

“ Contribution of Social Welfare Societies in upliftment of slum women in Indore City ”

Dr. Lalit Kumar Dubey (Principal :Sant Deevan Karamchand Girls Degree College Indore)
lmnsdubey@gmail.com

Abstract: The research is being done in the slum areas of Indore city, selected randomly on the basis of east and western part of Indore. Panchsheel Nagar, Nut Colony Bheem Nagar, Aheerkheri, Niranjapur, Pardeshipura, Bhagirathpura are the main slum areas from the data have been collected. out of total 1553 people atleast 350 ladies were selected for the information regarding the contribution of social welfare societies in their areas. Apart from slum dwellers 10 social welfare societies also are taken as sample to prove and match the information given by both slum women and members of societies. The criteria of upliftment has been taken as slum women's education, respect in family, eradication of domestic violence and opposition by the women itself, living with physically and residential cleanliness, Improvement in tongue and communicational skill, understanding in dressing sense, enhanced learning ability and stimulating to become self employed after being trained through government schemes and financial assistance, learning the importance of saving of money, use of safety techniques for escaping self from antisocial elements etc.

Key Words: Social Welfare Societies, Slum Women,

Introduction: The study is focused on efforts of social welfare societies working for safety and other progressive work for women residing in slum areas, Apart from Government work is being done for the

same. Though during the survey 85% slummers denied as any group is working for their socioeconomic development. This is the result of not making aware the slum dwellers about the schemes launched by the social development organisations. Through news papers rarely they get information about the working by any organization in the slums about their deeds. In the health camps installed for health checkup doctors prescribe expensive medicines and investigations which their pocket doesn't allow to purchase. Besides this some organization are coming with the motive to donate fruits, medicines, free cloths ,books and fees for the poor children etc.The noticeable efforts are being done by the social workers for the socioeconomic development of slum women.

It is well-known that poor, vulnerable groups residing in chachucha houses made of mud, branches of trees, pieces of plastic sheets and tin with lack of basic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation of dirty water, electricity and roads ,low capacity to absorb the benefits of rapid urban development. The Project covered water supply, sanitation, road improvements, slum improvement, and poverty emphasizing community development activities. This study evaluates the work done by social development organization based on field visits to the project towns in Indore during 2010-11 and onwards.



The social welfare societies have contributed to significant changes in the life of women. This was revealed by focus group interactions and field visits in the 10 towns undertaken for this study. Most of the groups visited could be assessed as successful in social and economic terms. Less than 5% of the social welfare societies formed under the program can be said to be defunct. 42% of the urban poor were covered by social welfare societies in the short period that the project was active.

Impact on Economic Status:

(i) Increased entrepreneurial skills: This step taken by the SWS (Social Welfare Societies) has allowed women to change from being wage workers to being self employed. About 122 Women also have gained the option to pursue two or three petty businesses, change from one type of business to another, combine wage employment with small business.

(ii) Increased access to credit. The social welfare societies has insisted women to save their excess money. They are at ease in their minds as they can avail monies when they need, without having to pay any collateral. The most important effect of social welfare societies in slum areas is to escape the slum dwellers from the clutches of the money lenders. Pledging on jewelry has also reduced. They can request for adjustment in the duration of repayment.

(iii) Establishment of businesses. At least half of the members (15–18 generally) have taken a loan 46 In reality, the businesses are

income generating activities, i.e., they may or may not be micro-enterprises which is more permanent form of economic activity. The income generating activities could be a casual activity (e.g., selling flowers, selling food grains) where women can move in and out as time and need dictate, most often supplementing male household income. India: Promoting Urban Social Development Through social institutions In Indore from to set up a micro-enterprise managed either by the women or by their family members. There is an endless list of businesses established in this way, based on small credits of Rs 500 to sell flowers, vegetables and fruits, up to Rs 4,500 to establish petty shops and hotels, food grains, manufacture and sale of processed food products would need investments amounts varying between Rs 500 to Rs 5,000. Many women have gained advantages in owning a petty enterprise as it allows flexibility in working hours and helps balance house keeping and child rearing along with earning for the family. While visiting slum areas it has found many examples showed that women who invested in businesses are better off. One woman visited, Vaijyanti from Bheem Nagar Indore had a kirana business at home. After providing him information and knowledge of mobile recharge and accesories she added a stall for mobile recharge and repairing by the side of kirana shop and there after now she is gaining near to double as compared to former income. Women now also have the opportunity to change from one income generating activity to another. Babita of Panchsheel Nagar Indore began with the sale of flowers but changed to selling of clothes which she found more remunerative. Thus many of the women have benefited from the skill training programs and the Entrepreneurship Development Program that followed by them run by the social development

