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The Socio-Economic and Environmental Issues Prevailing Due to Slums in Jodhpur City

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ABSTRACT: Jodhpur, popularly known as “Sun City” is also referred as the “Blue City” due to the light blue painted houses around the Mehrangarh Fort which is fortified by a wall with several gates. Jodhpur is the second largest city of Rajasthan; It is centrally situated at the distance of 335 kms from state capital, Jaipur and 200 kms from the city of Ajmer. Jodhpur is a popular tourist destination, featuring many palaces, forts and temples, set in the stark landscape of the Thar Desert. The city has expanded extensively outside the wall city over the past several decades. Due to the rapid urbanization, like other big cities of India, Jodhpur city is experiencing the problems of urbanization. Acute shortage of water supply, poor urban services, proliferating slums and shanty colonies underline realities of transformation in Jodhpur. Growing dissatisfaction among the people and deteriorating service delivery mechanisms is a sign of struggling urban lifestyle in Jodhpur city. Relief structures are representative of the topographical conditions of the region. Jodhpur district divided into three distinct physiographical units, namely, the alluvial plains.

Escarpments, Ridges and Sand dunes. The western & north-western part of district is characterized by sand dunes. There is no perennial river in the district. However, there are two rivers in the district i.e. Luni and Mithri rivers, the Luni river, which flows in the district near Bilara. Main source of irrigation besides rainwater is wells and tube wells. The major and important minerals available in the district is sand stone, lime stone, building stone, stone slab, flagstones, quartz & clays of various colours, dolomite and red color sandstone of the Jodhpur district is very famous and found in abundance. High cost of urban land and lack of sufficient affordable low cost housing for the urban poor has resulted in the growth of slums. In the past there have not been adequate efforts on the part of Rajasthan Housing Board(RHB), Urban Improvement Trust(UIT) and Government of Rajasthan to provide sufficient low cost housing/ land for the urban poor. Non availability of housing to large number of shanty colonies with poor hygienic conditions.

Study shows that out of 217 slums in Jodhpur, 37 slums are fully & partially settled on forest land. Over the last two decades, Jodhpur has witnessed significant increase in its slum population. Majority of the population living in these slums are a migrant from the adjoining areas comes to Jodhpur in search of better livelihood and employment opportunities. The total population of the slums in Jodhpur is 2, 65, 443. The total numbers of households in slums are 46,364. The total numbers of houses are 43376 out of which 29845 (68.8%) houses are pucca houses, 8337 (19.2%) are semi pucca houses and remaining 5194 (12.0%) houses are Katcha houses.

KEYWORDS : Jodhpur, slums, pollution, poverty, livelihood, diseases

I. INTRODUCTION

More than 70% of urban slums in Rajasthan are on open spaces and public parks owned by local bodies. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its latest report on ‘Urban Slums in India’ also highlighted the dismal living condition of the people in these dwellings.

In per 1,000 distribution of slums by type of ownership of land, a total of 697 are on the land belonging to local bodies in Rajasthan while all-India average is 367. Even drains and nullahs are occupied by large slums as about 235 slums out of 1,000 are in these locations.

Slums along the railway lines on the contrary are lower than most other states and only 195 per 1,000 slums are found at such spots in the survey. NSSO conducted an all-India survey of rural and urban areas of the country under 69th round of NSS during July-December, 2012. The survey dwells upon drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing condition.



The report which was released in November 2014 is being used by policy makers and researchers. The last survey of such kind was conducted in 65th round (July 2008-June2009).(a)

The report also noted that as many as 27% of all slums in Rajasthan have no electricity connection. In all other states it is 10% or less and nationally it is 7%. Most slums, 674 per 1,000 have pucca (concrete) houses while there is a significant number (268 per 1,000 slums) which are unserviceable kaccha. Urban slums that are mostly unrecognized lack basic facilities too. A total of 476 slums per 1,000 have no toilets while about 101 use dry pit. Similarly, slums with underground drainage were just 17 while most of them had open drainages and there were no drainages in 379 slums.

Garbage collection which is a larger problem in all urban areas is a menace in slums. As per the survey report 443 slums out of 1,000 had absolutely no garbage disposal facilities. In 352 slum households garbage collection happens in 3 to 7 days. Apart from that, other benefits like school and health centres too are at a distance from urban slums in the state. Rajasthan is the only state in the country where distance of nearest primary government school from an urban slum is more than 5 kms. An estimated total of 33,150 slums existed in the urban areas of India. About 8.8 million households lived in these slums with 5.6 in notified and 3.2 in non-notified slums.

