

# **CHAPTER - I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Problem

Today, in the world, the process of urbanization has become an inevitable phenomenon. In fact, it has gripped the entire human society and compelled them to explore solutions to the problems of haphazard and unplanned growth of cities. In recent decades, the rate of urbanization has been declining in the more modernized societies, where urbanization is now greatest. The rapid urban expansion, reflects the normal 'pull' factors, but it is also the consequence of powerful 'push' factors, in rural areas with heavy population.

#### Pull and Push factors

In India, the present phase of urban boom is passing through a critical phase. It is facing the consequences of both urbanization as well as that of urban growth, which causes the growth in the urban population resulting in migration from the rural to urban areas. It becomes an attraction point for the have-nots in rural areas which pulls them with the idea of raising their standard of living. But these declining and slow growing urban settlements are forced to absorb the ever increasing rural migrants, thus making the situation even worse. Rural to urban migration is an indis-

pensable feature of imbalanced economic development. It is a type of movement which invariably becomes strong and persistent during the process of industrialization and urbanization. It is the rural to urban migration that derives the steaming hordes, into the metropolis which are acting as great 'pulls' for the under and unemployed labour force. It is the variety and profusion of opportunity it offers, wide horizons, money, power, entertainment and better education for children. Drought, fragmentation of land and other unfavorable conditions in the villages have resulted in the pauperization of the peasantry. Having no work by which to earn their livelihood, the villagers have found it difficult to maintain themselves, and have naturally drifted towards the urban areas with the main object of eking out a livelihood. The condition has acted as a 'Push Factor' in the course of migration. "In each district the proportion of migration outside the state in its urban areas is over 3 times than in rural areas"<sup>1</sup>. The fact is, India's urban centres suffer from 'over urbanization' in the sense that they have too many people for their economic base, and service infrastructural to sustain. There are not enough employment opportunities that could provide jobs to the growing influx of migrants from rural and semi-urban areas. The income levels of the majority of the citizens are so low that they cannot pay for housing and other urban

facilities. The municipal tax-base is too weak to finance and maintain a satisfactory level of civic services. It has not only given rise to the rapid growth of urban centres, particularly the large ones, but also drew in a large number of new social groups in the process of development. A great majority of the rural migrants move to cities for the new opportunities they offer as to escape from the limitations of their traditional environment. The villages near to urban areas, however, are distinct from labour colonies. As in most cases, the old village residential sites of villagers whose cultivable lands were acquired by a Municipal authorities are equipped with legal sanction for the development plans of the city. These villagers were also forced to settle in urban slums because they too have no means of livelihood. Pressure on land resources and limited non-agricultural development acted as powerful 'Push' factor in rural areas with huge population (United Nations, Bureau of Social affaires 1957). The extent to which a high level of urbanization may provide an outlet for excess rural population is suggested by the estimate of Beale at U.S. department of agriculture, economic research, service. Economic and statistical analysis division 1964 that as of 1958 in the United States states that about 63 percent of the farm born adults were non farm residents<sup>2</sup>.

Ashish Bose (1980) has also pointed out, that 'the process of urbanization has been essentially a process of migration to the city'. The largest cities have attracted the largest number of migrants from the rural areas because, unlike the small towns, they offer a wide range of employment opportunities which require various degrees of skill. Above all, the big cities can provide employment to rural migrants who are largely unskilled and illiterate.

#### **Emergence of squatter settlements**

One of the negative consequences of urbanization in the world, particularly in the developing countries, is the existence of a large proportion of the urban-poor, living in slums. Many families do not find any shelter so they live on pavements. Although there are several schemes for catering some basic services to the urban poor, the pavement dwellers are hardly covered by any one of them. However, their number is swelling every day, which should be a matter of concern for all those responsible for urban community development programmes. However, the most vulnerable section amongst them are the street children in the big industrial cities of our country. The forces of modernization, including those of industrialization and urbanization, coupled with the appalling conditions of poverty, have adversely affected the family life.

However, one major consequence of waves of migration to the cities is the 'population boom', a large proportion, of which have no 'access' to the basic service and amenities and have been constantly involved in the struggle for survival. These are people who migrated from the rural areas in large numbers in search of a livelihood and settled down in slums, shanty towns, squatters or wherever there was vacant land available. Some of them cannot even get this, and are forced to lead their life on city-streets, pavements, public places, parks etc. perhaps looking daily for a place to spend the night.

