one of the primary targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) is to improve health and living conditions of slum dwellers on priority basis, all around the globe (UNDESA, 2015).

Importance of informal sector could not be ignored while explaining the facts of urban poverty, in developing countries huge urban population used to be absorbed by Informal sectors (Jatoo, Fu, Saengkrod, & Mastoi, 2016). Hence informal sectors are dominant parts of an urban area or a city, which accommodate a huge amount of workers, who are consistently becoming the part of an urban population because of rapid increase in rural-urban migration, reclassification of areas, and urban population growth. In past two decades absorption of the labor in informal sectors of economy increased from 60.2 percent in 1999 to 66.1 percent in 2006 in urban areas of Pakistan (Awan & Nasir, 2010).

Slums and informal settlement are so persistent in Karachi that currently they outnumbered legal planned developments, where social authorities appear to be ignoring the problems and appalling environmental conditions. In consideration to the above discussion, this study examines the socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers in Karachi which is a quintessence of slums and been deprived proper urban.

2. Study Area

For the wellbeing and development of a city like Karachi, study of slums in the city and their wellbeing is of utmost importance. Slums in Karachi are widely spread throughout the city making it really difficult for the researchers to study the slum problems. This study is an exclusive attempt to study the socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers in Karachi. Researcher selected slums in district Malir as study area to give an overview of socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers in whole Karachi. Malir district contributes almost 10-15 percent of the slums in Karachi according to official statistics. Total number of slums in district Malir is more than 40 but those slums will be considered whose data is available and easily accessible. So this research will be conducted on fourteen slums in Malir and names of these slums are Green Town, Madina Market, Pak Millat Colony, Darsunna Channa, Kalu Goth, Morio Khan Goth, Mohabbat Nagar, Muslim Town, Muslimabad D and D-1 Area, Hassan Noman Colony, Muhammad Khan Junejo, Machar Colony, Dawood Village and Mohammadi Colony. It was considered convenient and effective to consider the Malir district in order to undertake the study in the fourteen slums because currently slums are being formed in east, west and north of Karachi (Hasan & Mohib, 2002), whereas east and north of Karachi comprises of Malir district only. Three settlements among the selected slums i.e. Hassan Noman colony, Muhammad Khan Junejo, Machar colony are notified to be regularizez during 2011 and 2012, it also shows that at present, state of slum formation in Karachi is towards Malir District. The settlements also have different social dynamics which provided an opportunity to achieve the aim of the study.

3. Methodology

This study mainly focuses on socio-economic aspects of slum dwellers in district Malir Karachi. The study employed the use of several sets of instruments which included a questionnaire and focused group discussions, which provided the primary data and gives a set of options to the respondents as well as following recognized theories and methods used by previous studies (textbooks, journals, statutes, census reports), while document analysis was used to gather secondary data. For this study cluster random sampling and systematic random sampling approach will be adopted.

The cluster random sampling is used to select slums having 400 households for the survey. The households were then selected through systematic random sampling, which will cover 2 percent of total population as shown in Table 1, whereas to avoid variation in household size of slums the average household size 5.5 of Malir is been adopted from(Pakistan Bureau of Statistics GOP, 2013). Through the utilization of randomization this sampling technique guaranteed that every household in selected and all the slums had an equal opportunity for selection. It also assured of the absence of both systematic and sampling bias ensuring that the sample was representative of the entire population. According to the required household information, household head was taken as respondent to avoid conflicts.

Table 1: Sample Size Distribution

Sr. No	Katchi Abadi (Slum)	Population	House Holds	Sample Size
1	Green Town	28000	4100	121
2	Madina Market	8000	600	18
3	Pak Millat Colony	3000	450	13
4	Darsunna Channa	5250	780	23
5	Kalu Goth	3100	443	13
6	Morio Khan Goth	5200	750	22
7	Mohabbat Nagar	3000	428	12
8	Muslim Town	3150	450	13
9	Muslimabad D&D-1 Area	3122	446	13
10	H.N Colony	7000	1000	30
11	M.Khan Junejo	8000	975	29
12	Machar Colony	9000	1500	44
13	Dawood Village	5300	760	22
14	Muhammadi Col	3150	450	13
	Total	94272	13132	388

Source: Compiled by author from (Director General SKAA, 2013)

4. Findings of the study

In consideration to the aim of study, different socio-economic variables are considered to examine socio-economic aspects of slum dweller in district Malir Karachi, which highlights gender, marital status, occupation, education level of household head, households monthly income, household size and room occupancy, and duration of their stay in a particular locality.

4.1 Gender, Age, Marital Status and Education Level of Respondents

Gender of respondents indicates that, actual sample size of respondents was consisting of 400 out of it 236 (59%) were male respondents, whereas remaining 164 (41%) were observed females as shown in Table 2. This ratio of gender shows that the male dominancy is much higher as compared to female counterparts.

Based on this study, most of the respondents are of more than 25 years of age, who can be considered as elder ones having information required for studies. In other hand it can be expressed that respondents above 25 years were recorded 91.7% of the total, among which 24.6% lays in the bracket of 26-35 years, 35.8% lays in the bracket of 36-45 years, 25.3 % lays in the bracket of 46-60, and 6% were above 60 years, whereas remaining 8.3 % respondents were from the age of 15-25 years, as illustrated in Table 2. It reflects that majority of respondents of slums are of working age.

As indicated in Table 2, majority of the respondents are observed as married which constitutes 81.7% of total, where as 12.8% of the respondents were single and remaining 5.5 % were divorced/widow. In order to achieve objective of study household head was targeted to respond, to get most accurate information related to the studies, hence it was achieved as the response rate of married person with 82%.

