



punjab geographer

A JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
PUNJAB GEOGRAPHERS, INDIA

VOLUME 7

OCTOBER 2011



LIVELIHOODS AND HEALTH STATUS OF SLUM DWELLERS IN ALIGARH CITY

Doctoral Dissertation Abstract (2011)

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'Slum is a dirty and overcrowded area of a city or town inhabited by poor people' (Oxford Dictionary, 2005). Rapid urbanization has brought in its wake an alarming, inevitable and persistent problem of 'slums'. The world's population has doubled in only two decades and in India, the share of urban population is continuously increasing from 17.3 per cent in 1951 to 27.8 per cent in 2001. By 2021 the share of urban population will be about 40 per cent. Slums are created mainly because of poverty, social backwardness and unemployment of people living in the countryside who subsequently move to urban areas with the main objective of eking out their livelihood. Slums are the first stopping point for poor migrants and it keep the wheels of the city turning in different ways by enabling urban informal-sector activities to flourish and developed. Thus, the informal sector is the dominant livelihood source of the slum dwellers. Aligarh city is selected as the study areas, because the problem of slums has seeped into small / medium size cities and not much work has been done on smaller cities, while there is greater awareness regarding issues related to slums and their management in larger cities. This is missing in smaller cities.

The major objectives of the study are; to identify and map the slum spots in Aligarh city;

to examine the profile of sampled slums and slum dwellers; to examine the physical / environmental conditions of the areas on which slums are located; to examine the occupational multiplicity of the slum dwellers; their living, working, economic and health conditions; their social problems and law and order situation. Finally, an effort has been made to assess the vulnerability of the slum dwellers and to identify and map vulnerable slum areas for future planning. The study is based on primary sources of data which have been collected through city surveys conducted during 2008-09.

The methodologies adopted for the study are; (i) identification and mapping of slum spots; (ii) multistage stratified random sampling procedure has been adopted, from 77 identified slum spots 48 slum spots (62 per cent having 10 or > 10 households) were selected for sampling and from these 64 per cent of households were selected for indepth investigation. Total sample size consisted of 1,140 slum households; (iii) Karl Pearson's correlation co-efficient (r) method was used to establishing the relationship between the risk factors and reported diseases; (iv) occupation-wise vulnerability of slum dwellers / households was calculated on the basis of 32 variables. For the assessment of vulnerable

slum areas, slum zones were demarcated on the basis of location and clustering covering 1 to 2 km of radius from the centre of the identified zone.

This study is divided into three parts and spreads over six chapters. Part one is devoted to an overview of slums in Aligarh city. This part comprises of two chapters. In the first chapter an attempt has been made to identify and map the distribution of slums and to examine their places of location, ownership, duration, area, population and number of households living there. In the second chapter an attempt has been made to examine various aspects of sampled slums and slum dwellers such as religion, caste, age, educational status and level of education. Family profile and migratory status have also been discussed.

Part two is devoted to an assessment of livelihood and health status of slum dwellers in Aligarh city. This part comprises three chapters. In the third chapter an attempt has

been made to examine occupation-wise housing, water supply, sanitation, neighbourhood environmental conditions and family assets. In the fourth chapter an attempt has been made to examine occupation-wise working and economic conditions of the sampled slum dwellers and occupational satisfaction. In the fifth chapter an attempt has been made to examine occupation-wise health condition of the slum dwellers and the factors affecting it.

Part three deals with vulnerability of slum dwellers and slums in Aligarh city. This part comprises of one chapter i.e. the sixth chapter. In this chapter an attempt has been made to assess the social conditions in the slums, occupation-wise vulnerability of slum dwellers and vulnerable slum areas for the purpose of planning and to find the solutions for the slums vulnerability issues. Finally a brief conclusion based on the results has been given.