organizations. This has ensured a substantial change in the incomes, as these are micro-enterprises in the true sense of the word. The increase in income has allowed poor women to be able to prioritize their requirements. The general trend is to invest in business only after these needs have been fulfilled. A first priority is to educate the children, health purposes, for house repairs and to purchase kitchen utensils. Some also cleared earlier loans that they otherwise would have to take with high interest rates. Many shifted from a rented house to a house on lease. It is only later that women also invest in purchase of equipments like televisions, telephones, and household machineries.

(iv) Changes in consumption patterns. Food items were purchased once a week or once a month, as and when wages were received. This saved not only the time spent but also saved amounts as bulk/wholesale purchases at lower priced than retail purchases and ensured with better quality. The women currently showed more interest for investing in income generating activities, since some of their consumption needs have been met. There is a noticeable change in the consumption pattern and better household nutrition. The financial mobility due to participation in the social welfare programme has led to an improvement in the quality of life, according to some of the successful groups. Overall, many families were able to address their basic needs better than before.

B. Impact on Social Status

In this study it has been found that the participation in the movement itself has an empowering and liberating experience for many of the poor women. The strongest impact has been in terms of self esteem and increased social mobility as many women of

urban slums had never attended such a program before. The impacts can be summarized as follows:

(i) Increased mobility. This means a lot to poor women and to those who have been restricted by religious taboo. The visit to the welfare programme has made women more bold. Women have started to come out for attending the programme with their husbands and family members as well and society members have started to permit them to follow the instructions following the benefits of programme run by such development societies. Decision-making within the household, control over income, involvement in major decisions, literacy rates, and perception on importance of education and marriage age for girls are some of the social parameters against which the impact of social welfare societies are usually measured. Promoting Urban Social Development women are more confined to the four walls of the kitchen and some to the work place. They are now found to be able to meet each other, and discuss their personal problems.

(ii) Increased exposure. This comes from more interactions with other women. Women stated that they are more enthusiastic and positive about their lives. They understand each other's viewpoints and problems. Interaction with other women has resulted in building congenial relationships and have ensured fewer conflicts. It has also had the multiplier effect of spreading the social welfare movement.

(iii) Increased awareness. Awareness on health related issues, personal hygiene, communicable diseases, effects of malnutrition and sanitation have increased as a result of training programs. More importantly, awareness of the rights of

women as prescribed by the Constitution and as prescribed by the religious doctrines has also increased. The membership in the societies has allowed many women to come out of boundaries defined by their male companions or relatives. There are now cases submitted for legal medication by Muslim women, something never heard of before.

(iv) **Changes in decision-making.** Women have stated that they are more involved in decisions that affect their lives and that of their family/household. They have more freedom to decide which of the meetings to attend and how much time they could spend without having to seek permission from the men and worry about the conflicts that might ensue at home as a consequence. Women also felt they have more say in the education of the children, such as which school children were to be sent to. Men involved women in decision-making processes which were purely in the male domain before, such as house repairs and the purchase of a site, non inclusion of women in some major decisions that concern the household, have however continued.

