

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN POOR: A STUDY IN BANGALORE CITY

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Abstract

For the development of any economy, urbanization factor is an important parameter, without which we cannot expect an all-round development of the nation. The positive effects of urbanization are industrialization, housing development, infrastructural facilities, construction of roads, railways, airways, educational centres, health centres and entertainment besides another important parameter is income of the urban family, which is really greater than the farm size income. At the same time the negative effects are mass movement of population from rural economy to urbanized centre in search of job, income and wish to live in the urban centre. As a result, many unskilled people are work both in formal and informal sector, once these groups enter the urban markets, they never go back to their village, this results in cropping many urban problems particularly providing a decent house with all kinds of facilities. Many urban areas have been occupied by these group and these areas do not have basic facilities such as proper housing, sanitation, drinking water, street light and other facilities. With this background the present paper seeks to examine life of the urban poor in Bangalore city. For more specific the study throws light on eight slums in the Bangalore city which would highlight every aspect of these urban poor.

Keywords: *urbanization factor, industrialization, rural economy, informal sector, urban poor, slum dwellers*

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the status of income and employment of the slum dwellers in Bangalore City.
2. To assess the housing conditions of the urban poor in Bangalore city Slums.

Methodology

To carryout a comprehensive study on Socio Economic Conditions of Urban Poor - A Study in Bangalore City is based on purely primary data. To conduct the above study both questionnaire and interview method was used to gather first hand information. The study was carried out in eight prominent slums based in Bangalore city, viz., Bande Slum (BS), Rajagopal Nagar Slum (RS), Economicaly Weaker Section Quarters (EWS), Chamundi Nagar Slum (CNS), Indra Gandhi Slum (IGS), Hombe Gowda Slum (HG), Nayandahalli Slum (NHS), Indra Nagar Slum (ING). The total number of samples used in study are four hundred, (random sampling method) Fifty samples have been allotted to each slum to conduct a systematic study.

Migration and the Urban Poor

Bangalore is one of the fastest growing urban centre in Asia. Since Bangalore, is happens to be a industrial city accommodate lakhs of people in industries and manufacturing sector. In order to get jobs in the industrial centre and to lead a urbanized life, many people started coming to Bangalore particularly the immediate neighbours viz., Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and people from North Karnataka. By three decades, the population of Bangalore have been increased to four times, as it was only 125 slums have been identified in the 1980's, now it has been increased to more than 500 slums. This clearly shows that majority of the urban poor living in slum are migrated from various places. In this connection the study clearly reveals that almost 100 per cent of these slum people have been migrated. Majority of these respondents are from Tamil Nadu and Tamil speaking people (59.75) and 38.50 per cent are migrated to Bangalore from within Karnataka State. Only 1.75 per cent of them found to be from Andhra Pradesh. Thus, the survey clearly shows that these urban poor are totally migrated and came to Bangalore in search of job and life. The same has been presented in the table 1

Table 1 Information related to Migration Characteristics of the Respondents

Migration Native Place	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Are you Migrated	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)
Migrated from within Karnataka	12 (24.00)	22 (44.00)	17 (34.00)	47 (94.00)	20 (40.00)	05 (10.00)	18 (36.00)	13 (26.00)	154 (38.50)
Tamil Nadu	38 (76.00)	28 (56.00)	33 (66.00)	03 (06.00)	30 (60.00)	45 (90.00)	32 (64.00)	30 (60.00)	239 (59.75)
Andhra Pradesh	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	07 (14.00)	07 (01.75)
Kerala	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
North India	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Total	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey Data, June, 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Employment of the Slum Dwellers

The major aim of the agrarian families migrated to urban centre are in search of a regular job and good income. When we questioned these respondents about their employment reveals that every one are employed either through some one or doing kind of business and self employment. The study clearly shows that the majority of the slum people are employed and hard workers (47.50 per cent), Nearly 28.25 per cent are self employed and 24.25 per cent are in petty business. Thus, the study clearly disclose that no one is

unemployed and everyone is undertaking one or other kind of a job for their livelihood. But none of them found working for the organized sector. This is really interesting to know status of the slum dwellers in the city of Bangalore and the same has been presented in table 2.

