



CHAPTER - V

SLUMS AND THEIR PROBLEMS

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SLUMS AND THEIR PROBLEMS

INTRODUCTORY :

As the definition of the slum itself shows that it is a sub-standard area in any given city. From this point of view the "slums" and their increasing size and number is a basic problem of modern cities. In a welfare State and under the accepted policy of planned development, the very existence of slum is unjustifiable. However, with rapidly increasing populations, industrialization and urbanization, it is only a distant dream to think of abolishing the slums from the cities. Now a days, instead of thinking in terms of abolishing slums, the persons in authority and power are more concerned with the improvement of slums.

If we concentrate our attention on slums keeping aside the total urban community we can deal with their various inter-related problems in an analytical way. However, it should be kept in mind at the outset that the basic problem is of acute poverty and the other problems are more or less only the results of this basic phenomenon. Thus migration, poor housing, lack of sanitation, alcoholism, indebtedness etc. are all the outcomes of the poverty which is the fundamental reason of the very coming into existence of slum localities.

With the above view in mind, there is an effort in the forthcoming pages to deal with some of the particular problems of the slums.

MIGRATION :

Slums are a reality of urban life and society. Every city in the world has slum, where the poor live a miserable life. One of the basic reasons for such pockets of poverty and misery is under employment and economic stress in the rural areas. The slum dwellers are largely the rural migrants who leave their farms and come to the cities in search of work. Agricultural activities are proving to be unproductive as it is difficult for a small farmer to make use of his small piece of land without good irrigation system, high yielding seeds, fertilizers, good storage systems and proper marketing facilities. To do these things he does not have the standing crop so as to pay off the earlier loan taken to purchase seeds. Sometimes the harvest is poor due to irregular rains or drought. This results in greater poverty and hence the influx of rural migrants towards the nearby urban centres.

What is true of a farmer is also true of the artisan groups in villages. With the introduction of technology, the village artisans are finding it very difficult to compete with machinery. They trek to the cities in search of work, for it is true that in city one

can get some sort of ~~an~~ employment that might fetch at least one square meal a day. With such continuous migration the slum population in most of the cities is estimated to be around 30% of total urban population.⁽¹⁾

When migrants reach the city they invariably find themselves pushed into the slums or squatter settlements. One of the reasons why the migrants find themselves in squatter settlement is that they depend upon their kins, caste people, and regional net works, seeking job but also for finding residence and for their adjustments to harsh conditions of urban living.

The extent of this rapid urbanization in India is quite impressive. Every year nearly three million new people are added to the urban centres.⁽²⁾ The problem of providing new facilities for this additional population is serious, severe and urgent.

Some of the villagers are also attracted towards the so called glitter and glamour surrounding the city life. They leave agriculture and seek service in cities.

The resource persons play a very significant role in migrants getting a job as well as shelter. These persons

(1) 'Social Welfare' - June, 1982; : Page No. 8

(2) 'Social Welfare' - June, 1982; : Page No. 17.

act as a link between rural-urban migration. Migrants in the city find mechanism through these persons in finding a job and shelter. The senior members with a comparatively longer duration of stay in the city act as resource persons to the new comers. Thus they act as intermediary between the employer or the landlord on the one hand and the new comer on the other.

The migrants at the lower and intermediate level primarily depend on the resource persons. It has been noted that migrant's socio-economic status determines his choice of locality. The migrants belonging to low socio economic status have a tendency to crowd themselves together in a close surroundings in the city. They prefer to live in the neighbourhood of other fellow migrants belonging to their areas. Physical proximity helps them to have greater interaction with the people of their native place in the city. Thus the residential proximity makes them feel at home in the city. These people derive greater psychological satisfaction in spite of the fact that the locality is dirty, house in the locality lack various facilities and amenities.

There are two types of migration, one is from village to city and another is within the city, i.e. the persons change their residence in the city itself. The following table gives some details in this context.

TABLE : 16

Reasons for migration :-

Reasons	Migrated from rural areas	Locally Migrated	Total No. of households
1. For Employment.	115	-	115 (76.6%)
2. For need of house			
1. For Separation of joint family	-	35	35 (23.4%)
2. For economic condition			
3. For low rent			
Total No. of families	115	35	150

The above table shows the details of the rural migration and local migration and causes of migration of the respondents interviewed during the survey.

It is remarkable to note that 115 out of 150 families have migrated to the city directly from rural areas. Thus, 76.6% households have left the rural houses and settled in these slums. The main reason for migration from rural to urban area is of course for employment. These poor people who come from rural area face difficulty to get cheap house in the city like Solapur, and hence prefer to live in the slum area. 23.4% families are locally migrated because of the separation of joint family and their poor economic condition. Another reason for locally migration is the low house rent in slum areas.

HOUSING CONDITIONS :

There are three important and basic needs of life. They are food, clothing and housing. The modern conception of housing is the home in which all the basic needs of family are fulfilled. However, in India a significant proportion (nearly 25%) of population in urban areas live in slums. Due to unplanned industrialization the problem of housing has become acute in urban areas.

If, by the housing problem we mean the tramped, unsanitary dwellings where people are forced to live, then this problem is perhaps as old as human history. Yet it is only since the beginning of industrial revolution that housing problem or the housing shortage has become acute. This is because, with industrialization and the consequent migration of large populations into towns and cities, there is in the words of 19th century observer, a "peculiar intensification of the bad housing conditions of the workers - a colossal increase in the rent, still greater congestion, in the separate houses and for some the impossibility of finding a place to live in at all".⁽³⁾

In India, the serious nature of housing shortage has been recognised even since pre-independence days. The present metropolitan cities are expected to get even more

(3) 'Science Today', April 1980; Page- 26.

crowded. The result would be larger slums, decreased efficiency of services and accelerated growth of social evils.

In the context of housing for the poor, it becomes necessary to reduce the overall cost of land. This can be achieved through an increase in the effective allotment of land for housing by the Government. A greater part of our success or failure in solving the problem of housing will depend upon how realistically we fix our standards for housing. Housing is a part of the infrastructure for urban development.