(v) **Increase in social security.** Some of the social welfare societies have been successful in availing facilities like widow pensions, old age pensions, health and life insurance for its members. This has resulted in the women now are feeling more secure about themselves and their future. Women abuse is said to have reduced and deserted wives have witnessed the husband return home. There are instances where social welfare societies have pressured men to put an end to violence/beating. This was revealed by the Focus Group Discussions held for this study. Physical violence has reduced in a few cases due to the collective pressure created by the social welfare societies. The

unequal power relations between men and women, with the increasing economic power and social mobility of women, is changing. However, many more changes are to be achieved, like achieving the rights of women to property, the reproductive rights and many more. Many social welfare societies have helped in resolving family disputes. There are a number of less obvious benefits, in the area of soft skills, which are important in the context of women's empowerment. The skills of time management: women have come to value time more. For instance, cooking skills have become better time managed. Housework which was finished at leisure is completed within a determined time period. As corroborated women of the slum have become well-versed in financial management, accessing information, and resolving conflicts. Women have learnt to conduct meetings efficiently, a few women in a group have also gained proficiency in maintaining documents and recording meetings. More importantly they have learned the skills of arithmetic which helps in the maintenance of books of accounts. By attending the meetings and training programs, women have improved their participatory and management discipline. The effort made to teach illiterates how to read and write many women feel more confident and less embarrassed when they are asked to sign their names. Different cultural groups speaking different languages, and the interaction between the women has facilitated the learning of new languages. Women have facilitated formation of more groups in both urban and rural areas.

C. Impact on the Community

Advocacy to remove liquor shops located in the slums, pressures on urban local bodies to ensure drinking water supply, clean roads

and drainage systems, and getting community taps installed are some of the collective actions that many groups have successfully taken up. Women have been able to fight and get possession of the place used formerly for a wine shop for their recreational activities. Thus slum is now called a better locality because of the efforts of the society members who had to fight to get every basic amenity for women. The groups have ensured drinking water facility, street and house lights and an anganwadi center. In former decades most of the girls were forced into marriage before 15 years of age. By educating mothers, this percentage has reduced considerably. In the long run, this would work towards eliminating existing injustice and gender inequalities. The social welfare organizations are playing role in development of socio economic condition of women residing in slum areas in indore city. The Main Institutions are Rotary club, Lions club, Retract club and some other subsidiary organizations. These institutes organize camps in the slum areas time to time in the 35 selected slums. Where these organizations make educate the slummers for living with cleanliness, use of toilets for defecation and not to go for defecation in open area, only drink clean water and always keep the drinking water in a clean pot and covered it with a lid, use of pills of chlorine to make water clean if the water is coming with dirt and mud in the rainy season, taking bath daily is very necessary to escape from various types of fungal infections. These organizations provide free cloths to the women and their children to wear in winter and free books and note books to girls as inspiration to go school and be educated. Most (atleast 72%) of the women showed their interest in sending their wards specially girls to school for study instead of keeping them at home as

awatching member of younger siblings and doing household work .

There are some of the social development institutions, who are working with full dedication for upliftment of slum women with their introduction and specific service in slum areas are as under in brief.

1. Mohan Samajik Sewa Sansthan:



This Organization was established in the memories of Mohan Marmat after his death by his friends at Nanda Nagar. Mohan ever used to help out to the needy and poor people. About 40 people are working together in this institution. Mainly working for the arrangement of blood for the people in slum area and by giving their telephone numbers at the hospitals for this. Apart from this the members are involved in donation of cloths ,providing training to the women for sewing ,kneeting,manufacturing of toys etc. To make their entrepreneurial skills strong. They are also giving them instructions for making their environment clean by planting the trees in their residential areas.

2. Pahal Group:

In the village Palia near the city about 35 members with the amount of Rs. 50 Thousands established this institute to help the slum women .To make them educate the organization has been collected as fund Rs. 5 lakhs for buying of stationary ,Books and other teaching material to teach the adult and married women. The members of the

institution also make learn to operate the bank accounts and ways of saving money to make their future secure. The secretary, Mrs. Smita says that they have told before the group of slum ladies that they will not spent their money on non economic events like birth day celebration and marriage, beyond limit and thus saved money will be drop out in a saving box and finally it will be deposited in to bank in to their accounts so that, this would not be snatched out by their husband and other family members.

