



ISSUES CONCERNED WITH EDUCATION OF SLUM CHILDREN IN MYSURU

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Abstract:

Perpetual inflow of population to the most modern urban centers for searching jobs is one of the main factors which has led to the eminence of slums in all countries of the world irrespective of developed, developing and under developed. Slums have always been there in the past; they still exist; and they will continue to exist in the forthcoming years till the present flow of people from the rural area continues to cause overcrowding population and congestion in the urban centers. Many children in these slums start working at a very early age with no prospect of getting any schooling but make money by rag picking, selling newspapers in traffic, peddling drugs or begging. They are at risk of exploitation as well as all the health problems that accompany their lifestyles. Further, family surroundings and domestic problems create an environment which negatively affects the value system of children. These children are deprived of education which is very important to transform a person to live a better life. Additionally students drop out as a result of a multitude of school factors such as uncongenial atmosphere, poor comprehension, absenteeism, attitude and behavior of the teachers, failure or repetition in the same grade, lack of achievement and attitude of parents towards education. The following study tries to explore these issues related to the education of slum children and concludes emphasizing the intervention strategies and models to deal with these issues in social work point of view

KEY WORDS: Education, Slum, Child rights

INTRODUCTION:

In the present day world especially in developing countries, the growth of slums is usually parallel to the growth of urbanization. India is no exception to urbanization. In India, one important reason for the migration of the rural population to the metropolitan cities, apart from the fact that urban areas offer better job opportunities appears to be that the development of rural areas has lagged behind, with the result that the rural population is attracted to the amenities and entertainment specialties which are available in the cities. Housing has, without exception, failed to keep pace

with staggering rate of migration in to the cities and inevitable result has been unplanned growth of cities and the consequent growth of slum. Negative consequences of urban pull results in upcoming of slums Characterized by housing shortage and critical inadequacies in public utilities, overcrowding, and unhygienic conditions.

The majority of slum dwellers identify themselves with the city rather than with their native place and plan to settle permanently in the city. In spite of poor conditions in slums second generation residents who are not nostalgic about their rural background feel that life in slum is reasonably tolerable and city life is probably better than rural life. They greatly value improving their working situation through getting a better job you have low aspirations and have an optimistic view their chances of improving their socio economic status. Many of the younger generation irrespective of gender, income level and educational attainment express their regard for education and foresees upward social mobility for their children by educating their offspring as much as possible.

People residing in slums face many problems like improper sanitation, unhygienic environmental conditions social economic health education and cultural problems and many more. The fundamental issues inherent in slums are health hazards. Lack of basic amenities like safe drinking water, proper housing and drainage and excreta disposal services; make slum Population vulnerable to infections.

The ongoing process of rapid urbanization has deleterious repercussions on health and nutrition, especially for children malnutrition in young children has long term negative effects on physical and cognitive development. Furthermore, Socio-economic problems crop up in slum areas. The Slum environment is the perfect breeding ground for a wide range of social problems. High unemployment often causes men to stay around the home growing increasingly frustrated with their pathetic situation and the worsening poverty. In such an environment, it is the younger ones who are damagingly affected. Many children in these slums start working at a very early age with no prospect of getting any schooling but make money by rag picking, selling newspapers in traffic, peddling drugs or begging. They are at risk of exploitation as well as all the health problems that accompany their lifestyles. Further, family surroundings and domestic problems create an environment which negatively affects the value system of children. These children are deprived of education which is very important to transform a person to live a better life. Additionally students drop out as a result of a multitude of school factors such as uncongenial atmosphere, poor comprehension, absenteeism, attitude and behavior of the teachers, failure or repetition in the same grade, lack of achievement and attitude of parents towards education. Although the Government has undertaken many measures to overcome these setbacks, they are unable to overcome it completely because of lack of awareness, negligence and ignorant populace of the slums. There are many variables in the surroundings of a child in a slum including health hazards, child labor, poverty, lack of awareness and education, informal economy, bad habits

such as smoking, gambling, vagrancy and use of vulgar language. Out of all these variables, the present study tries to uncover the issues related to the education of slum children.

METHODOLOGY:

Methodology is the systematic, theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field of study. It comprises the theoretical analysis of the body of methods and principles associated with a branch of knowledge. In the present study, this segment deals with the methods that were adopted by the researcher to know the issues related to the education of slum children.

PROBLEM FORMULATION:

People residing in slums face many problems like improper sanitation, unhygienic environmental conditions social economic health education and cultural problems and many more the basic problems inherent in slums are health hazards. Lack of basic amenities like safe drinking water, proper housing and drainage and excreta disposal services; make slum population vulnerable to infections.