Maharashtra with an estimated 7,723 slums, accounted for about 23% of all slums in urban India, followed by Andhra Pradesh (14%) and West Bengal which had a share of about 12%.(b)

Jodhpur has about 250 slum areas. A participatory workshop identified as Rajiv Gandhi Nagar (Chandan Bakhar) as the most important location for slum development under the JFPR Project in Jodhpur. Chandan Bakhar slum is the largest slum in the city with more than 2,500 households. In addition, the Project will support some other smaller slum areas in Jodhpur. Bollywood actor Aamir Khan recently launched ambitious waste collection project in the city and said that waste management was the first thing that comes to the mind when we think of various urban problems. The actor, who launched 'Waste Free Jodhpur' project from the Umaid Singh Stadium, said waste accumulation was one of the biggest menaces of the urban India. "I wish I could launch such a drive in Mumbai, but I am happy that Jodhpur took this initiative and expressed its determination to deal with one of the biggest menaces of the urban India," Khan said.(c)

He also announced a donation of Rs 11 lakh for the project and wished it to be a huge success. Khan also expressed desire to associate with the drive and replicate in other cities. The actor, who has taken up the issue of waste management in one of the episodes of his acclaimed serial 'Satyamev Jayate', was invited by the administration of Jodhpur to launch the project. "When one thinks of solution to various urban problems, the waste management comes first," he said. "There will be hurdles but this fight has to be won and there cannot be any better occasion than the Independence Day that we exhibited determination to get freedom from waste," Khan said.

Recalling his episode on the subject, Khan said: "During my programme I learnt how to see waste as an asset and make the best use of it". The administration of Jodhpur and the municipal corporation have set a target to make the city free from garbage in 18 months. He also administered a pledge of clean and green Jodhpur to the audience and flagged off the fleet of battery operated rickshaws, which will go the wards of the city and collect the garbage. An expert agency from Hyderabad has been roped in for the project. "We have made efforts to make this drive a joint initiative in which not only JMC, but voluntary and social organisations of the city, restaurant and food outlet owners and the common man will also participate," said CEO of Jodhpur Municipal Corporation Hari Singh.(d)

II. OBSERVATIONS

Slum Population simply refers to people living in slum areas below the poverty line. As India is still on the path of development, there is large number of people living below the poverty line. These people usually live in slum areas connected to the city. According to Government sources, the Slum Population of India have exceeds the population of Britain. It has doubled in last two decades. According to last census in 2001, the slum-dwelling population of India had risen from 27.9 million in 1981 to 61.8 million in 2001. Indian economy has achieved a significant growth of 8 percent annually in last four years, but there is still large number of people nearly 1.1 billion still survives on less than 1 \$ (around 46 INR) in a day.



Increase in Indian Population over a period of time has also resulted in slum population growth. Despite of Government efforts to build new houses and other basic infrastructure, most of the people living in slum areas do not have electricity, water supply and cooking gas.(e)