3. Mahila Vikas and Suraksha Sangthan:



This organization is situated at Dilipsingh Colony of Indore city. The main object to establish this was to make the slum women safe from domestic and social violence against them. The members of this institution are working in the direction to remove out the fear inside the mind of slum women. The slum women feel unable to pretest themselves against the violant attempt in the family by the husband and other members of family and by the anti social elements too. The members of the society are making them learnt the technique of protecting through smake of judo-Karate and Marshall arts. The young girrls are also being familiar with this art to make them safe in the slums. The sositety organise camps for yoga ,Pranayam and physicl games to make the slum women healthy and strong. Yog guru Shri Ramesh Ojha and Sanjay Jaisawal are continously busy to trained the slum women in such kind of activities which may be helpful for their security in sudden attack

by any antisocial element on to them when they are alone. The president of society Madhuri Jaisawal further added that slum residents are providing full support of the members of society.

4. Shanti Yuva Group:



In the area of Musakhedi a group formed by the youth to make computer literate the women residing in surrounding slums along with training to them for being entrepreneur in the field of computer hardworking and softworking. The youth of group are inviting the students of MSW and NSS to be add along with them to serve the children as well as women. The secretary of group Ram narayan Dangi added in his explanation during conversation regarding this that group is working for the 360 degree development of women and children in the slum area sorrounding nad inside the Indore. The members of group continue inspire the women and children for economic and social development through self compatible for earning of money, Improvement in living standard, maintaining the physical and mental health through continue practice of yoga exercise and nutritional food. MSW students stated tha they are continue providing education to the poor students nad adult women so that in

future they could not be cheated by the outsider or any family member.

5. Bhikshuk Kendra Pardeshipura:



Bhikshuk Kendra Pardeshipura is working continuously dedicated for the training to the women, residing in slum since 1981 to make them self sufficient and self dependent for their livelihood. The members of the Bhikshuk kendra are developing the skill of earning for the women whose family members are involved in bagging for their earning. The trained members of the group make learn to the women to craft the idoles, screen printing and gardening. The secretary stated ahead that about 5000 women have been trained by the members of this group. The unskilled women come to the learn and 6 months training is being provided to them along with their breakfast and lunch facility. The trainer Rajendra Sharma says the mental situation of slum women has got a drastic change after training and now they are completely raddy to give up the bagging and live with prestige in the society with a new charm.

6. Education Group Chouhan Nagar:

This group has been formed by the youth of Chouhan Nagar. This group is working for the environmental protection and education for women in slum areas. The members of group are motivating the adult women to be educated for living a respectable life in the society. They are intimating the families to

sent their daughters school so that they may become literate and gaining capacity to benefitted by the government economic development schemes.

7. Sakhi Udyamita and Manav Kalyan Sansthan:



Since last 25 years this group has been working for the development of the physically and economically poor women as self dependent. This group is providing training to the women for sewing, knitting and handycraft manufacturing. This work is done by the members as campaign in 40 districts of Madhya Pradesh state. One of the member during conversation with him stated further that they are working for the person who are in search of job and want to develop now themselves as self dependent in the market. The members of the group help such kind of persons mainly women residing at slum areas willing to become an entrepreneur in future as added by the President of group Smt. Prabha Porwal.

8. Manu Memorial Shikshan Samiti:



The members of this group have worked in the direction of making educated to the girls in the slum areas sent for job by their parents to earn wage for their livelihood.

The members of the group said that they have made free more than 70 girls from these areas and have persuaded to their parents to sent them school for study instead of sending to them on temporary kind of job. The team members walk in search of such girls in the slum areas and make arrangement for their free education providing them to the basic facilities like books, bags, stationary and freeship.

The important thing is that they are mainly working as a campaign in the slum areas that parents of girls will send them to school and save their future.

9. Abhilasha Baal Vikas Samiti:

Since 1990 for upliftment of poor women in undeveloped and full with dirtyness a samiti in Dwarkapuri is working continously. President of samiti Mrs Meena Trivedi says it is natural and most common to fall in the situation of dipression and unwillingness to do any work following the family disputes, domestic violence and problems related with lack of money. So they are advised by her and team members to face it with a great daring and try to be self dependent. They are also said to express their problem without any fear in their mind which they can not share with their family members. She further added that there are 10 members in the samiti. Counseling for such type of ladies work as healing remedy to make them competent to come out from their mental shocks as she stated further.