It is projected that more than half of the Indian population will live in urban areas by 2020 and nearly one third of this urban population will be slum dweller. The ongoing process of rapid urbanization has deleterious repercussions on health and nutrition, especially for children malnutrition in young children has long term negative effects on physical and cognitive development. The major causes of childhood malnutrition in slum population are inappropriate child feeding practices. Infections, improper food security and suboptimal childcare besides poor availability and inadequate mutilation of health care services addressing nutritional problems of urban poor is essential for overall development of the country.

Most of the children in slums do not go to school or drop out because their parents need their help. They do not encourage their children to go to school especially girl children. Reduced literacy level, child labor and school dropouts are the major obstacles for education. Dropout, absenteeism and lack of awareness about their right to education have been an alarming issue which requires immediate intervention. Hence the present study focuses the issues concerned with the education of slum children in Mysuru.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Education being one of the most important tools in the modern world has been provided a lot of importance numerous schools colleges and universities have been opened for all those children who can actually afford it but what about the children in the slum areas. Children from deprived families and slum areas cannot even think of affording the overpriced this complexity for the slum children government has made several efforts with which every child would be able to learn gain knowledge and grow well.

With lack of education, slum dwellers have to opt for jobs such as rag picking, laborers and house servants. They earn a meager income, just enough to buy a day's meal. It is important to carefully design preventive measures and intervention strategies that could be adopted In order to help all adolescent dropouts. Certain preventive measures can be implemented throughout the target populations, while others must take into account the diversity of dropout profiles. It is important to carefully design preventive measures and intervention strategies that could be adopted In order to help all adolescent dropouts. Certain preventive measures can be implemented throughout the target populations, while others must take into account the diversity of dropout profiles.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The study was conducted in the slums of Mysuru City. The study includes 5 slums with a sample of 100 respondents. The results may be extrapolated to primary school children living in slums of Mysuru. The study includes children dwelling in slums and attending primary schools and their parents

AIM OF THE STUDY: The study aims to understand the issues concerned with the education of slum children in Mysuru

OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the parents attitude towards the children's education.
2. To understand the problem faced by parents to provide education for their children residing in the slums.
3. To understand the attitude of children towards education.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

A research design is a logical and systematically plan prepared for directing a research study. It specified the objectives of the study, the methodology and the techniques to be adopted for achieving the objectives. The researcher used the **exploratory research design** to achieve the objectives of the study.

Universe:

The study was carried out in Mysore city which includes children dwelling in slums and attending primary schools and their parents. There are 64 slums in Mysore city according to the slum board authority. These 64 slums form the universe of the study

Sampling:

The method of selecting for studying a portion of the universe with a view to draw conclusion about the universe is known as sampling. In other words, a sample is a subset of a large population. There are 64 slums in Mysuru city according to the slum board authority. For the study, 5 slums were identified by the researcher. With the list collected from the schools, the households, where Oprimary school children resided were selected from which 20 households were drawn randomly from each slum. For

this, the researcher has adopted **Simple random sampling** with a sample size of 100 i.e.100 children and 100 parents and simple descriptive statistics has been used. .

For the study, children dwelling in slums and attending primary schools and their parents were included while higher primary school students and adolescents were excluded.

Tools:

Any measurable instrument that becomes a means of collecting information for the study is a research tools.

Primary Data: For the study, the primary data was collected through Interview Schedule prepared by the researchers to gather required data. Interview Schedule comprised of 41 questions for students and parents were administered. The Interview Schedule was divided into two sections. Section 1 comprised of 26 questions for children and the second Section of 15 questions was for parents.

Secondary Data: For the study, the secondary data is collected by reports, journals, magazines, previous researches, text books and internet sources.

Analysis of data:

Quantitative analysis: Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the collected data.

Criteria for Inclusion:

Children: They should be dwellers of slum and attending primary school.

Parents: They should be dwellers of slum with the children of school going age. The study is confined to 5 slums of Mysore city. So the respondents should be residing in those slums.

Criteria for Exclusion: The study excludes higher primary students and adolescents.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The study limits primary school children only. The study does not consider socio-economic status. Also, the study does not consider secondary school students and adolescents. The study is confined to selected slums of Mysuru city only.

RESULTS:

The following segment discusses the results of the study. All results are depicted in tabular form.