Generally the houses of industrial workers are made of mud walls in which there is only a single dark room, for cooking, living and sleeping. Privacy is almost non-existent in the slum hutments. Most of the houses do not possess even a single piece of furniture. The material used for constructing these houses is not of a high quality and little attention is paid towards maintenance of these houses. These houses or huts in urban areas are constructed from profit point of view and no attention is paid to the health and other amenities. They are constructed in small sizes. The labourers and other people have to live in those unhealthy houses due to poverty and shortage of houses.

The people who are badly in need of house and

having no capacity to give high rent due to poverty, rush into the slum area for their accommodation purposes. In slum area generally the people who get the land is generally a vacant land. With the advice of their relatives or close friends firstly they acquire the open land and built their small hutments.

It is not necessary to elaborate on the necessity of proper accomodation. A good house is crucial to the slum dweller who lives in the midst of unhealthy surroundings, in over crowded huts with very limited open space available, resulting in health hazards. In Solapur city, slums expand and new ones spring up every year.

In slum area drainage is completely absent and during the rainy season it is very difficult to approach the slum. Their bathing and washing are done within the small open space. Most of them want to move away due to the stench of the water but, do not know where to go. The environment is totally unhygenic as there is no spot that is not dirty.

It has been observed that 6 to 13 members in some of the big families live in single room only and very few families live in the two-room house. Generally majority of the families in the slum area pay rent to the Municipal Corporation and it is maximum 5 rupees per month.

I have surveyed 150 families of three slums i.e., Konapure Chwal, Modi Jagjivanram Zopadpatti and Maddi Wasti having a total population of 820. The following table shows the information about the housing rent, family size and room. More than 50% huts have been built, first by acquiring open piece of land. Only after the construction they started paying a nominal rent to the Corporation. The following table shows the details about the rent paid by the slum people.

TABLE : 17

A table showing the rent and the authority to whom rent is payable. :

The authority getting rent.	Rent in Rupees.			Total No. of respondents.
	1 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 15	
To owners of land	-	24	11	35 (23.4%)
To Municipal Corporation	115	-	-	115 (76.6%)
Total No. of respondents	115	24	11	150

The table No. 17 shows that 100% householders live in rented dwellings. The survey of the three slums having a sample of 150 householders shows that only 23.4% of the householders are paying rent to the owners of the house and the remaining 76.6% to the Corporation. The survey also shows that the maximum rent is Rs. 15/- per

month. Again this also shows that higher rent is given to the private owners.

The majority of the families pay only nominal rent of Rs. 5/- or less than that and that too to the Corporation.

TABLE : 18

A table showing the family size and the size of the houses. :

Family size.	Families living in 1 room	Families living in 2 rooms	Total
1 to 6	66	8	74
7 to 12	45	15	60
13 and above	8	8	16
Total	119 79.3%	31 20.7%	150

The above table shows that out of 150, 119 families (i.e., 79.3%) live in single rooms and as many as 76 large families having more than 7 members each live in single room houses. This shows the congestion and unhealthy accomodation of the slum-dwellers.

By seeing all the statistics and tables it is clear that the problem of housing condition in the slums of Solapur city is worst.

Housing in any industrial area is a triangular problem.⁽⁴⁾ Firstly it is social problem, the problem of slums, Second, it is an economic problem, the problem of providing necessary finance for house construction, thirdly it is the civic problem of urban disintegration and chaotic decentralization. It is needless to say that the improved housing is the first step towards an improvement of the standard of living, behaviour and morals of the Indian industrial workers.

One author has rightly remarked that "Good houses mean the possibility of home life, happiness and health; bad houses spell squalor drink, diseases, immorality, crimes and the end demand, hospitals, prisons and asylums in which we seek to hide away the human derelicts of society that are largely the result of society's own neglect."⁽⁵⁾

It is quite appropriate to say that "without proper and adequate housing a foundation for good family life can not be laid. If this basic need of good living is neglected, the city will not long remain worthy of

(4) Rastogi T.N.; 'Industrial Labour'; Hind Kitabs, Bombay, 1948; PP. 35 - 38.

(5) Agnew S.C. ; 'Industrial Housing in India'; New Delhi, 1951; P. 44.

the name; and the residents will not present a happy social fabric. The problem of social discontent, unrest and friction will mount in a crescendo, making mockery of our so called urban development. Factory civilization which has concerned itself in the past more with the development and care of monuments and machines than of man will no longer satisfy the awakened conscience of modern humanity.⁽⁶⁾

HEALTH AND SANITATION :

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION :

The social conscience of the world society led to the development of international organizations like W.H.O. Mankind has realized the unity of the world; the interdependence of all men everywhere; the need for a world community that transcends national barriers. Some of the problems we face today are world problems, and as such, can not be solved in isolation. In the field of health, the establishment of the World Health Organization as a special agency of United Nations Organization is an outstanding achievement. It represents international solidarity in providing a Health Charter for all people. The enjoyments of the highest attainable

(6) Bulsara U.F.; Page 334.

standard of health has been declared a fundamental right of every human being, irrespective of race, religion, political belief, economic and social conditions. The 'WHO' has done great service to mankind by ushering an era of international co-operation in the field of health and promoting the concept of "One World Health".

PUBLIC HEALTH IN INDIA :

The extent to which provision of medical care - preventive, promotive and curative - to the public at large is a good index of development. Compassion for the sick and suffering constitutes a bond that weilds world humanity into a homogeneous whole, and serves as a motivating force behind national health services. Other forces that promote and help to frame the health programmes are :-

The growing recognition of the worth of the human being and community efforts that are directed towards a progressive rise in the welfare of the people such as the development of education, agriculture and industry.

Health problems have been and still are the basis for planning and for providing health services. Mortality and morbidity rates associat@d with preventable conditions are high due to lack of adequate environmental sanitation such as water supply, safe disposal of human

excreta, control of flies, mosquitoes and other disease vectors and adequate housing etc.

Nutrition, a basic requirement for health and vigour is inadequate in respect to quantity and quality for millions of the people. Health facilities, particularly, the preventive health facilities are inadequate and totally lacking in many areas. Thus, it is a general problem but we will confine ourselves to slums. To understand the health situation in slums, it is necessary to understand health and related problems.

DEFINITION OF HEALTH :

The definition of health is given by the World Health Organization (in 1948) which states-

"Health is state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or deformity."⁽⁷⁾

The WHO definition of health projects three different dimensions of health - physical, mental and social - all closely related. A fourth dimension has also been suggested namely spiritual health.

