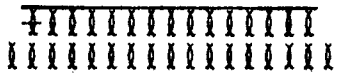


CHAPTER - VI



CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS



-:: CONCLUSIONS & SUGGESTIONS ::-  
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In the foregoing pages I have tried to throw light on various aspects of slum life with special reference to the three slums in Solapur city and their problems.

Modern slums are the consequences of socially unplanned industrialization and urbanization. It is a disorganized area, occupied socially and economically backward and downtrodden people. It is characterised by over crowding, absence of sanitary facilities, unhygienic environment, lack of essential facilities like drinking water, light etc. In this area personal, familial and social disorganizations are abundant. Slums in India are caused by a number of interrelated factors. Industrialization, urbanization, mass migration of ruralists to urban centres in search of better living and employment; absence of adequate housing facilities, poor wages and the resulting poverty, unemployment, population explosion and the vusted interests of certain urban elements are some of them.

The most important problem which a migrant faces after getting the employment is that of housing. Without a permanent job and space for his family he cannot

really be said to have established his roots in the city. The resources persons play a significant role in getting a job as well as shelter for a migrant. It has been already noted that migrants socio-economic status determines his choice of locality. The senior member with comparatively longer duration of stay in the city acts as resource person to the new comers.

The tendency to retain their subculture and substructure is more strong among these migrants. Physical proximity helps them to have greater interaction with the people of their native place in the slum situation is an important contributing factor in the perpetuation of the slum. But these caste or village loyalties and affinities can aggregate the problem of over crowding in a particular slum. These general observations are more or less true in case of Solapur slums.

In Solapur, slum society is composed of labourers, mill workers, load boys, carpenters, wine sellers, construction workers, sweepers etc. Majority of them belong to backward castes and socially backward Muslims. The slum family is ordinarily a large unit composed of parents, a number of their children, and other relatives. Their social relationships are based on ties of kinship, caste or religion. This affinity is helpful to them as it provides social security in times of

emergency, sickness and unemployment.

The survey has revealed that the very social structure of slum produces so many problems, i.e., problem of housing, beggary, crime and juvenile delinquency, prostitution, indebtedness, unemployment, alcoholism and problem of sanitation and health etc. Some of the concrete findings of the survey undertaken of the three slums, namely Konapure Chwal, Modi Jagajivanram Zopadpatti and Maddi Wasti are summarised below :-

FINDINGS :

In present study I have made an attempt to trace the circumstances leading to the creation of slums. The three representative slums are described with a stress on their economic and social life. Lastly the problem and problems of slum are dealt with, along with the suggestions to solve them. Wherever necessary the available data were presented including suitable tables. The conclusions drawn are also mentioned at relevant places. Here ~~only~~ a brief summary is to be presented.

1. From the personal data of slum dwellers it was found that the sex ratio of male is higher than female.
2. Majority of the slum dwellers are illiterate. A few have taken primary and secondary education and only two are undergoing higher

- education. There are two graduate males also in these slums.
3. Most of the families in slums are of bigger size, which is also a problem of population explosion. More than 75% of the slum families are having 6 to 16 members are living in single rooms.
  4. More than 75% of the families are migrated from rural area for seeking employment and in search of house and settled in these slums. Some families have also been locally migrated and settled in slum area because of break of joint family. Due to their poor economic condition they have settled in slum areas.
  5. Due to the acute shortage of housing, majority of the families acquire the open land. Some of them acquired the land of their relatives and neighbours. Majority of the families paid rents to the Municipal Corporation.
  6. The huts are situated in unhygienic surroundings. Kitchen, bathroom, beds are all confined to one single room. Majority of the houses have inadequate natural light and ventilation. The number of common latrines is very small and there too water facilities are extremely very poor.

There are no private water taps. In all the three slums there are only a few common Municipal water taps. Although daily supply of water lasts from 3 to 4 hours, the claims are so large that during summer even sufficient drinking water is not available.

7. The Municipal dust-bins are always found full of refuse.
8. The major illness like T.B., Asthama, Leprosy, Epilepse, re-pregnancies are found in these slums.
9. A significant point is that the slum people are not merely economically backward, but most of them are socially also backward. Hence it is a socio-economic problem. It is found that caste is main factor for living together. They are helped by their caste people for accomodation. Most of the people know more than one language, eg. Kannada, Marathi and Telugu languages.
10. Majority of the slum people are habituals in pan-tobacco chewing, bidi-ciggarette smoking, and shindi-wine drinking. It is noticable that some female are also drinking shindi & wine.

