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SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY WOMEN IN SLUM AREAS OF BELLARY CITY

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Abstract:- The ageing population poses a series of problems to the society due to the changing demographic scenario in our country along with fundamental changes in the life style as well. The Socio-economic problems of the Elderly women in Slum area of Bellary city which is located in the North –Eastern part of Karnataka are overcrowded with poverty stricken areas having lack of amenities open spaces and poor sanitary condition, there are no proper roads, lack of sewerage and drainage facility, lack of Welfare schemes for socio-economic development and Municipal Corporation failed to implement for living conditions of the Elderly women in Slum areas of Bellary city

This paper assess to examine Socio-Economic conditions the of elderly women in slum areas of Bellary city, and hypothesized almost all elderly women in slum areas are living below poverty line, Illiterate, depends on others basic needs as they have no economic security, lack of social recognition, depression, loneliness, severe health problems, lack of care from the family members, Lack of basic sanitation services due to poor accessibility as well as Lack of legal status and supportive infrastructure. Many of the Socio-Economic Welfare schemes of the government formulated not popular to the Elderly women.

Keywords: Elderly Women, Elderly women Slum areas, Socio-Economic problem, for implementing welfare schemes in Slum areas etc,

INTRODUCTION

Graying of population is one of the most significant characteristics of the 21st century. Rapid ageing trends present new challenges to governments, communities, families and the elderly themselves. Elderly women are a significant group of the society. Addressing their agendas in familial, social and economic spheres is imperative for improving their overall status and in turn, the society's as well.

The world is rapidly urbanizing and 2007 marked the first time in human history that the majority of humans have been living in urban areas. In fact, the urban population is expected to grow to 4.9 billion by 2030 while the rural population will decrease by 28 million. Much of this growth in cities is fueled by the growth in their respective urban slum populations, with almost half the residents of developing economies and up to 78% in the least developed countries living in such areas.

Accordingly, the population of slum-dwellers worldwide grew to 1.2 billion in 2008. Women living in slums are often susceptible to forced evictions by governments and other actors, and too often face gender-based violence, and the majority of slum dwellers are deplorable, with high rates of malnutrition, communicable diseases, and exposure to violence, in other words it refers to informal areas suffering from problems of accessibility, narrow streets, the absence of vacant land and open spaces, very high residential densities, and insufficient infrastructure and services.

The present study of the paper critically observed area of Bellary city is strategically located in the North-Eastern part of Karnataka at a distance of 300 km from state capital Bangalore, bordering Andhra Pradesh. The Tungabhadra Canal flows through the area. Bellary City with a population 3.1 lakh in 2001 is the 8th largest city in the State. The slum population in Bellary city comprises of about 81,706 (20% of total population) covering around 16,420 slum households in the city scattered within an area of 2.85 sq. km. The city has 67 slum locations out of which 56 are notified slums and 11 are non-notified slums.

Elderly women in Slum areas of Bellary city are overcrowded with poverty stricken areas having lack of amenities open spaces and poor sanitary conditions, etc. Apart from congestion, structural condition of the dwelling is very poor with temporary huts haphazardly erected. There are no proper roads, lack of sewerage and drainage facility, unhygienic and sub-standard living conditions, lack of water supply and other amenities. BPL population is less than slum population. The government and Municipal Corporation failed to implement socio-economic conditions of the elderly women in Bellary city.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The following major objective of this paper studied.

- 1.To examine Socio-Economic Problems of Elderly women in Slum areas of Bellary City.
- 2.To know whether the elderly women aware of the Socio-Economic welfare schemes formulated and benefits are utilized from these schemes.
- 3.To find out the Municipal Corporation of Bellary city to take proper measures to development of Elderly women.

HYPOTHESES:

Following are the Hypotheses formulated for the proposed study of this paper.

- 1.Majority of the Elderly women living in Slum areas of Bellary city are below poverty line, Illiterate, depends on others basic needs as they have no economic security, poor basic sanitation services,
- 2.Many of the Socio-Economic Welfare schemes of the Municipal Corporation formulated not popular to the Elderly women who are living Slum areas.

Methodology and Sources of Data.

The research paper was carried out in Bellary District which is located North Karnataka. The method of research paper is based on Critical and descriptive nature. The collected material is Secondary source of data and also reviewed and discussed.

II.ELDERLY WOMEN IN SLUM AREAS:

Older women are facing with different problems in most of the countries. Due to socio-technological changes, loss of joint family, changing values, dual career families etc, and the position of elderly women has become deplorable. Illiteracy, absence of a steady dependable income, lack of employment opportunities, irregular and inadequate pension system and inadequate social security programmes aggravates the elderly women's problems in India.