HEALTH OF THE SLUM :

Industrialization is a necessity for any progressive nation of the world. 18th and 19th centuries

(7) 'Text Book of Prevention and Social Medicine' -
J.E.Park, K.Park; Page No. 11.

were linked by industrialization of Western World and material gains of the same have placed them in the category of developed countries of today's World. The present century is witnessing the same phenomenon in our country. The process of migration of rural population in search of jobs and improving their material status has resulted in over-crowding in and around the cities in industrial complexes. Slums are natural consequences of this phenomenon. Poor and unhygienic living habits of villagers and poor sanitary environment characterized these slum areas and their population.

Impure air, inadequate water-supply and improper sewage disposal are dangerously prevalent in the slums under study. This has endangered the health of not only the slum dwellers but also of the residents in neighbouring areas. These slums are infested with diseases caused by bad and stagnant water, poor ventilation, congestion, excess smoking and tobacco chewing and these diseases finally result in the untimely deaths of the dwellers therein. Lung cancer and chronic bronchitis are the direct results of smoking and taking alcoholic drinks. Habitual drinking makes one a confirmed alcoholic. Sickness in these slums could be avoided if every individual realises the importance of personal hygiene and practices its basic principles. The entire locality, in general,

lacks knowledge of hygienic habits. They do not practice them owing to ignorance and poverty.

HOUSING, LIGHTING AND VENTILATION :

Adequate housing is the essential or most important adjunct of good life in cities. Its shortages have assumed proverbial proportions all over the civilized world. Its study, therefore, needs closer attention in developing countries because of the rapid pace of urbanization increasingly acute shortage of housing.

Generally most of the hutment owners are not paying land rent are squatters or poachers on Government, Municipal or private lands. On private land many of them may be paying a fees to the so called 'dadas' of settlement who organize colonies, apportion plots and collect monthly fees or small outright payments for occupancy.

In the hutment areas, some pay outright amounts for putting up huts, some buy them from old occupants; whereas some inherit them from parents or relatives. The Zopadpatti huts are often mixed up with pacca houses, even in rich residential areas.

The huts of the dwellers built by themselves are of the worst type without any proper accomodation. They are built of mud and stone or brick with a roof of miscellabeous articles like tin sheets and gunny sacks. It is a single room tenement, low roofed and without

flooring. Privacy is almost non-existent in these houses. Parents, children, in-laws and their children and parts of a broken family live in these huts.

Even the accommodation in the Municipal quarters built for slum dwellers is not worth its name. Each quarter has two rooms. Each room has to accommodate nearly five to six persons and in some cases ten to twelve members of a single family. The built in area is roughly not more than 18 feet in length and 12 feet in width. There is a six feet pavement at the entrance through which one gets into the first room. This room is used for various purposes.

The survey of the slums of the Solapur city reveals that slum dwellers are low paid labourers. All huts are kuccha. Each and every house is made of mud and broken bricks. The size of the hut is 10 X 12 feet; roofed by bamboos and grass. These single room huts include everything : kitchen, bath-room, sleeping room etc. Many of the huts have also, outside the corner of the hut, a sort of bath room. The walls of the huts in all seasons are damp. These huts are situated in the unhygienic surroundings. The net of the open drainages spreads out around the huts.

It is observed that, generally, these huts have only one door and no windows. Therefore, the natural lighting is inadequate. The slums are illuminated by

electricity and oil lamps. Oil lamps are found in these area and they are being progressively replaced by electric lights.

Lack of sunlight and ventilation causes diseases like rickets, T.B. and respiratory track infections. Every infection spreads fast in an over-crowded area. Infant death rate is much higher as compared to other residential areas. Generally, bad lighting and poor ventilation go together.

In the survey of the three slums, also the same situation is found, that is inadequate lighting and poor and inadequate ventilation.

LATRINE :

The great problem of the slum dwellers is the inadequate toilet facilities. The provision of a latrine to every house is a minimum necessity and a requirement. Absence of this has forced slum-dwellers to go in search of an open-field near the area. The types of latrines in the slums, that are in use, are the dry variety and the flush out. It is generally misused and the cleaning arrangements are so imperfect that it can not be used throughout the day. This coupled with the inadequacy of latrines, leads the slum dwellers to ease in the vicinity of latrines, street corners, lanes and open spaces, thus

making the entire locality foul. Even the water-borne or flush-out latrines are not used properly. This bad condition of latrine attracts flies and insects and adds to the insanitary and unhygienic condition of the area.

In case of Konapur Chawl, Modi Jagajivanram Zopadpatti and Maddi Wasti there are a few latrines provided by Municipal Corporation. But, the number of latrines is too less taking into consideration the population. These latrines are slushing and with underground drainage system. Water facility for latrine is very poor and some of latrines have not been provided water. The community people told (slum people told) that Corporation had not cared to look into their necessary requirements. In the discussion the slum leaders told that majority of the people are defecating in the open place. The women are compelled to get up early in the morning and travel some distance and use some open ground for easing themselves. There is no private latrines in these slums.

DRINKING WATER :

Water is essential for life. Eighty five percent of our food is water. It is used for its hygienic properties. The demand for water is increasing with the advancement of civilization. The only source of drinking

water is the Municipal water tap as far as the slums in cities are concerned. In some slums in the periphery of the city, open wells have been dug for drinking water, bathing and cleaning. But no attention is paid to the maintenance of the wells except during epidemic.

The survey of slums in Solapur city reveals that only in Konapure Chwal there is only one family having a private water tap. In Maddi Wasti and Modi Jagajivanram Zopadpatti there is not a single independent private water tap. In all these slums tenements there are common Municipal water taps. They are situated in the middle of the slum.

The tenements of these slums get water supply twice a day. The availability of water supply is during 3 to 4 hours daily. Some of the residents told that due to inadequate water supply they do not take daily bath. And in summer the slum dwellers can not get enough water ever for drinking purpose.

EXCRETA, REFUSE, GARBAGE DISPOSAL AND SURROUNDINGS :

In many slums, excreta disposal is a problem of grave concern. The majority of the slum-dwellers "go to the open ground" for defecation and thereby pollute the environment with human excrement. The situation is in no way better in urban area. Hygienic disposal of

human excreta is the corner-stone of all public health services. There are a number of methods of excreta disposal. Some are applicable to unsewered areas, and some to sewered areas.