A. Feedback of students:

Table-1: Type of School

SL.NO.	Type of School	Percentage
1	Government	73
2	Private	27
	Total	100

Table 1 shows that among 100 respondents, 73% of them attend Government School and 27% of them attend private School. The result indicates that maximum numbers of respondents are going to government school.

TABLE 2: Gender of the Respondents

SL.NO.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Boys	55	55
2.	Girls	45	45
	Total	100	100

Table 2 shows that among 100 respondents, 55% of the respondents are boys and 45% of the respondents are girls. The result indicates that most of the respondents are boys.

TABLE 3: Awareness about Peer School Dropouts

SL NO.	School Dropouts	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	7	7
2.	No	93	93
	Total	100	100

Table 3 depicts the awareness regarding respondent's knowledge about peer school dropouts. Among 100 respondents, 7% of respondents know about the school dropout students and 93% of the respondents don't know about the school dropouts. The results indicates that the school dropout rates is reduced comparing to earlier.

TABLE 4: Encouragement to Education

SL.NO.	Encouragement of education	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Father	36	36
2.	Mother	56	56
3.	Guardians	8	8
	Total	100	100

Table 4 describes regarding giving encouragement to the children education from the family. Among the respondents, 56% of respondents are getting encouragement by their mother, 36% of respondents are getting encouragement by their father and 8% of respondents are getting encouragement by their guardians. The result indicates that students are getting encouragement to education from their family members and getting maximum support from their mother.

Table 5: Goals of the students

SL.NO.	Particulars	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Doctor	22	22
2.	Engineer	1	1
3.	Police	11	11
4.	Teacher	13	13
5.	Pilot	3	3
6.	Other	40	40
	Total	100	100

Table 5 depict regarding goals of the students. Among 100 respondents 44% of respondents want to something else, 25% of respondents want to become doctor, 15% of respondents want to become teacher, 12% of respondents want to become police, 3% of respondents want to become pilot and 1% of respondents want to become engineer. The result indicates that maximum of the respondents didn't decided their goals or what they want to be.

B. ANALYSIS OF PARENTS FEEDBACK

TABLE 6: Family Annual Income

SL.NO.	Family annual Income	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	8000-10000	17	17
2.	11000-12500	42	42
3.	13000-15000	37	37
4.	16000-18000	4	4
	Total	100	100

Table 6 shows among 100 respondents, 42% of respondent's family income is around 11000-12500, 37% of respondent's family income is around 13000-15000, 17% of respondent's family income is around 8000-10000 and 4% of respondent's family income is around 16000-18000.

The result indicates that maximum number of respondent's are belongs to low family income.

TABLE 7: Problems Facing to Provide Education for their children

SL.NO.	Problems facing to provide education	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	28	28
2.	No	72	72
	Total	100	100

Table 7 shows regarding parent's facing the problems to provide education to their children. 72% of the respondents are facing problems to provide education to their children and rest of the respondents are not facing any problems to provide education to their children. The result indicates that maximum numbers of respondent's are facing problem to provide education to their children such as lack of finance and the problem of migration.

TABLE 8: Parents Support to their Children's higher Education

SL.NO.	Parents support to their children s higher education	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Left to Children's Interest	63	63
2.	Up to our Strength	15	15
3.	Up to get Good Job	18	18
4.	Till Govt Facilities Available	4	4
	Total	100	100

Table 8 depicts that out of 100 respondent's, 63% of respondents says children's education left to children's interest, 18% of them says up to get good job to the children, 15% of them says up to their strength they are going to support and rest of them says that till the availability of govt facilities they are going to support their children's education. The result indicates that maximum numbers of respondents are going to support their children's education according to the interest of children towards the study.

TABLE 9: Required Equal Education for Boys and Girls

SL.NO.	Required equal education for Boys and Girls	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	98	98
2.	No	2	2
	Total	100	100

Table 9 depict about parents agree for the equal education for boys and girls. Among 100 respondents, 98% of respondents agree for the equal education for boys and girls and only 2% of the respondents are not agreed. The result indicates that maximum numbers of respondents are agreeing for the equal education for boys and girls.

Table 10: Awareness about Govt. programs

Table 10 shows that 32% of the respondents are aware about Government

SL.NO.	Awareness about Govt. programs	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	32	32
2.	No	68	68
	Total	100	100

programmes provided for the benefit of children while 68% of them are not aware. The results indicate that maximum respondents are not aware.

TABLE-11: Awareness about RTE Act

SL.NO.	Awareness about RTE Act	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	21	21
2.	NO	79	79
	Total	100	100

Table-11 shows that the parent's awareness about RTE Act. Out of 100 respondents, 21% of respondents know about RTE Act and 79% of respondents don't have the awareness about RTE Act. The result indicates that maximum number of respondents don't have the awareness about RTE Act.