Women living in slums are often susceptible to forced evictions by governments and other actors, and too often face gender-based violence before, during, and after eviction. In many slums, the majority of occupants living in densely packed shacks in fact do not own them, but rather rent them from landlords. Owners often rent out their shacks at high costs relative to the income of the majority of occupants, and this is especially problematic for indigent women who tend to be the lowest income earners. Add to this the fact that women are even less likely to have recognised rights over their homes, as these rights, in practice, are vested with the husband.

For women, while they may not have control over their housing situation, nonetheless have to deal with all of the problems inherent in inadequate housing. Construction and repair of slum housing is appallingly inadequate most of the time, exposing occupants to leaking roofs, abysmal sanitation, security risks, flooding, and fire outbreaks. It is women who are disproportionately affected by all of these problems, as they spend more time in the home and community caring for their families and their households.

The study of this paper focus area of Bellary City Slum population, and which specially for problems facing by the Elderly women in Slum areas. Bellary is strategically located in the North-Eastern part of Karnataka at a distance of 300 km from state capital Bangalore, bordering Andhra Pradesh. The Tungabhadra Canal flows through the area. Bellary City with a population 3.1 lakh in 2001 is the 8th largest city in the State. Having crossed the 3 lakh population mark during the decade 1991-2001 Bellary local body acquired the status of City Corporation in the year

2004 from City Municipal Council.

Due to extensive industrialization people from neighboring states move to Bellary city in search of jobs. This has put a lot of pressure supplying infrastructure facilities like drinking water, sanitation, roads etc; thereby giving rise to slums across the city. To mitigate the problems of the economically weaker section and create good civic amenities in the city, there is an urgent need for having an implementable city sanitation plan even for the economically weaker section and widows, elderly women who are living in Slum areas of Bellary city. The Profile of Bellary City as given table No.1

Brief profile of Bellary city

City features	Status
Number of wards	35
Area	82 sq. km
Average rainfall per annum	540 mm
Population (2001 Census)	317500
Estimated population (2011)	409644
Estimated households (2011)	85322
Population decadal growth rate (2001-2011)	29%
Literacy rate (2011 Census	78.2%
Female population/ 1000 Male (2011 Census)	988
Average family size	4.8
Population density (per sq. km)	4996
No. of Slums	67
Slum population	81706
Slum households	16420
Road length	479 km

III.Socio-Economic problems of the Elderly women in Slum area of Bellary city.

The present study of the paper discussed the socio-economic conditions of elderly women in Slum areas are different various problems, Due to extensive industrialization people from neighboring states move to Bellary city in search of jobs. This has put a lot of pressure supplying infrastructure facilities like drinking water, sanitation, roads etc; thereby giving rise to slums across the city.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: the following various problems facing by elderly women in Slum areas of Bellary city.

- ❖ Majority of the elderly women living in Slum areas are Illiterate and depends on others basic needs as they have no economic security.
- ❖ Almost all elderly women are both physically and mentally weak to work, as result, they have no or very limited to maintain their living expenses.
- ❖ Elderly women faces several problems such as lack of status in the family as well as in society, loneliness, poor economic status, lack of social recognition, depression , severe health problems, lack of care from the family members.
- ❖ Most of the elderly women who are living in Slum areas, lack of awareness Socio-Economic welfare schemes, like, pension, Security Programmes, Government Polices, NGO’s welfare development Schemes.
- ❖ The break-up of the joint family system, the increase in nuclear families, housing shortages in urban areas, and

- the increasing participation of women in the workforce.
- ❖ Lack of basic sanitation services due to poor accessibility, and Lack of legal status and financial resources as well as lack of supportive infrastructure.
 - ❖ The population of these areas continues to increase; the inability of the local authorities to provide basic services is becoming a serious problem.
 - ❖ Construction and repair of slum housing is appallingly inadequate most of the time, exposing occupants to leaking roofs, abysmal sanitation, security risks, flooding, and fire outbreaks and supply of services is limited
 - ❖ Waste disposal services are sparse, resulting in hazardous conditions that promote infectious diseases.
 - ❖ The sewage and toilet wells of some houses directly flow into soiled gutters of streets and then into empty spaces around houses.
 - ❖ The Municipal Corporation of Bellary city failed to implement welfare schemes of who are living Slum areas.
 - ❖ The Government of Karnataka and Municipal Corporation overlook the Socio-Economic problem of the elderly women in Slum areas of Bellary city.

The paper studied the Slum population of the Bellary city, and taken some Slum notified and non- notified areas for the purpose of completion of this paper, the slum population in Bellary city comprises of about 81,706 (20% of total population) covering around 16,420 slum households in the city scattered within an area of 2.85 sq. km. The city has 67 slum locations out of which 56 are notified slums and 11 are non-notified slums. The below table contain only 10 Notified Slums out of 56 and 8 Non-notified slums out of 11 slum locations.