The materials that are collected and disposed of under the term of refuse include many different substances from a multiple of sources. The collection and removal of refuse from the environment of man in a sanitary manner are of importance in effecting nuisance abatement, aesthetic improvement and fire protection.

Waste resulting from growing, handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food requires careful handling with frequent removal and adequate disposal, because it attracts and breeds flees and insects, supplies food for rats and rapidly ferments resulting in the production of unpleasant odors.

It is found in the study of Solapur city that the whole surrounding is unhygienic. The Municipal dust-bins are found always full of refuse. It smells bad. It creates fly-breedings etc. The slum people throw refuse garbage and excreta on the roads, in front of huts and in the open places.

Due to above all unhygienic conditions, there is likely to be found health hazards of slum people.

And it creates so many diseases, especially the water born diseases (diarrhoea, decency, typhoide, infections hepatitis etc.)

In the survey of the three slums, it was found that the people were suffering from the following major diseases.

TABLE : 19

Major Illness	No. of Patients.
Tuber Culosis	13
Asthama	5
Leprocy	3
Epilepsy	4
Handicapps	2
Chronic Cardiac Failure	2

From the above table it is seen that in these slums 13 persons are found to be suffering from Tuberculosis, five from Asthama, Two from Chronic Cardiac failure, three are leprosy pattients. As is well known T.B. is mostly an outcome of under-nutrition and unhygienic environment.

Although details of the water borne or infectious diseases were not collected, we observed that many

diseases like hook worm, infections, cholera, typhoid, disentry and diarichea and such other diseases were found in large proportion. This is a result of bad sanitation and can be tackled effectively by the public health and sanitation department of the Corporation.

Houses and huts are in dilapidated condition and this also causes concern. The most prominent feature of the problem of these slums is the absence of civic consciousness. Education and good habits are essential for maintaining neat, clean and tidy condition in the hut as well as in the neighbourhood. Awareness of personal hygienic matters is also important.

Family is the most important and basic institution in human society. It functional in many respects. It is an agency of socialization and social control. From this point of view we have to see what impact the environment of slum makes on the organization and functioning of the family.

In modern family the most difficult problem is that of mutual adjustment of husband and wife. Traditional family remained united and organized only under the pressure of customs and values of social life. But today we find more stress on individual freedom and equal status of woman vis-a-vis man. Sometimes the conflict between

husband and wife is of the nature of value-conflict. Husbands are not prepared to accept the equality in practice eventhough the wife is economically independent; and wife **th**inks too much of individual freedom. Sexual infidelity also plays a role in breaking the marriages.

Women are employed in industry work not for any love for the job but because their family income is very small. They work for supplimenting their family earnings. But because of these things they cannot take proper care of their children and these children are likely to become juvenile delinquents.

In slum area the housing conditions have also contributed towards family disorganization. In a small hut, there is overcrowding of members and lack of privacy. In the slums under study the majority of the families have each 5 to 16 members and they have to stay a single room huts. This will obviously result in irritation **and** material discord. In the survey of the three slums of Solapur city it is noticed that ~~the~~ respondents have given a variety of their family problems. The relevant table is given below :

TABLE : 20

Table showing family problems in the slum area :

Family Problems	No. of respondents.
Addiction	45
B.P.	9
Re-pregnancies	3
Divorce	6
Marital discord	20
Minor problems	37
Refuse to answer	30
Total	150

In all 45 respondents are of the opinion that drug addiction is a main cause of their family tensions. They live in slum area where all the conditions of living are very poor. Due to worries, poverty and sometimes mere addiction their husbands and their young children are also in the habit of taking alcohol. Under the spell of alcohol quarrels are common in their family and this keeps the family tension. There are 31 respondents who think that drinking is common in slum area but getting regular everyday meals is uncommon due to poverty and because of such worries, number of people in slum area

are suffering from T.B. Due to lack of sanitary facilities their health is going down. Apart from T.B. there are so many other health problems also attached to every family in these slums. It is also learnt that leprosy is also in the growing state in these slums. This aspect is already dealt with in earlier pages. But here it should be noted that due to ill-health the family atmosphere is spoiled and becomes a source of tensions.

There are 20 respondents who pointed out that due to marital discord a number of families have collapsed. As a result of this discord, divorce is common among these slum people. In the survey it was found that there are six cases of divorce. Some respondents are silent upon this point perhaps because they do not want to reveal their secrets. But this very silence suggests the extent of separation, divorce and remarriage.

Apart from this there are some minor problems in life of 37 families because of which the family is found to be under tension. For example poverty itself is an indirect cause of tensions in the family. The relations between father and sons are not likely to be cordial if the latter are not earning members, or indulge in unnecessary vices. In joint families the young wives and their mothers-in-law may not have good relations.

Thus, in general some of the problems are common every where, while some are confined to and due to "Slum" life.

So far we have considered some of the problems the extent of which ~~can~~ is difficult to determine and the nature of these problems is such that they were not seriously felt by the respondents. Now we shall turn to the actual problems pointed out by the slum dwellers in the personal interviews. The following table will give an overall picture.

TABLE : 21

Table showing the relative extent of Social problems in Slums :-

Social Problems	No. of Respondents.
Unemployment ...	30 (20%)
Indebtedness ...	39 (26%)
Beggary ...	4 (2.6%)
Alcoholism ...	31 (20.3%)
Crime ...	3 (1.0%)
Juvenile delinquency ...	13 (8.6%)
Hidden Prostitute ...	5 (3.3%)
Refused to answer ...	25
Total ...	150

The above table shows a variety of social problems which slum dwellers are aware of and admit.

The basic problem is of course poverty. There are 20% respondents who are unemployed helping the problem of poverty to become more serious. In all 39 (26%) persons are in debts, again due to imbalance in income and expenditure. Four have actually turned to beggary. Alcoholism from which 31 members (20.3%) suffer can be looked upon as both a cause and result of poverty. Crime (1%) and Juvenile Delinquency (8.6%) are also the problems very much related to poverty and the resulting social disorganization. Lastly the prostitution also, at least to a large extent, can be said to originate in poverty. This broad picture will give an idea of the problems as such and their most basic cause. If the cause is located the remedies can also become clear. 25 respondents did not reply to this aspect of interviews.