Furthermore, with regard to their employment, a different category of work has been noticed. The prominent work engaged by these urban poor are in the building construction, carpentry, painting, blacksmith, embroidery, tailoring, scrap, pendal decoration, driving, vegetable and fast food business, flower business, maid and rag pickers. In most of the families both husband and wife works, most of the women are dominated in the category of housemaid (14.00 per cent), vegetable vending (16.25 per cent). Whereas, most of the men are engaged in construction filed (20.00 per cent), painting (10.25 per cent), driving (6.25 per cent) etc. In the case of vegetable vending, fast food business, tailoring both husband and wife work together. The same information has been presented in the table 3

Table 2 Status of Employment of the Respondents

Employment Status	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Employed	25 (50.00)	33 (66.00)	33 (66.00)	25 (50.00)	18 (36.00)	18 (36.00)	18 (36.00)	20 (40.00)	190 (47.50)
Unemployed	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Self-employed	10 (20.00)	17 (34.00)	14 (28.00)	15 (30.00)	22 (44.00)	18 (36.00)	12 (24.00)	05 (10.00)	113 (28.25)
Business	15 (30.00)	00 00	03 (6.00)	10 (20.00)	10 (20.00)	14 (28.00)	20 (40.00)	25 (50.00)	97 (24.25)
Working for organized sector	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Total	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey Data, June, 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Table 3 Categorization of Work of the Respondents

Nature of the work	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Construction	08 (16.00)	05 (10.00)	13 (26.00)	13 (26.00)	07 (14.00)	13 (26.00)	13 (26.00)	08 (16.00)	80 (20.00)
Painting	03 (6.00)	08 (16.00)	05 (10.00)	05 (10.00)	03 (6.00)	07 (14.00)	05 (10.00)	05 (10.00)	41 (10.25)
Blacksmith	03 (6.00)	03 (6.00)	00 00	03 (6.00)	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	09 (2.25)
Embroidery tailoring	02 (4.00)	00 00	00 00	03 (6.00)	11 (22.00)	00 00	11 (22.00)	03 (6.00)	30 (7.50)
VegeTable Vendor	13 (26.00)	05 (10.00)	05 (10.00)	03 (6.00)	08 (16.00)	05 (10.00)	13 (26.00)	13 (26.00)	65 (16.25)
Flower Business	05 (10.00)	00 00	03 (6.00)	00 00	05 (10.00)	07 (14.00)	08 (16.00)	13 (26.00)	41 (3.50)

Food Business	00 00	06 (12.00)	03 (6.00)	08 (16.00)	03 (6.00)	08 (16.00)	00 00	00 00	28 (7.00)
Housemaid	10 (20.00)	13 (26.00)	13 (26.00)	05 (10.00)	10 (20.00)	05 (10.00)	00 00	00 00	56 (14.00)
Driver	00 00	05 (10.00)	05 (10.00)	10 (20.00)	00 00	05 (10.00)	00 00	00 00	25 (6.25)
Pendal Decoration	03 (6.00)	05 (10.00)	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	08 (2.00)
Rag Pickers	03 (6.00)	00 00	00 00	00 00	03 (6.00)	00 00	00 00	00 00	06 (1.50)
Scrap	00 00	00 00	03 (6.00)	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	08 (16.00)	11 (2.75)
Total	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Status of the Income of Slum Dwellers

Income is one of the prime factor which determine the level of living of the people. As we already observed the urban poor are belong to working class group, as these group are not skill oriented, working for unorganized sector which receives a meager amount of income out of which it is very difficult to manage the family with children and to meet all kind of expenditures. The study information shows that majority of these urban poor (44.00) are comes under daily income group (e.g., Vegetables vending, fast food, flower business and tailoring), similarly 33.25 per cent belong to weekly income group (e.g., People who are work for construction, mason, painter, carpenter etc) and only 22.75 per cent are belong to monthly income group e.g., housemaid, servants, car driver and working for small enterprises etc (Table 4).