Table no 2 : Notified and non-notified slum details as on 2010-2011

Ward No	Slum Name	Slum		
		Area	Population	Household
Notified Slums areas of Bellary City				
1	Harishchandra Nagar	0.012	1276	267
5	Bandimot Area	0.012	1643	328
5	Korachegeri Bandimot Area	0.001	725	126
5	Guggarahatti (Honnalli Road)	0.008	1015	220
8	D.C. Colony	0.089	1429	285
10	Rani Garden	0.023	2535	501
14	Millerpet No	0.024	1912	369
30	Alipura	0.053	2129	446
32	Fort Area	0.001	806	168
35	Kurihatti	0.008	688	141
Non-Notified Slum				
5	Alagappa Beedi	0.052	1127	276
16	Srirampuram Colony	0.09	1129	212
18	D.A.R. Lane	0.069	332	67
29	D.C. Camp Belgal Road	0.92	1576	306
27	Ambedkar Ashraya Colony	0.082	481	100
32	Naagalacheruvu 2nd Phase	0.006	306	67
33	Medaroni	0.072	475	102
34	Devinagar Maratagalli	0.11	645	12
Total		1.632	20229	3993

Source: Karnataka Municipal Reforms Cell, DMA, GoK.

IV.Municipal Corporation of Bellary city and Government of Karnataka for Implementing Welfare Schemes of Elderly women in Slum area.

The present study of this paper given information about the Municipal Corporation of Bellary and Karnataka Municipal Reforms cell have taken proper measures for the development of Slum Population with provided sufficient sanitary facilities in slum areas of Bellary city needs considerable improvement on the sewerage network along with the water supply, maintenance of storm water drains, efficient solid waste collection and its disposal mechanism.

Sewerage network in slums: The sanitation infrastructure in Bellary needs improvement in terms of connectivity of sewerage network with increased number of toilets, giving UGD connections and upgrading the existing toilets. Only 6,340 households in slums are connected to UGD network accounting to 7% of the total households of 16,420 slum households. There is a clear indication of requirement in improving sewerage conditions in the city.

Table 1: Sewerage facilities in slums

Drainage and sewerage	Total households	Percentage of slum households	Percentage of total households
Digester	3345	20%	4%
Underground drainage	6340	39%	7%
Storm water drainage	6707	41%	8%
Not connected	8662	53%	10%

Table 2: Sanitation Arrangements: Slum households

Sanitation	Total households	Percentage of slum households	Percentage of total households
Public pit	808	4.9%	1%
Own pit	1305	7.9%	2%
Shared pit	1457	8.9%	2%
Public septic tank	5059	30.8%	6%
Own septic tank	5588	34.0%	7%
Shared septic tank	389	2.4%	0%
Open defecation	1802	11.0%	2%

Source: Karnataka Municipal Reforms Cell, DMA, GoK

The Slum Clearance Board has constructed houses for slum dwellers under various schemes in Bellary as given in the table below.

Table :3 House schemes for slum dwellers.

Sl. No.	Slum name	Scheme name	No. of houses constructed	Cost in lakhs	No. of families benefited
1	Leprosy Colony	HUDCO	68	26.46	408
2.	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	HUDCO	50	29.00	296
3	Different slums (4) phase I	Vambay	615	246.00	3690
4.	Different slums (10) phase II	Vambay	112	44.80	672
5.	Different slums (10) phase III	Vambay	601	191.60	2874
		Total	1446	537.86	7940

Source: Slum Clearance Board, Bellary

Providing alternate site and housing to the slum dwellers in the new locality is not feasible and very troublesome due to land acquisition difficulties, paucity of funds and other administrative problems. At present a statutory body Slum Clearance Board which is functioning at Bellary takes up the slum clearance and improvement schemes in the city.

SUGGESTION AND RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Elderly women's effective participation.
- ❖ gender-based violence.
- ❖ elderly and equality.
- ❖ elderly women in Slum areas.
- ❖ institutional levels
- ❖ Creating Awareness of Welfare Schemes and over all development of Elderly women living Slum areas of Bellary city.

CONCLUSION

Slum areas are characterized by posing risks to life, health and tenure or having inappropriate housing. Due to extensive industrialization people from neighboring states move to Bellary city in search of jobs. This has put a lot of pressure supplying infrastructure facilities like drinking water, sanitation, roads etc; thereby giving rise to slums across the city. The most all of elderly women Slum area of Bellay city are having both physically and mentally weak to work, as result, they have no or very limited to maintain their living expenses and facing several problems such as lack of status in the family as well as in society, loneliness, poor economic status, lack of social recognition, depression, severe health problems, Lack of basic sanitation services due to poor accessibility, and as well as lack of supportive infrastructure.

This study presents a more accurate figure of the number of Elderly women in Slum areas in Bellay city, an urgent need of development and improving their living conditions, creating awareness for welfare Schemes in slum areas and require programs to develop unsuitable shelter conditions, and programs to legalize tenure in areas of instability.

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