In the following pages we shall describe these problems in some details.

UNEMPLOYMENT :

Unemployment and the resulting poverty is one of the main social problems in developing countries and especially in urban areas. All the developing countries in the world carry a crushing burden of unemployment.

India is no exception to this. The unemployment problem has assumed an alarming proportion in India and is proving to be the biggest social and economic evil. It is an indicator of economic disorganization. Economic development is thought to be the only way for its solution. Therefore, economic planning involves the expansion of the employment opportunities.

"Unemployment is a state of worklessness for a man fit and willing to work, i.e., it is a condition of involuntary and not voluntary idleness. Unemployment in other words is largely concerned with those men and women who constitute the labour force of the country, who are able-bodied and willing to work but they are not gainfully employed." (8)

In the survey of Solapur slum 105 respondents are aware of this severe problem in their slums. It has been already pointed out earlier that there ~~are~~ are 30 able bodied young men residing in the given slum areas who are unemployed. In the discussion with these slum people it was learnt that due to poverty only these people are living in slum area. These people are in need of a job but do not get it. Having no influence generally

(8) Dr. C.B. Memoria; 'Social Problems and Social Disorganization in India'; Page - 596.

required even for a low-income job they have no employment and slum is the only cheapest area where they can live waiting for the job.

There are many inter-related causes of unemployment, but the most important one is demand is less than the supply. Obviously this relates to over-population. The decay of small scale and cottage industries in rural areas which lead to a greater exodus from rural to urban areas in search of employment aggravated further the unemployment situation.

Another cause of unemployment is the mechanisation, due to which, machine has taken the place of man. The need for this mechanisation is the competition in the competition in the foreign markets.

Removal of unemployment involves not only the raising of level of investment in the economy particularly the labour intensive activities and accelerating the process of industrialization. Planning, to be effective, should be employment oriented and the choice of technique should be such that creates more employment opportunities. And at the basis of all these population growth should be arrested as effectively as possible.

INDEBTEDNESS :

As poor people reside in slum area the problem of indebtedness must be there in every slum. The slums of Solapur are not exception for it.

As would be expected, not all families are in the happy position of being able to save for future contingencies. Some are able to make both ends meet but some incur or are compelled to run into debts as could be seen from the following table.

TABLE : 22

Loans (in Rupees)	Total No. of families in debts.
100 - 500 ...	13
600 - 1000 ...	17
1100 - 1500 ...	7
1600 & above ...	2
Total ...	39 (26%)

As the table shows 39 heads of the families (i.e., 26%) out of 150 have taken different types of loans from different people.

Reasons for borrowing loans :- It is a known fact that in slum area poverty reaches its paramount stage. Their families are big but earnings are limited. Due to

this shortage of food and clothes and such other problems are constantly faced by slum people. Besides mataka playing, card playing and drinking are not uncommon in slum area. All these things make shortage of money. The poor slum-dwellers have no other way but to borrow money from others for maintaining their families.

Many times the indebtedness in slums is caused by extravagant expenses at the time of religious functions, marriages, and Yatras. The dowary system is still prevalent everywhere in Indian society and it compels the parents to borrow at the time of the marriage of their daughter. Again these poor people keep faith in religion and religious functions are also very costly. Even though they are poor; they borrow money from anybody with interest and perform religious functions and visit pilgrimage centres.

Sources of borrowing loans :- With the discussions and observations of the slum people it was learnt that those who are employed in private and Government factories and offices borrow loans from employees co-operative credit society. Some small businessmen and vegetable sellers are borrowing loans from Banks. It was also learnt that some families get loans from money lenders, i.e., liquor sellers, who sell the liquor in slum area with high rates. Such borrowers get ruined by giving high interest to these money lenders.

Some others get loans from their relatives and friends and they are not in much trouble. Some take loans from their Provident Fund, Thus, there are different sources.

But many times repayment becomes difficult due to low income. Thus, because of the imbalance between income and expenditure the poor slum people have to face the problem of indebtedness helplessly. Again the remedy is two-fold. (i) the income position should be improved. (ii) Unnecessary expenditure should be curbed drastically. This latter one may be partially achieved through public education and awareness.

BEGGARY :

Often one sees pictures in foreign journal of an emaciated skeleton of a child begging. This shows how beggary in India is publicised. But apart from this, the facts remains that a large number beggars are found at temples, Railway stations, holy places, tourist spots and fairs and it is on the increase.

The beggary is a curse for any society under any conditions and circumstance but in a poor country like India it is not only a curse but a great financial burden too. At present there are more than half a million beggars.

According to the Bombay Prevention of Beggary Act (XXVIII of 1945) "A person without means of subsistence and wandering about or found in public places or allowing himself to be used as an exhibit for the purpose of begging is covered by the definition".

According to this definition three features are to be observed in a beggar --

- i. No apparent means of livelihood.
- ii. To beg at public places and
- iii. Exhibition of one's suffering; body defects etc.,
in order to elicit public sympathy.

A beggar is a product of society that has discarded him. No wonder he exploits those who have exploited him; thrown him over and consigned to the dust-bin.

The problem of child beggary deserves utmost consideration, sympathy and speedy action. It is high time we took step to bust the notorious rackets that turn innocent children into beggars.

Beggary is one of the most important problem of Indian society. The Government limits its activity just to banning begging, arresting such children and sending them to welfare centres for a while; or to jails for long period and then letting them off. But this does

not solve the problem. In Maharashtra alone there are at least one and a half lakh beggars who are below 14 years of age. At least 15% of the nations' beggars are children.⁽⁹⁾ This does not include those who beg just to add to the family income.

The beggary is a serious problem in Solapur city as such. The survey conducted of the three slums; revealed that there are four beggars in the area. There are young beggars also practising pick-pocketing. We observed that there are some professional beggars also begging in the name of religion, for example, the Potrajas and Devadasis beg in the name of religion, i.e., in the name of 'Margamma' and 'Yallamma' respectively. It was learnt in the discussion that they feel that if they do not beg, their God and Goddess will be angry with them and will make some harm to them.

The practice of beggary can be stopped only with all sided and integrated approach. Employment opportunity, strict enforcement of laws, and public education are the major remedies.