In this section household head was considered as a person who mainly bears the major responsibilities for managing the need, necessities, and other household affairs. Education level of Household reveals that, 40.5% of them are noted uneducated, 22.5% had primary education, 17.5% had secondary education, 9.3% had higher secondary education, and 10.3% had Bachelor or above as illustrated in Table 2. It reflects that majority of household head are observed uneducated, which may affect the economic and social conditions of a household.

Table 2: Gender, Age Marital, Status and Education Level of Respondents

Indicator	Response	Percentage
Gender of Respondents	Male	59%
	Female	41%
Age of Respondents	15-25 years	8.3%
	26-35 years	24.6%
	36-45 years	35.8%
	45-60 years	25.3%
	above years	6%
Marital Status of Respondents	Single	12.8%
	Married	81.7%
	Widowed/Divorced	5.5%
Education Level of Household Head	Uneducated	44.2%
	Primary	24.4%
	Secondary	16%
	Higher Secondary/FSC	5.7%
	Bachelor or above	9.7%

Source: Author's field survey (2016).

4.2 Occupation of Household's Head and Monthly Income of Household

This section analyzes the regular and irregular employment, as analyzed in gender 41% of respondents were female out of that 24% are serving as house wife which comprise 58.5% of total female respondents. Where respondents works on daily wage have share of 1.1%, proportion of labor is 12.3%, respondents working in public and private sector as (clerk, head clerk, salesman etc) shares 18%, proportion of respondents doing own business is observed 20%, and in last 25% of the respondents are observed unemployed, as illustrated in second row of table. Results reflects that almost every 1 person among 4 is unemployed and 13% of irregular employments, directly effects the living standards and further highlights poverty in slums.

Households monthly income as illustrated in third row of Table 3, indicates 33.5% of the household income lies in bracket 0f 15,001–25,000 Pakistani Rupees (PKR), 33.4% earns 8,000- 15,000 PKR, 17.4 % earns 25,001-30,000 PKR, 12.7% earns more than 30,000 PKR, and in last only 3% earns less than 8000 PKR which shows that only 3% of respondents are living below poverty line. Whereas 69.9% earns bellow 25,000 PKR, in which slum dwellers can only survive statement was observed while group discussion. So it can be assumed here that monthly income of majority of households is not enough to fulfill needs of the family, and makes slums as vulnerable to various criminal activities as well as major cause of poverty.

Table 3: Occupation of Household Head and Household's Monthly Income

Indicator	Response	Percentage
Occupation of Respondents	House wife	24%
	Daily wages	1.1%
	Labor	12.3%
	Job (public/private)	18%
	Own business	19.8%
	Unemployed	24.8%
Households Monthly Income	< 8,000 PKR	3%
	8,000-15,000 PKR	33.4%
	15,001-25,000 PKR	33.5%
	25,001=30,000 PKR	17.4%
	>30,000 PKR	12.7%

Source: Author's field survey (2016).

4.3 Households Size, Rooms Occupancy and Socially Embedded in Locality.

Findings if this sub section reveals that average household size is obtained as 7.7 persons per dwelling unit, and indicates the vulnerability of household environmental condition. Whereas on other hand room occupancy indicates that average rate of room occupancy is noted as 2.54 persons per room, and it can be considered as high but not vulnerable as shown in Table 4.These environmental conditions of households may effect on both health and living conditions of slum dwellers, in consideration to the rate of persons sharing one room, which be a factor in spreading diseases such as, diarrhea and tuberculosis.

While analyzing in broader sense that how much households are socially embedded in current locality, it is analyzed that 49.9% are living in current locality since more than 30 years, 17.2% since more than 20 years, 15.1% since more than 10 years, 5.3% since more than 5 years, and 12.6% are living in current locality since less

than 5 years. It reflects that residents can be assumed as matured settlers as the share of 82.1% are living in current locality since more than 10 years.

Table 4. Households Size, Room Occupancy and Socially Embedded In Locality

Indicator	Response	Results
Household Size	Average no of persons per dwelling unit	7.69
Room Occupancy	Average no of persons sharing a room	2.54
Living in current locality since	<5 years	12.6%
	5-10 years	5.3%
	10-20 years	15.1%
	20-30 years	17.2%
	>30 years	49.9%

Source: Author's field survey (2016)

5. Conclusion

Socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers are in vulnerable state, due to inadequate and insufficient public services where most of the slum dwellers spend 40-50% of monthly income on acquiring education, health and drinking water from private vendors. So on priority basis the special attention is needed in provision and improvement of public service delivery in deprived urban neighborhoods.

6. Recommendations

Identified socio-economic attributes of slums dwellers in district Malir Karachi should not be ignored, and following are the policy recommendations for socio-economic development and well being of slum dwellers.

- Government should develop cooperation with slum dwellers, through establishing vocational training centers within all slums to enhance labor force and to generate economic and employment opportunities.
- Health prevention programs against communicable diseases, including Diarrhea, Malaria, HIV/AID's etc must be vigorously encouraged. Primary health care must be facilitated in order to provide much needed proper attention on the health of women and family planning.
- Measures ought to be taken to improve the standard and quality of education with an emphasis on elementary and primary education.
- Involve Non-Governmental Organization's and Community Based Organization's to promote and convince urban poor specially females in slums about necessity of female education for the development and well being of a family.
- Government should improve the accessibility and quality of water supply and sanitation services, in descending order with respect to importance, through a combination of demand management, improved service efficiency, and capital investment to improve and upgrade the service in slums and deprived urban neighborhoods.
- Last but not least: small cities should be developed to provide economic opportunities and mitigate rural urban migration.

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