#### **Urban slum ratio**

When migrants reach the city they invariably find themselves pushed in to the slums or squatter settlements. Emergence of slums in cities is an important consequence of migration. Slums are the physical and social expressions of inequalities in the distribution of the benefit of economic growth, as well as the structural performance and spatial patterning of the urban economy<sup>3</sup>. Industrialization and consequent migration of rural masses, absence of adequate housing facilities, poor wages, high cost of land, population explosion are the major causes for the growth of the slums. India's one fifth of the total urban population lives in slums or squatter settlements. The slum population of most of the cities in India is estimated at 20

to 30 percent of the total urban population of each city. But in the case of large metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, and Ahmedabad it is estimated that about 45 percent of the total population live in slums or squatter settlements<sup>4</sup>. In Bombay about 60 percent of the total urban population lives in slums and pavements. The primary reason for rural-urban migration is an economic one and the rural-poor migrate to the cities in search of employment rather than better employment opportunities.

#### **Inadequate Govt. efforts**

Although efforts are being made through urban planning and urban community development to supply the basic services and amenities to the slum-dwellers, in order to improve their quality of life, the challenge is of a magnitude and size that often baffle planners. In fact, their pace of growth is so rapid that the schemes recognize the size of its target group and by the time implementation is made, it swells again making implementation of little consequence, or merely superficial. The ecological characteristics of the slums are highly visible and have therefore received wide publicity and attracted hostile reaction from town planners, government officials, administrators, and privileged communities. This negative attitude of urban planners, government officials and administrators to the urban poor is best exemplified in their approaches to the two basic questions of

low-cost housing and urban renewal. Neither the state nor the Central Government can raise the necessary finance to provide housing that conforms to the conventional building code for the urban-poor. It is a fact that the funds allocated for housing in the Five Year Plans were minimal, yet more important than allocation of funds is the failure of urban planners to encourage self-help housing by reforming existing housing standards so as to make them flexible and within the reach of the urban-poor. The tendency of Slum Clearance Boards and other Building Agencies has been to construct houses at a cost of Rs. 8,000/- to 15,000/- and to charge rents that are beyond the capacity of the urban-poor for whom this housing is meant<sup>5</sup>. It is significant that, the schemes of HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation) and LIC 'Low Cost' housing does not take into consideration the income of the urban-poor. As the cost of the houses are more than Rs. 3000/- to 5000/- the urban-poor cannot afford for it.

However, in addition to the unrealistic approach of housing standards and municipal norms, there is an important question of land values and spatial organization. At present land values in the metropolitan cities are artificially manipulated by the speculators.



### **Inadequate waste disposal**

Apart from the land scarcities, inadequacy of jobs, and lack of basic amenities the modernization also lead to problem of waste disposal. Certain new trends of fancy, fast foods or ready-made cleaned food grains etc., are packed in plastic packings, polythene bags, boxes, pouches etc.. After serving its purpose these packings add to the increasing garbage in the urban centres. The problem cannot be solved by recycling of urban wastes. Experiments have been successfully carried out in certain Western Countries for converting urban wastes into reusable materials by treating and compressing solid waste into fuel briquettes or even pebbles and briquettes for use in paving of roads or in construction. Experiments in India, however, have not shown any success so far. Our principal problem is that urban wastes in our country have a very large percentage of biomass and water. As a result not only is urban garbage difficult to handle, it also starts decomposing almost immediately. Such refused material includes wet and dry vegetable matter, hay and straw, cinder dust, plastic, leather rubber, metallic and non-metallic hardware, paper and rags etc. According to the present laws, unwanted items collected as 'Kachara' from residential areas, markets, foot paths and roads are the liability of the Local Self Government (Municipal Corporation). But as the collected garbage is more than it can be disposed, the rest

is either used as land-fill or burnt wherever possible. Nearly 2500, tonnes of waste is collected in the Bombay area each day<sup>6</sup>.

#### **Attraction for have-nots**

As these migrants are from rural areas and are not having any special skill to get jobs which will be sufficient to support their families, they started looking for ingenious ways of employment opportunities. Further they also do not have any capital to start other productive economic ventures as they are from the lowest strata of the society. The schemes suggested by the Government are not adequate and such schemes which are meant to help these people never reach them due to red tapism and corruption. Apart from all these reasons whatever they would have got by daily earning is not sufficient for their large families. Here, the large garbage dumps of the urban centres offered these underprivileged people an opportunity to earn their livelihood. Thus a lot of slum dwellers were attracted to this newly found self-employment, which was economically rewarding. While in the case of women and children the picture is more pathetic. When the head of a family decides to migrate to urban areas in search of livelihood, naturally his whole family has to shift with him. The woman along with the husband, children and with their parents have to settle in a new environment. Initially the family members have to

depend on the head of the family for survival. Since he is unskilled or semiskilled the income does not sustain the entire family. At the same time for the women or the children in the family it is not easy to get absorbed in the jobs immediately. Thus they lead a life of abject poverty. Though the women get jobs such as construction labour or any other on daily wages, they do not enjoy equal status in the family. And in the case of children the situation is worse as the parents gradually lose control over their children resulting in poor socialization. "Today by conservative estimate atleast 156 million children live in poor sections of cities". This was an estimate made by John Belcredde (UNICEF Cities and children around 1982-83)<sup>7</sup>.