With regard to their level of income (Table 5) nearly 58.75 per cent are in the income group of less than Rs.3000, 40.25 per cent are in the income group of Rs.3000-5000 and only four respondents revealed that their income is ranges between Rs.5000-8000 and no one is found in the category of Rs.8001 - Rs.10, 000 and more than Rs.10, 000. If this is the reality, then how these poor can afford to live in the sophisticated city like Bangalore with present rate of food inflation? Would it possible to survive? Whether the present policy and programmes are really promote these urban poor?

Table 4 Income Status of the Respondents

Parameter	Results	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Do you get income on daily basis	Yes	35 (70.00)	13 (26.00)	15 (30.00)	20 (40.00)	30 (60.00)	25 (50.00)	20 (40.00)	18 (36.00)	176 (44.00)
Weekly	Yes	03 (6.00)	24 (48.00)	20 (40.00)	20 (40.00)	10 (20.00)	15 (30.00)	18 (36.00)	23 (46.00)	133 (33.25)
Monthly	Yes	12 (24.00)	13 (26.00)	15 (30.00)	10 (20.00)	10 (20.00)	10 (20.00)	12 (24.00)	09 (18.00)	91 (22.75)
Total		50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Table 5 Income of the Respondents

Income Parameter	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Less than Rs.3000	38 (76.00)	18 (36.00)	13 (26.00)	15 (30.00)	45 (90.00)	30 (60.00)	33 (66.00)	43 (86.00)	235 (58.75)
Rs 3000-5000	12 (24.00)	32 (64.00)	37 (74.00)	35 (70.00)	05 (10.00)	20 (40.00)	13 (26.00)	07 (14.00)	161 (40.25)
Rs 5000-8000	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	04 (08.00)	00 00	04 (01.00)
Rs 8001-10,000	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
More than Rs.10,000	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Total	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data **INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES**

It is a fact that urban poor are living in most of the slum with a very unbearable conditions. The major constraints are poverty, due to this the sufferings are lot. As an unskilled laboures, they cannot get a better job, with small kind of work they cannot make sufficient money to meet their ends. Now, it is tradition in the urbanized life that both the husband and wife work together to gain the money to some extent. The wives income is a supplement to his family and to bring up his children. Thus, the study clearly reveals that 74.25 per cent opined that the present income earned by the respondents are not sufficient. About 49.25 per cent of the respondents said their wives are working and it supplements their family expenditures. The study also clearly reveals that the parents do not depend on their children's income, as no child is taken up a job and more than 90 per cent of their children's are studying at school.(Table: 6)

Residential Information of the Urban Poor

As we already discussed, that these urban poor are migrated from other places, they came in search of job and livelihood. It is also a known fact that they come from a very poor background, they do not have a proper education and training as a result jobs are not assured, unable to get a steady and regular income and they have been forced to live in huts. Almost all the respondents opined that they are residing in slum. Nearly 31.50 per cent of the respondents are inhabitant in the slum for the past 15 years. 29.50 per cent are living in the slum for the past 20 years and the rest 26.75 per cent are living for more than 25 years. Only 12.25 per cent of the respondents are living in the slum since 10 years period, the same has been presented in the table 7.

Table 7 Income from Other Sources of the Respondents

Other sources of Income	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Is income sufficient (Yes)	17 (34.00)	50 (10.00)	50 (100.00)	43 (86.00)	35 (70.00)	38 (76.00)	26 (52.00)	38 (76.00)	297 (74.25)
No	33 (66.00)	00 00	00 00	07 (14.00)	15 (30.00)	12 (24.00)	24 (48.00)	12 (24.00)	103 (25.75)
Do you get income from other sources	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)
Wife's Employment	28 (56.00)	33 (66.00)	28 (56.00)	38 (76.00)	15 (30.00)	18 (36.00)	12 (24.00)	25 (50.00)	197 (49.25)
Husband's Employment	22 (44.00)	17 (34.00)	12 (24.00)	12 (24.00)	35 (70.00)	32 (64.00)	38 (76.00)	25 (50.00)	193 (48.25)
Children's Employment	00 00	00 00	10 (20.00)	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	10 (2.50)
Total	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Housing Accommodation of the Urban Poor

Since the slum people unable to get a good job and assured income it was not possible for them to purchase assets like plot, building and site as a result with their group and co-habitants they try to identify vacant land, example, on the railway station side, or other unattended land, they try to put temporary shed for some time, if no one claims the land, then they permanently settle in those places. This is how they created a slum in the city and no one is purchased these assets. Almost all the respondents have agreed that they are staying in their own house. Further, they also stated that these huts and houses are the free allotment from the government (refer Table 8).