(9) 'Social Welfare', July, 1979; Page - 11.

ALCOHOLISM :

In India we do not have proper data on the subject of criminality as associated with alcohol and drug abuse. While the states generally are not against curbing the drinking habit, but they are at the same time worried about the impact on their revenues if the policy were to take a turn towards total prohibition.

In particular the drinking habit among the poor and labour class has generated serious problems all over the world and alcoholism among poor is dangerous, socially and economically. The poor drink usually to escape from their worries. Alcoholism leads to loss of control and behaviour becomes involuntary and capricious. The poor in India remain permanently poor on account of alcoholism.

The survey conducted of the three slums of Solapur, reveals that a majority of people are taking alcohol. (See table No. 14 in Chapter IV). It is learnt from the survey that there are 8 slum dwellers who openly do the liquor business and there are some other people also who do this business secretly. During the interviews 31 people openly accepted that they take alcohol quite regularly. Many other respondents said that they take alcohol occasionally due to mental worries and hard work.

According to Mark Keller, "Alcoholism is a chronic behavioural disorder, manifested by repeated

drinking of alcoholic beverages in excess of the dietary and social uses of the community and to an extent that interferes with the drinker's health and of his social and economic functioning."⁽¹⁰⁾

Broadly speaking two types of drinkers are usually found, (i) Moderate drinkers - who take liquor in quantity they can tolerate and, (ii) Problem drinkers - who take liquor in quantities that can not stand for them, Though their health is endangered, peace of mind affected, home life is made unhappy, business jeopardised and reputation clouded; drinking becomes a routine matter."⁽¹¹⁾

In the discussions with slum people of Solapur it was learnt that they are taking drink due to their mental worries and their hard work. The other reason for taking alcohol which they pointed out is that it is customary to drink with their relatives. Another reason for drinking given by them is their worst surrounding. In dirty area, they say that they can not have sound sleep without drinking alcohol.

(10) 'The Annals'; January, 1958, No.315; Page No. 4.

(11) Durfee, Charles; 'To Drink or not to Drink'; 1937, Page No. 11.

Environmental and sociological factors often contribute to the desire for drinking. Modern technology, industrialization, and rapid transportation increases the daily pressure upon the individual. In slum areas most of the people are migrants. The persons who suffer the stresses and strains from the new environment usually take drinks. It is also learnt from the discussion that even some females also take drinks. Drug addiction is responsible for a greater extent of criminal behaviour, moral degradation, and social disintegration. There has been found a close relationship between drinking and crime. Generally it also seems that slum people are more habitual drinkers than the non-slum people.

Alcoholism is an evil which disturbs the family life and also disturbs society as a whole. Alcoholism is also a cause of poverty. Besides the great loss of money, broken homes, hungry children and ruined earners are some of the products of alcoholism. Majority of crimes are committed under the influence of alcohol.

The Solapur city consists of working class population. 119 slums are there in Solapur city. The poverty level is very high. Most of the people are even below subsistence level. Nutrition is not sufficient even for the middle class people hence alcoholism affects the health very badly. It is therefore, necessary that

the sell of wines and intoxicants should be limited to card holders and every one should not be allowed to indulge into it.

CRIME :

The technical definition of crime is that it is any act which is punishable by the law of land. In larger sense it means any act which may render a person detestable by the authority, by the elders or by his conscience. The introduction of crime is not new. Infact criminal activities has been associated with the development of society but in our present society the problem of crime has become more magnified. In every society there are persons who do not conform to the norms laid down by the society.

According to Verma crime is "an act forbidden by law and for performing which perpetrator is liable to punishment."⁽¹²⁾ Crimes are devided by English law into 'Felonies' and 'Misdemeanour'.

According to Memoria, "It is an act forbidden or punished by law which is almost immoral according to prevailing moral standards, which is usuully harmful to society, which is normally feasible to re-press by penal

(12) Verma P.; 'Pathology of Crime and Delinquency',
Sahitya Bhawan Agra, 1972; - Page No. 3.



measures and whose repression is necessary or supposed to be necessary".⁽¹³⁾

The survey of Solapur slum reveals that criminal behaviour is day by day increasing in these areas. We can also see both male and female criminals in slum area. There are 3 criminals already given jails punishment are found in these areas. With discussion and observation with slum members it is learnt that there are a variety of criminals residing in these areas and a variety of causes are responsible for criminal behaviour.

Family is the most dominant factor in the social cause of crime in India. The control previously exercised by the family over the individuals is now lacking. The people in urban areas do not respect their elders and they want to lead a carefree unrestricted individual life; This is especially true in case of slum dwellers.

Cinema also arouses criminal tendencies in man by teaching crime techniques by exhibiting many kinds of crimes. Besides cinema, news papers increase criminal activity by publishing methods of crime through news items relating to crime.

The consumption of alcohol is one of the major causes of crime in India. Drinking is more prevalent

(13) Dr. C.B. Memoria; 'Social Problems and Social Disorganization in India'; Page No. 964.

among those who have a low standard of life and it is also from among them that the greatest number of criminals are coming. There are large numbers of crimes committed under the influence of alcoholic stimulants.

POVERTY :

Poverty is a major cause of crime, since a hungry man can do literally anything in order to appease his hunger. When they get frustrated by extreme poverty and unemployment, many people turn to thieving, picking pockets, robbery etc. For obvious reasons it was not possible to get the real information in this context from the slum-dwellers.

However, by observation and discussion with slum people it was learnt that poverty, unemployment and the circumstances of the slum area are the main factors ~~for~~ responsible for crimes. Criminals are not born, but made. Failure in love affairs is also a cause which forces a man to commit certain type of crime.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY :

Delinquency is a type of abnormality. It includes 'peddling and begging, disorderly conduct, malicious mischief and ungovernable behaviour itself a polyglot.'⁽¹⁴⁾

The second United Nations congress on the

(14) Bataille Andre, 'Famile and Social Change in India and other South Asian Countries', in Economic Weekly Annual. Vol. XVI; Pp.237-244.

prevention of crime and treatment of offenders states "by juvenile delinquency should be understood the commission of an act which if committed by an adult would be considered as crime".⁽¹⁵⁾

Who is a juvenile delinquent ?