11. Card playing, Songatya playing, Bhajan singing, Matka playing, and Kabaddi playing are leisure time activities of the slum dwellers. Some of these are obviously affecting their financial position.
12. As regards political party, majority of slum dwellers are in favour of Congress (I) and Dalit Panthers. However, at the time of elections caste-consciousness becomes dominant.
13. Most of the slum dwellers are daily wage labourers and Mill workers. Majority of the slum people are economically backward. There is a high degree of co-relation between income and expenditure. More than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the slum dwellers are indebted.
14. The most dominant problems found in these slum areas are unemployment, indebtedness, beggary, crime and juvenile delinquency, alcoholism and prostitution. The basic problem however is that of poverty. Thus, due to the impact of industrialization and urbanization slums are cropped up and again in turn they create in themselves so many problems which also affect the life of the whole society.

:: S U G G E S T I O N S ::  
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Most of the urban poor live in slums. Various studies have shown that they belong to very low social and economic strata. Most of them belong to low caste and very low income groups. In the preceeding Chapter the problems of slum dwellers ara analysed. This is an age of change and social awakening.

Now that millions have already swarmed into the urban settlements, a positive approach on the part of all concerned is to look after them and their problems. For this purpose the most urgent step is to work for the improvement and if possible the clearance of slum.

Some suggestions can be offered as to how the society can help the slum dwellers. :

(1) Awareness of personal hygiene is very important. In order to achieve these objects it is necessary to meet their basic needs like water, light and drainage facilities and preventive medicines. There must be improvement in the slum sanitation like proper disposal of waste water, under-ground drainage etc. To avoid conjection roads should be sufficiently wide. Dust-bins should be kept in sufficiently numbers in slum areas and there must be daily cleaning of dust-bins. In slums



Municipality must make 24 hour water supply with proper construction of platform and again in these areas adequate electricity supply should be made. Water facilities for latrines also must be adequate.

(2) (i) To accommodate the existing de-housed occupants cheap but permanent houses be constructed with a minimum standard of sanitary arrangements.

(ii) Those whose income exceed beyond a certain limit, may be encouraged to have their own houses constructed by providing land, plots, for co-operative housing at a reasonable price and loans at low rate of interests, to be repaid in 15 to 25 years' time.

(iii) It is often suggested that howsoever bad the slum may be, a great deal can be done to improve it by repairs and reconstruction. It is said that reconditioning is the cure for slum problem.

(3) (i) Multipurpose schools may be established in various slums. Schooling is not only for education in the class room, but along with that they will learn many other things in their life, i.e., cleanliness, inculcation of good habits, vocational training etc. For proper socialization, the schools are most appropriate agency in case of slum-dwellers who are mostly labourers.

(ii) Voluntary agencies can help the slum dwellers in several ways such as adult education, health

education, mother-craft, handicraft, cottage industries etc., in which slum-women in particular can be engaged. Recreational activities like group plays, free newspapers or reading rooms can also be helpful.

(4) The Government and other agencies should also make efforts to look after the health of these slum-dwellers. Prevention is better than cure. Therefore, preventive vaccinations for many probable diseases may be emphasised among the slum people.

(5) Even though for analytical purpose we talk separately of social backwardness and economic backwardness, in reality they are mostly interdependent. Most of the slum dwellers are economically backward and therefore, slum families must be financially helped by the Government in matters like house construction, scholarships to the slum students etc. This may help in bringing them up in social status as well.

(7) The college students (especially the Medical college students) both boys and girls can also play their role by visiting and helping the slum people with regards to family planning, adult literacy, health education and self-help schemes, with the help of N.S.S.

(7) The slum should be recognized as a social problem of the entire society. It is the responsibility of the whole society to solve it.

(8) Population education or mass education should be given to the slum dwellers. "If you educate a man, you educate an individual; if educate a woman, you educate a family". Hence, more emphasis be laid on the education of females, in its broader sense.

(9) Cash compensation in terms of present land value and present cost of housing materials should be given to the displaced people. Otherwise the displaced people will create a new slum area in some other places.

(10) Economic security which includes employment facility for the slum-dwellers is to be seriously thought of. Financial assistance to develop small scale industry which may include the production of soap, paper, combs, jute or leather bag, pens, dolls, and such other commodities, can be given. With the collaboration of voluntary organizations the Government may prepare schemes so that scope of employment be enlarged.

(11) The slum dwellers can be inspired for "Self-Help" system by the social workers and number of service organizations.

(12) A provision of a community centre where slum people can satisfy their mental fatigue can also be made.

In short, in slum we find so many problems like crime, juvenile delinquency, beggary, alcoholism, prostitution etc. To reduce and eradicate these problems

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economic and social standard should be raised and Government should give special attention to these people in respect of employment. If economic standard is raised automatically living standard will be raised. Thus, there should be an integrated approach accepting certain basic values such as human equality, social justice and freedom.

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