Types and Category of the Housing Accommodation

The housing accommodation are very peculiar in the slum, if we look at the slum, in the Mumbai, they live in a very small place, and their accommodation is almost like a cupboard wrack, they sleep in such a condition, if rain water enter their houses, they cannot sleep in the lower wrack. It is very difficult to identify a concrete house in any slum. The new areas are made up in the thatched houses, but most of these houses are sheet and tile roof house. But now a days the policy of the government has been changed by upgrade the slum into a model house or model apartment so that these people could lead a descent life.

However, it is evident from the Table 9 that only 5 respondents in the Rajagopalnagar slum are living in the concrete house but majority, 72.75 per cent are living in the sheet house, 26.00 per cent reside in the tiles house and no one is living in either thatched house or government apartment. Further it has been observed here that those 10 respondents of the Rajagopalanagar slum and 08 respondents of the Indiranagar slum living

in a single bed room house and no one is having double bed room house. Thus nearly 95.50 per cent of the respondents are living in the slum house with a common room (Table 10).

Table 8 Housing Details of the Respondents

Parameter		BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Are you reside in the own house	Yes	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)
Is it free allotment from Govt.	Yes	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Table 9 Type of House of the Respondents

Parameter	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Concrete house	00 00	05 (10.00)	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	05 (1.25)
Sheet house	33 (66.00)	27 (54.00)	50 (100.00)	40 (80.00)	36 (72.00)	30 (60.00)	45 (90.00)	30 (60.00)	291 (72.75)
Tiles house	17 (34.00)	18 (36.00)	00 00	10 (20.00)	14 (28.00)	20 (40.00)	05 (10.00)	20 (40.00)	104 (26.00)
Thatched house	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Govt. Apartment	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Total	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data.

Table 10 Details of Housing Accommodation of the Respondents

Parameter	BS	RS	EWS	CNS	IGS	HGS	NHS	ING	Total
Is your house single bed room	00 00	10 (20.00)	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	08 (16.00)	18 (4.50)
Double bed room	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Common room	50 (100.00)	40 (80.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	42 (84.00)	382 (95.50)
Total	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Field Survey data, June 2011, Figures in the brackets indicates parentheses of the data

Identification of the Urban Poor

In our system identification of the citizen is a mandatory, we must obtain an identity card to claim ourselves that we are residing in a particular area. The card may vary, but it gives proper details about the address, and other information. The card may be Voter ID card, Ration Card or Medical Card or any other card issued by the government

authority. It is evident from the survey the majority of the slum dwellers have obtained both the ration card and Voter ID card, only 06.75 per cent do not have ration card in these area particularly the people of the Bande Slum nearly 54.00 per cent do not have Ration card and 18.00 per cent do not have Voter ID card. In rest of the slum almost all the people has both the cards. However, no respondent have opined that they have medical card, this clearly shows that making medical card in the premier hospital are costlier to them, however, they use both cards like APL and BPL for the medical purposes in case of major treatment in the premier hospitals.

Conclusion

The survey on urban poor in eight prominent slums in Bangalore clearly reveals the present situation of life in the slum. The study shows that these people are working in unorganized sectors, self employed, petty business who would able to earn Rs.100-200 per day which is very meager amount and unable to meet the daily needs for themselves and their dependents because the present rate of food inflation is greater. Majority of these people not only belong to low income group but also belong to lower community people in the society (Scheduled Caste and Other backward communities). And these people are migrated from neighbouring states in search of job and livelihood. Although these people come to Bangalore for a long time (more than three decades) still their economic conditions have not been improved.

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