"The period of juvenile ranges from 7 to 21 years and out of this the period from 7 to 15 years is the pre-adolescences period and the period from 16 to 21 years is the period of adolescent. All sorts of conceivable juvenile offences are committed of one or the other stage during these momentous 15 years of a delinquent's life time."⁽¹⁶⁾

Juvenile delinquency is one of the most important social problems of modern society. In the recent years juvenile delinquency has also emerged as a result of rapid urbanization and industrialization. Due to process of urbanization family life has been affected and

(15) Report of the Second United Nations Congress on the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, 1960; P. 52.

(16) Dr.C.B.Mamoria; 'Social Problems and Social Disorganization in India'; 1981; P.-1076.

there is an air convenient to the growth of family disorganization and juvenile delinquency. Large number of children moving from rural areas or living in slums and grouping for adjustment in urban areas have proved valuable to this process and as a result the number of socially maladjusted children has recorded a gradual rise.

The survey of Solapur city slums revealed that in slum area the problem of juvenile delinquency is also severe. In the discussion with the slum people it was learnt that there are children who steal coal in the Railway yard, they also catch hold of the domestic chickens. These delinquents also indulge in stealing bulbs, shoes, clothes, and water-taps and snatch gold ornaments of people crowded in the temples at the time of Jatra-fair and Gadda fair.

Some times they do deliberate pick-pocketing also. It was also learnt that a number of times these young juveniles were caught hold of and taken to police station and also admitted in Remand Homes and Certified Schools. It is a fact that there are young girls offenders living in these slums. The female juvenile offenders many a time are taken to Reception Centre.

Thus, juvenile delinquency is also a serious problem of the slums. The survey revealed that there are 13 juvenile delinquents in these slums. (See Table No.21).

Truancy, vagrancy and beggary though not crimes in the legal sense of the terms; are becoming serious problems especially in the cities. A child becomes a truant or vagrant or beggar just because he belongs to the lower class or his laziness or perhaps has fallen in bad company. The roots of these psychological problems are usually in the 'faulty' or pathological family situation, sibling rivalry or differential treatments given to the children by the parents. In other words, we find the causes of deviant behaviour in the interaction patterns of the members of family alone and the ways in which a child reacts to these interactions.

The main roots of delinquency are (i) influence of the family, (2) Neighbourhood and peer groups, (3) Community and social problems, (4) Films and press. We shall discuss them in brief.

Influence of family :- The child seeks delinquency in the home only. If he finds that parents giving more importance to his capacity of earning money rather than acquiring education he neglects his studies and tries to earn money by doing odd jobs or even begging. A child observes his parents, very closely and how they behave is more important rather than what they ask him to do. Paternal rejections or too strict and harsh supervision may also drive the child away from home.

Neighbourhood and peer groups :

Next to home, it is the immediate neighbourhood which helps in the socialization of children. Children usually indulge in delinquent behaviour in companionship with others. They become delinquent to the extent, they find normative support in their neighbourhood and circle of friends.

Urbanization and Industrialization :

Urbanization and industrialization given rise to slums in the cities which lack in facilities, are over crowded and lack privacy. As both the parents have to go for work, the children are left alone on the social side. Many criminals and antisocial elements also find shelter in these slums. With the break of joint families due to urbanization there is nobody to look after them. Due to lack of proper guidance and parental care children behave abnormally.

Community and societal problems :

Poverty, low wages and unemployment are some of the other factors which may prepare children to embark upon a delinquent career. If poverty alone was the cause of all the crime, the crime rate should have been higher in developing country than that in the highly developed western nations. Poverty, coupled with other factors such as relative sense of deprivation, alienation,

anonymity, lack of social control, etc. may lead to delinquency.

We have already seen the roller films play in increasing rate of crime and delinquency.

The National Institute of Social Defence says that "one out of every five prisoners is below 21 years. The official statistics indicates that crimes committed by minors rose almost three fold during the decade 1958-69. The crimes committed by the age group 16-21 rose roughly by 200% in the last fifteen years. According to the burrow of police research and development of the union ministry of home affairs, one out of every four and one out of every five crimes are committed by juvenile delinquents in Maharashtra. There is an average increase of 11% in juvenile crimes every year."⁽¹⁷⁾

If this trend continues for long, a time may come soon when the very life of society could be disrupted. People would feel unsafe even in their own homes.

The survey of Solapur slum shows (as we have shown earlier) that the general causes and types of juvenile delinquency are also applicable to the problem of juvenile delinquents in the city.

(17) 'Social Welfare', July, 1979; Page No. 13.

The real remedy of juvenile delinquency lies in the home only. Parents require training in child care, provision of creches with proper amenities; adequate number of child guidance centre, clinics and efficient family counselling services. The parent-teacher associations have great scope in preventing behavioural problems, says the national institute of social defence.

PROSTITUTION :

Elliot and Merrill have defined prostitution as "illicit sex union on a promiscuous and mercenary basis with accompanying emotional indifference".⁽¹⁸⁾

Prostitution has been with us from the beginning of history but it has always been regulated by either law or social mores. The slum areas are proverbially regarded as the centres of this "business" and Solapur slums are not an exception to it. The prostitutes also have a variety of types. In the discussion with the slum members it was made known that ~~in~~ the hidden prostitution is going in the slum areas. It was also learnt from the research of slum areas of Konapure Chwal, Maddi Wasti and Modi Jagajivanra m Zopadpatti, that there are at present 5 prostitutes living in these areas. This problem adds to the miseries of the slum dwellers as more and more younger people are likely to be involved in it.

(18) Elliot M.A. and Merrill F.E.; 'Social Disorganization', 1941, page - 242.

T 'The suppression of immoral traffic in women and girls Act - 1956' defines prostitution as "An act of a female who offers her body for promiscuous sexual intercourse for hire whether in money or in kind".⁽¹⁹⁾ This definition stresses the earning aspect of this act of the prostitutes and hence in the context of the poverty of slums suggest that it is a fertile land for this 'act'.

Broadly speaking two types of prostitutes are generally found, the overt or professional, and the clandestine or unvonventional. The overt or professional prostitute may be registered or unregistered prostitutes. They may operate independent of any establishment of pimps; brothel keepers etc. Prostitutes of this category are mostly seen roaming about the cinema houses, public parks and other places of gathering, always looking for customers. The clandestine or unvonventional prostitute is one who sells her body for mercenary consideration. They are occasional prostitutes covering a wide range of women belonging to sophisticated class of educated strata and well to do families.