10. Thana Pardeshipura (Indore social Group):



CSP Jaiveersingh Bhadouriya said during his interview that his team is working for the safety of adolescent girls. He stated further that more than 501 girls are participating in the campaign running for their self safety. Their family members are also helping the members in these activities. It is very necessary that the women residing in slum like areas and adolescent girls to have a confidence of self safety and are aware about the telephone numbers of Police Thana. He said that it is the age in which it is compulsory to be trained in Judo –Karate and Marshall Art. He further said that thanas now a days are playing a leading role in this area. So it can be said on the basis of overall study, Conversation with Women directly in slum areas, Interaction with Member of Society.

So not only the government but the social welfare societies also are playing an important role to improve the socioeconomic condition of women. Lions Club, Rotary Club, Deenbandhu Trust, local bodies and societies are trying to give their best for this. The heads of these institutions said that at 35 atleast places near to slum area they set up a camp for them. 45 slum families accepted the and admired the deeds of social welfare societies done for them.

Finally it can be said that contribution of these organization is incredible in the field of upliftment of slum women.

References:

- 1.Sri Gude and hot: Survey method in Investigation Methods in Social Research
- 2.Indore Development plan 2012 ,2006 URBAN Poverty Alleviation & The JNNURM A critical Assessment national Institutet of Urban Affilirs
- 3.Annual report 2006 – 2011 Ministry of Housing and URBAN poverty Aalliviation Govt. of India
- 4.Indore Municipal Corporation budget 2009 -10, 2010-11
- 5.Minutes of the 62nd meeting of central ministry committee urbon renewal mission (JNNURM 2009)
- 6.Indore city development plane indore JNNURM municipal corporation
- 7.Regional news letter unhabitat – 2007
- 8.BSUP PROGRESS PPT INDORE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
- 9.SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYANStrategies of URBANDEPRIVED CHILDREN
- 10.Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar YojanaOperational Guidelines forSkills Training for
- 11.Employment Promotion amongst the Urban Poor(STEP-UP)
- 12.City vulnerability analysis reportindore & suratinstitute for 13.Social and Environmental Transition (ISET)The Rockefeller Foundation 2010
- 14.Regional Dimension of Disparities in Slum Literacy in India Research and Practice in Social
- 15.Sciences Kumar, R., S. Kumar, & Anurag Vol. 2, No. 2 (2007) Research Abstracts on Social
- 16.Welfare Documentation Centre for Women and Children National Institute of Public
- 17.Cooperation and Child Development 2009
- 18.R.B. mandal, Gary L Peters,(1982) Urbanization and rewgional Development.
- 19.Navigating GENDER UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- 20.In cooperation withMahila Chetna Manch, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- 21.2006Indore: City Development Plan andCity-Level Reform AgendaState-Level
- 22.AgenaaAn Appraisal Report.
- 23.POPULATION 2011 Press conference PPT 4 April 2011 Directorate of Census Operations, Madhya Pradesh,Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India Janaganana Bhavan, Jail Road, Bhopal.
- 24.Slums in India (2005) LNP Mohanti & Swati Mohanti APH Publishing Delhi.
- 25.Slum Dwellers curse on Development (2003) Annpurna Rathore, Swarup & Sons New Delhi 110002
- 26.The Challenges of Slums (2003) Globle Report on Human settlement Programme.
- 27.Slums & Community Development (1970) Marshall Barron Chinard.
- 28.The Slum Challenges & Response (1968) David R Hunter.
- 29.Poor in Urban India (2001) Lancy Lobo. Rawat Publication.
- 30.Principles of Statistics 2004 (Dr. S.M. Shukl Sahitya Bhawan Publication Agra)
- 31.Practical Problems in Advance Statistics (Dr. Suresh T. Silawat S.B.P.D. Publishing House Agra)