DISCUSSION

The present study aimed at studying the issues concerned with education of slum children in Mysore City. The general objective of the study was to understand the parental support towards their children's education, the problems faced by them in providing education and to understand the attitude of the children towards education. With this aim, the researcher, after going through the reviews from various studies in the subject area prepared a structured interview schedule and started collecting data from the slums identified for the study.

The study showed that majority of the students attended Government school while 27% of them attended private school. The researcher wanted to check with the awareness of the students about Government programmes provided to them. Majority of them were aware about scholarships, mid-day meals, free books and uniforms provided by the Government. The respondent students were asked about the encouragement and support given by the family. In majority of the families, mothers encouraged their children to obtain education.

The respondents went to primary schools and they were too small to understand about their future goals and employment. When asked what they wanted to achieve or become in future they said they wanted to become doctors, engineers, police, teachers etc. The researcher also interviewed the parents to know their attitude towards educating their children, whether they are for equal education and their awareness about programmes given by the government for education. While survey, it was found that majority of the parents wanted their children to get good jobs, have a good future, gain good knowledge and lead an independent life. Economic problems were the major issue faced by them in providing education. Despite of this majority parents are ready to give education to their children and encourage their interest.

The major finding of the study was that there is totally no awareness in parents about Right to education Act and the benefits they get from the Act. This alarms that there is a critical need for the awareness of the Act which increases enrollment and provides with the opportunity for all to get education. Also there is very less awareness about Government initiatives for the education of children. This area needs intervention

The observations made by the researcher were that there is no proper hygiene habits practiced in the slums. The houses are so congested with no proper ventilation and in some household there was only a single room space where kitchen, TV everything was in the same space with no proper place for the children to study. There is no good water facility, proper roads and transportation for some areas which impacts the hygiene factors. There are bars near the residential area which has a bad impact on the growing children. Majority of the parents are uneducated and are more employment oriented in order to overcome their economic problems since most of them work for daily wages which is insufficient to meet their needs. Using abusive words in front of the children is another observation; this makes children follow their parents. All these factors have been a major drawback in creating a conducive environment for education of children dwelling in slums. Such an environment lacks motivation for the children to study and improve socially, economically and morally.

Social Work Intervention:

Social Work is primarily practice-oriented which includes interventions with various sections of the population, especially the marginalized sections, who are more in need. The nature of relationship between theory and practice in Social Work can be analyzed with reference to any area of social work intervention like social work practice in hospital settings, community settings, practice with the disabled, women-centric social work, social work practice with notified and de-notified tribes, etc. One such area of social work intervention chosen for analysis in this study is slum children.

Social Work takes place at four levels: Curative, preventive rehabilitative and developmental. The approach towards children dwelling in slums at the curative level is direct. This approach concentrates on solving the problem once it has happened.

With children dwelling in slums, curative level practice involves working along with them and creating awareness about their rights provided by the Nation. Also awareness should be given on Govt. schemes and programmes provided for their betterment. As a part of curative level of practice, integration of children with their families, especially for dropouts and child laborers becomes important. Working with families and the communities they belong to becomes preventive approach. This approach concentrates on involving the families and the community to join hands in tackling problem and thus find a way to bring them to the main stream. Methods of Social Work like Group work, Community organization practice etc can be used in this approach. Models of community organization like locality development model and social action model can be adopted. Rehabilitative approach involves advocacy for their rights. At this level, the problem is addressed at the societal level. It aims at controlling the re-occurrence of the problems and concentrates on rehabilitating drop-outs and child laborers. For this there is a need to create awareness for all the sectors of the society. In a developmental perspective, people are further mentored and prepared for the future challenges and thus facilitate their full integration into the social and economic life of the community. Social Work models like problem-solving model task-centered model and crisis intervention model can be used by the social workers to effectively handle the problem and thus make the whole community thrive towards development.

CONCLUSION:

India's growth relies on a well-educated and skilled workforce. Improving education is a critical area of investment. In order to build India as a consumer market of global standards, it is very important that every child reaps the benefits of quality education. Social work professionals working in the urban slums can focus on providing a positive atmosphere where the child dwelling in slum and deprived of education can make use of the Govt. initiative to make use of his/her right to education, commit to study in a formal education system and thus attain development and join the main stream. Macro level of Social Work intervention can be applied by the workers to reach the entire community by joining hands with non-governmental organizations, the youth, and the community as a whole.

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