In Bombay, a number of these lonely children came into contact with gangs of ragpicking children at Chowpatty where the latter often go for bath in the sea and make friends with them. In a four-part study on ragpickers, in Bombay completed by the college of social work (TISS) in 1986, peer pressure was found to be one of the biggest factors adding to the ragpickers population<sup>8</sup>. These friends introduce them to ragpicking. Once a child runs away from home and comes on to the streets a number of options are open before him/her. He/she may beg, steal, or she may go for ragpicking; the choice of the last alternative instead of a path of crime is to his/her credit. In Bombay only, UNESCO(1994) sponsored

census has revealed that six out of every ten street children in the city are engaged in ragpicking<sup>9</sup>. While in a survey carried out in 1987 in Indore regarding street children 300 samples showed that out of 300, there were 8.3 percent ragpickers<sup>10</sup>. On the other hand the secondary occupations such as making low grade plastic materials or rough papers where there is a requirement of waste material and rags. Roughly 192 tonnes of plastic which the ragpickers collect pours into Dharavi, daily<sup>11</sup>. Thus in this business, there is an assurance of getting daily income than in other options. Children collect rags from the roads, from the foot-paths, from houses or factories or shops etc. This work only requires a gunny sack and of course the skill of being patient. "Ragpicking children are the most frustrated and weakest group amongst street children" believes Mr. Victor Bansiwari of Voluntary Organization in Community Enterprise [VOICE] that works with street children " They are the hardest to rehabilitate"<sup>12</sup>.

## 1.2 Social work concern

Today the social work profession has entered into almost all walks of human activity. The theory and concepts of profession social work argue that the conditions and attitudes of clients can be altered, improved or modified through different methods of social work. These methods are found appropriate and effective on a general scale as

well as at more specific levels. They have been used in specific contexts of development and change.

Urban Community Development, which deals with urban problems has always been a concern for social scientists and a social work priority right from the beginning of the profession. One of the difficult problems which continue to baffle the urban planners and administrators still, is the alarming increase of slums and the related problems due to the unprecedented migration to the urban centres.

### 1.3 Review of literature

Different studies are made with the help of different surveys conducted on issues related to working children and different types of child labourers.

G.S.Kewalramani (1991) has made a descriptive study about child abuse in a small town, 'Sambhar lake', in Rajasthan. For the study the age group selected, was of about 10 to 16 years. A sample of 167 cases ( boys 61.7 percent and girls 38.3 percent) were taken for this study. Among the girls about 46.9 percent were working. And majority of them ( 69.6 percent) reported that they were sexually abused<sup>13</sup>. The sample, selected for the study was only 167 cases including boys also. It was a general study about child abuse was and was not concentrated specifically on females. The present study deals only with the girls who are working

(ragpickers) and it is focussed on the treatment the society offers to these girls, but it have not dealt with the sexual abuse.

Among the studies that have examined child labour in rural India, the econometric analysis by Rosenzweig and Evenson(1977) is of considerable interest. Supplementing the 1961 census data with other data, they found that in the districts of India adult male and female education is negatively related to the percentage of male children engaged in cultivation, herding or as hired labour. In those district where the adult female wage is higher, the proportion of female child workers is lower, but the degree of urbanization has an opposite effect and the land size and productivity have influenced child labour positively. In a similar study using 1969-1971 rural survey data, Rosenweig(1981) again has shown that the percentage of population designated as scheduled castes is significantly and negatively associated with both the male and female child labour. An increase in the adult male wage and the presence of developmental programme in the district tended to lower the work activities respectively of the male and female children<sup>14</sup>. The research has come to a major conclusion that the land size and productivity influence the rate of child labour, and also different schemes and developmental programmes, introduced for the male members of the society. Both the studies support the fact

that the higher wages of adults males and female have a positive influence on the percentage of girl child labourers. The above research is made only among the child labourers in agriculture. And the study is much more interested in the econometric analysis. It did not cover the socio-demographic aspects of the lives of the child labourers. While the present study deals, not only about the economic level of the adolescent ragpicking girls, but also indicates the relationship between the occupation of their parents, and the causes leading them towards ragpicking.

In Bombay, The Society for Promotion of Area Resources Council ( SPARC 1994) is working with the Bombay Municipal Corporation recognised ragpickers as a part of city's legitimate workforce. The study focussed on the economics of the ragpicking business. It has been estimated that, among the street children, ragpickers was 55.2 percent. They generally operate as individuals, each one for himself or herself. SPARC has mentioned further, that in thirteen locations in Dharavi, alone have 5000 people dependent on the ragpicking business and 3000 of them were women<sup>15</sup>. The study done by SPARC has dealt with reclying system of the collected rags. But as the study has focussed on the economy of the rag collection, it has not given more importance in dealing with the ragpickers, from where the rag collection has started and how many phases it has passed. Hence for this reason in the

present study more importance is given to those children who were collecting the rags and especially to the adolescent ragpicking girls as they have different identities, being females in the society. from whom the business starts.

