



NATURE AND AIMS OF THE STUDY :

This is a study of slums in Solapur city. The Slums which I have taken for study are officially declared as slums by the Municipal Corporation. These slums are Konapure Chwal, Modi Jagajivanram Zopadpatti and Maddi Wasti. In the year 1980 the above slums were taken by the Municipal Corporation under the slum improvement scheme. The study of the above slums also covers the migration of the people from the various nearby areas to the slum, their socio-economic conditions and the specific problems of the slums. An attempt has also been made to see the extent of the problems like beggary, crime, prostitution, unemployment, indebtedness, housing, sanitation etc. in these areas.

Industrialization and urbanization has created large number of slums in all the cities in India. The social structure of a slum generally reveals that the economically and socially backward people constitute the slum. Again it has also been observed that the slum creates further problems of housing, beggary, wine, J.D. illhealth and so many others.

The present study intends to find out whether it is true in case of these slums also and to see whether the general causes of the growth of slums also hold good in case of Solapur slums. The study also aims to suggest the ways and means for controlling or reducing or eradicating slum conditions.

THE SAMPLE :

With the above object in view, the following three slums i.e. Konapure Chwal, Modi Jagajivanram Zopadpatti, i.e., Mothi Upalab Wasti and Maddi Wasti in Solapur city are selected for investigation. The Konapure Chwal has 266 families, with a population of 2932; Modi Jagajivanram Zopadpatti has 187 families with a population of 963; and the Maddi Wasti has 91 families with a population of 378. The Konapure Chwal is situated in the middle of the Solapur city. The Modi Jagajivanram Zopadpatti is situated towards the North of Solapur city. The Maddi Wasti is situated towards the South of Solapur city near the Temple of Rupa Bhavani.

It has been noted at the outset that most of the people who reside in these areas are socially and economically backward and generally they are low-paid employees.

The Konapure Chwal consists of 266 households out of which 60 (i.e. 22.55%) households are selected by simple random sample method. The Modi Jagajivanram Zopadpatti has 187 households out of which 50 (i.e. 26.73%) are selected on the same basis. And the Maddi Wasti has 91 households, out of which 40 (i.e. 43.95%) are selected by the same sampling method. Thus the sample of 150 household is drawn and it can be said to be fairly representative one.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION :

For the purpose of this study participant observation and detailed interview methods were employed. Census reports and the available records in the Municipal Corporation have also been referred to wherever necessary. The required additional information is also collected by informal discussions with the leaders and workers in slums community. These have been highly helpful in this study. For the purpose of the interview a schedule of important points was prepared. (Appendix 'A').

PILOT STUDY :

The pilot study was conducted on a few subjects to finalise the schedule and to check the probable errors. This pilot study was done before the actual data collection started. At the stage of Pilot study questions were not finalised, but only the formulation of items was done. A pilot study helped to cover the weak points and drawbacks of schedule and provided the material to introduce correct and relevant elements required for the purpose.

The final data collection was done during the months of November, December, 1982 and January 1983.

TABULATION :

The collected data are presented wherever possible in tabular forms. The necessary information

precedes these tables and the tables are presented followed by specific explanations, notes and conclusions.

LIMITATIONS :

Any research study by nature is enormous, time consuming and employing full energy of a researcher. It is a main feature of all social research that the field and subject are human beings and the environment is man-made and hence the objectivity is always doubted. Therefore, a research student in social science has to face crises and withstand resistance and has to be as objective as possible.

The theme chosen viz. "The Study of Slums in Solapur City", itself is very complex. As it touches deep-rooted emotions and motivations of human beings, it is very difficult and complex. Therefore, I felt at the outset that anything that hurt the sentiments of the people should be avoided, otherwise it would have been impossible to make any progress. In this context I was stumbled and got up many a time; while approaching the slum respondents.

Besides the availability of respondents in slum area at day time was also a very big problem. This strain and tension on the part of the researcher was quite obvious and expected. But overriding these few obstacles the work is carried out to its fulfilment.