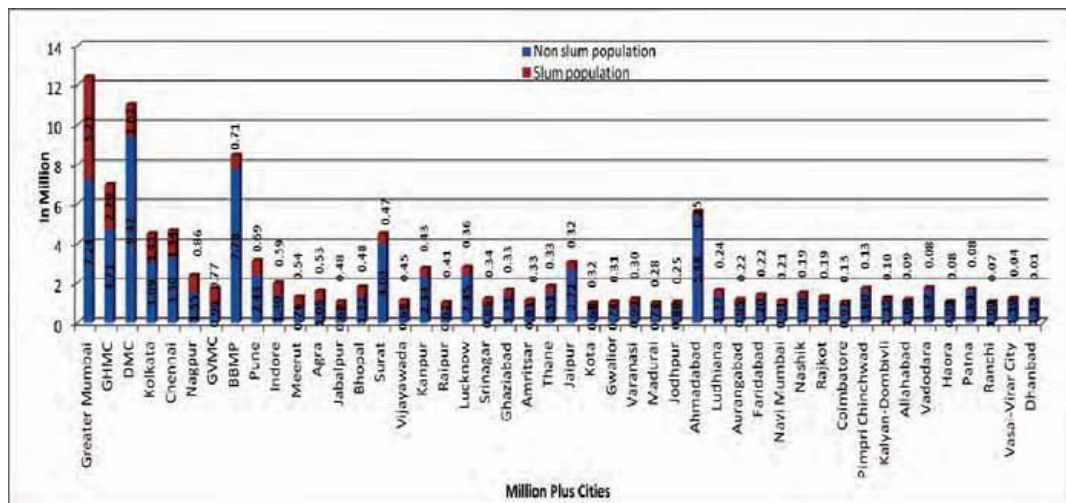


Fig.1. Indian Slum population

Not a single slum in Rajasthan is recognized by the state government leaving the entire population of slum dwellers without any basic facilities provided by the state. According to the primary census abstract for slum 2011, released on Monday, Rajasthan has 20.68 lakh identified slums. Out of 185 statutory towns, slums were reported in 107 towns in Rajasthan. At these places 20,68,000 slums were identified. However, as per government records there are no slums in the state leaving the category of notified slums and recognized slums nil.

Census data on slums has identified slum dwellers as people living in compact areas with a population of at least 300, in unhygienic environment with inadequate infrastructure and lacking proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. Earlier, only people in areas notified or recognized as slums by state or local authorities were counted. Among the million plus cities with high proportion of slums, Kota ranks among the top 10 cities in the country. There are 31.8% of slum households in the city. While Rajasthan share of slum population to total slum population in the country stands at 3.2%. It has witnessed a rise of 0.2% from the census of 2001.(f)

Meanwhile, the condition of houses in the slums remains in deplorable conditions. Out of 3,83,134 houses only 2.1 lakh are in good condition, 1.5 lakh are in just livable condition and 11,875 are in a dilapidated state. Similarly, toilet facilities in these households too remained very low. More than a lakh households in slums do not have toilet facilities within the premises. Among them 8,219 use public toilets while one lakh defecate in the open. Out of a total of 3.8 lakh slum households in the state, 1.8 lakh avail banking facilities, 2.4 lakh have a TV set and over one lakh have computers or laptops with 31,818 having internet connection. Interestingly, 46,184 households in slums own a car too.

However, a decline has been witnessed in terms of proportion of child population in slums in Rajasthan. The latest data indicates that it ranges between 14-15% against above 15% in 2001. Similarly in sex ratio (females per 1000 males) in slums, the state has shown improvement and emerged out from the bottom five lists of states.



Table.1: There is a shortage of 2988 houses in slums. Details of housing profile in slum area are mentioned in table below.

| Details of Slums | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Total No. of Slums | 217 |
| Population | 265443 |
| Households | 46364 |
| Pucca Houses | 29845 |
| Semi Pucca Houses | 8337 |
| Katcha Houses | 5194 |



Fig.2 Slum in Jodhpur

Poverty is very complex and complicated problem and faced by various developing and under-developing countries. A simple meaning of poverty is the inability to secure minimum requirement for life, health and efficiency. These requirements include minimum human needs in respect of food, clothing, housing, education and health. The planners have been using a term 'Poverty line'. Those who can fulfill their minimum needs are 'above poverty' line and those who cannot are 'below poverty line (BPL)'. In 1987-88, 30% population was below poverty line; therefore large number of people in our region, particularly in the rural area is extremely poor as compared to the urban inhabitants. Poverty affects the general health and efficiencies of the people and resulted into low productivity. This inadequate economic development causes more poverty and it continues, ultimately forms the vicious civil. Problems of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment and poor medical facilities are enhancing the economic inequality. It means vast disparities in the income of different sections of people and it's also mean different levels of standard of living in rural as well as in urban areas. There are several definitions of poverty, and scholars disagree as to which definition is appropriate for India. Inside India, both income-based poverty definition and consumption-based poverty statistics are in use. Outside India, the World Bank and institutions of the United Nations use a broader definition to compare poverty among nations, including India, based on purchasing power parity (PPP), as well as nominal relative basis. Each state in India has its own poverty threshold to determine how many people are below its poverty line and to reflect regional economic conditions. These differences in definition yield a complex and conflicting picture about poverty in India, both internally and when compared to other developing countries of the world. There is a wide difference exists