In Bombay Nirmala Niketan has conducted a study about ragpickers in 1984 to find out the working habits and has come to certain conclusion. 'There were two lakhs of ragpickers in Bombay alone. Among them 70 percent were women and children and among children mainly the runaway children'<sup>16</sup>. In a similar study it was found that that the majority of the ragpicking children prefer to roam alone because they can collect more rags than in groups. However, this study has not covered other aspects of their life, such as health and future aspirations and the study was more interested in numerical ratio of the children engaged in ragpicking. The present study has covered a few cases of ragpicking girls in Kolhapur city, but it has covered their numerical proportions, socio-demographic aspects and economic and health factors, with aspirations about their future life.

The National Institute of Public Co-operation and child development, New Delhi(1985) mentioned in the study of 'Ragpicker children in Delhi', found that more boys (79.5 percent ) were involved in ragpicking than girls (20.5 percent). In the same study, they chose the shops of scrap



collectors and about four to five children were interviewed from every shop, as and when they visited to dispose of their day's rag collection. Thus a total 52 children including 7 girls who were ragpickers, in 21 shops located in different zones spread all over Delhi were interviewed, and from that study they came to a certain conclusion, related to working hours of the ragpicking children<sup>17</sup>. Though in this study they had tried to interview those ragpicking children who came to collect their rags on the shops, they had focussed only on the working conditions of these children. While the factors leading them to accept such a job, and the reaction of the society as well as their family members are not covered. The cases interviewed are also limited in numbers to form generalizations. Like wise the study has not covered those ragpickers whose parents are collecting money from the 'scrap collectors'.

The Institute for Psychological and Educational Research (IPER) in Calcutta(1980) in a study of 23 ragpickers, who came to certain important conclusions on the psychological damage done by the work. The study found that they have a strong sense of physical insecurity, poor health, accompany emotional apathy and developing a sense of worry and anxiety<sup>18</sup>. In the same study it was also found that they suffered from various forms of physical, social and psychological insecurities which distinguished them even from those

children who work hard in small shops or workshops. In this study a different aspect of the lives of ragpickers is studied, ie. the psychological aspect. The emphasis is given on the mental stress, and due to its abnormalities and the negative elements, emerge within the personalities of ragpicking children. Though the study tried to focus upon the different facets of the life of the ragpickers, still other aspects such as socio-demographic background, family information, economic, educational and health condition of these ragpickers was left out. Also the samples were too small to form generalizations.

The studies which are made so far are about ragpicking children and they have covered them as one of the aspects of child labour or sometimes as a kind of street children. But no study is made specially on the adolescent ragpicking girls. Ragpicking is a stressful and hardworking job which requires more energy to roam. Being girls at their adolescent age they have different problems and the attitudes of their parents and of the society towards them could be different.

#### **1.4 Chapter scheme**

In this research the chapterwise description of the problem is given. Every chapter contains a different aspect of the problem under study, so that it has more clarity with

the related aspect. The chapters are :-

**Chapter I : Introduction.**

This chapter includes the reason for the rise of the problem, the background of the problem, the nature of the problem and why the study is necessary. The other studies which are done on the same subject and their gains also reveal how or in what way the present study is different than other studies done so far.

**Chapter II : Research Methodology.**

The chapter contains the objectives and hypothesis designed for the study, the universe and sample selected, the tools adopted for the data collection, the coverage and the period of collecting the information, limitations while gathering the information.

**Chapter III: Analysis.**

(3.1) Profile of the respondents:- This includes the whole information in number or percentagewise about the respondent's family size, educational background of his own as well as the family members, age group wise classification, age and sex ratio, parental occupations, caste and religion aspect, and the nature of family system.

(3.2) Working conditions:- This includes the reasons or the condition to select the job from the respondents side, the

problems they face, the time they spend every day in their occupation, and the income level of their own.

(3.3) Economic empowerment:- This topic deals with the expenditure of the earned money by the respondents and their economic empowerment.

(3.4) Future aspiration:- This includes the information about the respondents attitudes towards their occupation, their future aspirations about their present job and the attitudes towards marriage.

(3.5) Health Hazards:- This topic is about the health hazards due to such job / occupation and the influence on their total health, the diseases from which they suffer and the treatment they get.

#### **Chapter IV: Conclusions and suggestions.**

The last topic contains the conclusions which the researcher came across and the suggestions to deal soundly with these problems.

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