The sexual impu3se is natural to man. Both man and animal feel attracted towards opposite sex due to natural and normal development of the sexual impulse. In the absence of the 'normal' opportunities to consumate sex

(19) The Act, 1956, - 1958; page No. 2.

man or woman may seek gratification of this impulse in a way not very much acceptable to the society.

Sex is not merely a play; it also works for the reproduction of the species and thus continuity is maintained. That is why every society has the institutionalised way of mating, called as marriage. However, the institution of marriage puts certain restrictions and sometimes human beings transgress them. In this way prostitution remains in one way or the other in every society.

The study of Solapur slums has revealed that though a majority of prostitutes have taken to this profession due to extreme poverty and hunger, there are many who have willingly adopted it only after a series of love exploits. Of course later on the economic factor became quite important.

The economic factors are comprised of poverty, underage employment, unhealthy working conditions, the pollution and corruption in industrial centres and immoral traffic in woman and children.

A woman who is unable to get any gainful employment and who has no supporter must either starve to death or earn her livelihood through prostitution. A woman may prostitute herself in order to live well and give first class education to her children. Many females

have to work in offices, industries and shops at immature age and at this age they are easily misled by lust-seekers.

Many women are able to get employment through intermediaries and agents. These agents recruit women and keep them under their mercy. Whenever opportunity offers itself they exploit it fully. They often succeed in receiving sexual bribe. Once a woman falls a prey to their lust, they in no time make a professional out of her.

Poverty, over-crowding and low wages are clearly contributory causes of prostitution. (20)

Due to scarcity of accomodation in slums most of the workers are compelled to leave their family at villages and live alone. Such lonely young people visit brothel homes to satisfy their sex needs. Thus in industrial cities, markets and demands for prostitutes are naturally created and in this way brothels grow in number. In slums the unmarried girls have to witness sexual activities of their relatives and are often seduced prematurely. The precocious development of sex often drives women to prostitution.

The children living near brothels or in the

(20) 'Measures of Rehabilitation of Prostitutes' -
League of Nations, Geneva; 1938; Page No,-7.

company of immoral persons become so used to see sex trade that they come to accept it as normal.

The woman who become pregnant as a result of their liasons and who can not get abortion get exposed in society. Nobody wants to marry them. Desperately, such woman prefers to become regular prostitute. The institution of Devadasis pre-supposes the religious sanction to some sort of prostitution.

Prostitution cause grave problem to the humanity. There are about 200 million people in the world suffering from V.D. and in India about 20 million.⁽²¹⁾ And V.D. is on the increase. W.H.O. says "World is in the grip of a virtual epidemic of venereal disease". And the youth are the main victim of V.D. in both the developed and developing countries. On this background it can be easily accepted that in slums this practice is not only harmful to the individual prostitute but to all those who come in contact with them. However, here also the basic remedy is removal of poverty. Eventhough the prostitution as such cannot be totally extinguished, efforts can be made in such a way that no woman turns to prostitution merely for livelihood.

(21) 'Social Welfare' - December, 1976; Page No. 12.

INTER-SLUM CONFLICTS :

In the present survey it was noticed that there are instances when one group of a slum get engaged in conflict and physical clashes with the other group of a different slum. Such instances are quite numerous. Hence this is an effort to study the extent and causes of such conflicts.

Conflicts take place as a result of inconsistencies in our social behaviour and environment. One result of rapid changes in any society is conflict. Group struggle is not new one to the mankind. Conflict is there in every society.

The survey taken in slums in Solapur city reveals that there are some inter-slum conflicts. 190 respondents gave a variety of reasons for inter-slum conflicts. They are cast, community, politics, liquor business, leadership etc.

In India caste factor is still rigid. Every caste member thinks that his caste is superior to the others. Different caste people are settled in different slum areas. It is observed that in every slum there is one majority caste and that caste has got every hold in that particular slum. There are always complaints of slum conflicts due to caste factor. Every caste has got its own cultural values. Caste conflict in higher sense

can be in terms of conflict of different culture. But this is not a cause of caste-conflict. First there arise individual clashes and if they belong to different castes or communities their respective "brothers" get involved in it. Every slum includes group of people belonging to different political parties. At the time of election, because of the rivalry in political parties inter-slum conflicts often arise. 59 respondents have expressed opinion that leadership is the cause of inter-slum conflict. 80 respondents are of the opinion that in addition to leadership rival political parties and their respective followers belonging separate slums bring about clashes.

It is a known fact that every slum has got liquor business. These liquor business people have acquired their own market in these slum area. Due to their business expansion ~~xx~~ and due to money these liquor businessmen always encourage youths of their particular slum for quarrelling with other slum people. These liquor businessmen are Dadas (Gundas) of particular slum. They think that they are the kings of that particular area and expect that not a single outsider should interfere in their slum matters.

8 respondents have categorically stated that due to liquor business there are always inter-slum conflicts.

It is also learnt from the discussion with slum people that sex is also one of the causes for inter-slum conflict. In every slum, hidden prostitution is there and due to this, inter-slum conflict arises.

Thus, these conflicts have a serious impact on the life of the slum people. They spoil the peace of the society.

TABLE : 23

A table showing the reasons for inter-slum conflicts :

Reason	No. of Respondents
Caste Factor	43
Political parties	80
Liquor Business Rivalries	8
Leadership	59
Total	190

The above table indicates that the majority of respondents (80) are of the opinion that rival political parties are the main cause for inter-slum conflicts. 59 slum dwellers feel that leadership is the main cause of inter-slum conflicts. According to 43 respondents caste is the leading cause for inter-slum conflict, whereas 8 have accepted liquor business also a cause of the inter-slum conflict. These opinions are useful only to

point out the different causes of the conflict of one slum group with the others.

In the foregoing pages we have described some of the particular problems in an analytical way. However, as is pointed out earlier, any social problem, cannot be an independent phenomenon. Moreover the very existence of slums points out to the ultimate disorganizing feature of our modern urban society. The slum-dwellers are of a class in themselves and their problem should be seen as "The problem of Economic and Social Backwardness".