in estimate of poverty because of the differences in methodologies, data adjustments and pre-deflation used. Studies on poverty in India began with Dadadhai Naoroji in the 19th Century .The major work on poverty estimates during the pre-independence period is that of V.K.R.V. Rao (1936) who revised Naoroji estimates of per capita income. Mukherjee (1969) updated the poverty estimate of Naoroji and Rao at 1948-49 prices than laying the foundation of further work on this subject in independent India. Further, in-depth studies on poverty in independent India . After the publication of Myrdal's Asian Drama in 1969 when stalwarts like Dandekar and Rath (1971) and Dandekar (1980) took up the burden of the theme. It is an accepted fact that there are large disparities both in the income and assets distribution. All over the country there is glaring evidence of concentration of wealth Considerable interest had been shown in equalities in India. Besides the government and other research bodies such as Reserve Bank of India, The National Council of Applied Economic Research. (g)

III. DISCUSSION

Climate change and extreme weather fluctuations are the most threatening challenges to the farming communities especially in semi-arid tropics. The paper investigates socio-economic factors affecting vulnerability and adoption of innovations using micro-level survey data of 100 systematically selected farmers in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan, India. The results reveal that higher income, irrigation and provision of seeds reduce climate vulnerability to a great extent. Several farm level strategies have been adopted by the farmers against climate induced stress, including change in cropping pattern, reduction in irrigation usage, use of drips and sprinklers and water conservation. In case of pearl millet cropping system, we found that adoption of wide row spacing is significantly influenced by the level of the farmer's education, land size category, climate awareness and trainings programs. The study suggests that diversified crop sequence involving pearl millet-wheat-cluster bean-barley-onion, farmers' adoption of suitable adaptation strategies and climate resilient technologies will improve with better awareness, education and farm governance with regard to climate change. Moreover, technologies especially indigenous ones suitable to the local contextual needs must be developed or fine-tuned and disseminated for reducing climate-induced vulnerability. (c)

IV. RESULTS

Jodhpur city is the second largest city of Rajasthan State, having population of about 1,077,717 and an area of 232 sq km. The city generates around 380 t/d of municipal solid waste (MSW). With the increase in population, urbanisation and industrialisation, the problems of handling MSW have significantly increased in the past few years. There is no arrangement for segregation of waste at source. Out of 65 wards, door to door collection facility is provided for 27 wards. The transportation of MSW is carried out by the combination of municipal and private hired vehicles. Most of the vehicles are of 13 to 17 years old. The MSW has high inert content and less biodegradable matters. A windrow composting plant of capacity 100 TPD and vermi composting plant of capacity 10 TPD are installed in the 2006. Unscientific open dumping, threats of environmental pollution, absence of landfill gas monitoring facility are the most important problems for the city. There is an urgent need for source segregation, optimised transport arrangement, scientific disposal arrangements, landfill gas monitoring, and MSW treatment and disposal facility programme for the remaining 280 TPD waste.(e)

V. CONCLUSION

The Jodhpur is the city of the wealthy, but also the city of the sensitive. Alongside, the people of Jodhpur are peace lovers. Thus, making them sensitive to the tenet of living more with less, is an effort that is likely to succeed. With most resources coming from out of the city, the city needs to be reminded constantly how to use resources sparingly. With the best solar radiation resource of the country available in the city for a large part of the year, the city requires harnessing this natural, renewable resource for energy generation.

Living on the south-eastern edge of the Thar desert is challenging for the people of Jodhpur. The frequent dust storms in summers, the scorching heat for over four months, and the dynamically changing weather away from the arid... are some of the major challenges. Poor handling of water matters, lack of mechanisms in the city to handle sewage, sillage, storm water drainage and solid waste are key challenges that need to be addressed urgently.(g)



1. Target

To prepare a plan for the mobility in the city, TJI resolves to understand and highlight to the city issues that deal with:

1. Sustainability, be it from the standpoint of making passive built environment with low carbon footprint, sparingly using the natural resources or importing limited resources from outstations;and
2. Environment, be it for greening it, protecting it or improving it.

2. Immediate Actions

To achieve the stated targets, TJI will:

1. Elaborate to the city the various aspects that affect sustainability of the city, its people, its resources or its built environment; and
2. Highlight the factors that are responsible for the deterioration of the environment and thereby the quality of life in the city of Jodhpur, and work towards finding solutions to these factors.(f)
- 3.

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