

## **SOCIO - ECONOMIC AND OCCUPATIONAL LEVEL OF SLUMS – A CASE STUDY OF RAHUL NAGAR IN MALEGAON**

*Sau. Surekha Rajan Bachhao,*

Asst. Professor,  
Gargi Agricultural and Research Institute,  
Nashik, India

### **ABSTRACT**

An attempt has been made here to focus upon the land use and ecological imbalance, socio - economic and Occupational level as well as to analyze the problem of the slum dwellers and suggest the redevelopment plan for their development. Author has selected slum of Malegaon city in Nasik district. The city has 129 slums (32 declared and 97 non-declared) with 25336 huts (10514 +14822) with 159953 (74531 + 85422) population accounting 35 % of total population of Malegaon city. One slum namely 'Rahul nagar (kallu-Kutti),' of ward number 21 was selected for indepth study. The questionnaire was administrated to every family and identified the land use and ecological imbalance, socio-economic problems and suggested manifold measures to solve these problems to the slum 'Rahul nagar' in Malegaon city.

**Keywords:** Land use, ecology, socio -economic, occupation, Muslim slum-dwellers, Malegaon.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The present study deals with the land use and ecological imbalance, socio-economic and occupational level of the Muslim slum-dwellers of Malegaon city. It is also suggest some remedies for their betterment. Malegaon is second largest city in respect of population in Nasik district of Maharashtra. As per 2001 census, the population was 455849, presently it is Taluka head quarter.

The city is situated on the 20°32' North latitude & 74°35' East longitude .The average height of city area is 429.4 mts above the mean sea level. Malegaon city has an area of 12.95 sq. km. The city of Malegaon is on the left bank of the river Mosam, which joins the Girna River further to the south ( Tapi Basin ). It is a part of Western ghat. Naturally the city lies on the the lee-ward side & therefore this area suffers from low rainfall.

Malegaon receives 436.7 m.m. Annual Rainfall & most of it comes during the monsoon period from June to Sept. Similarly Malegaon experiences a very high temperature during the pre-monsoon period that is April and May (max. 44.06 °C & min. 35° C). As well as in rainy season it experience 30° C max. Temperature and 23°C min. temperature.

Presently there are 32 declared and 97 non-declared slums with 25336 huts with 159953 population accounting 35 % of total population of Malegaon city. The Muslim slum dwellers are mostly the in-migrants from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and also from the surrounding rural areas.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives behind the study are to focus upon the land use, socio-economic and occupational structure as well as to analyze the problems of the slum dwellers and suggest the re-development plan for their betterment .It will also examine the several policies of the Government launched for the betterment of this minority weaker section.

## **HYPOTHESIS:**

The hypothesis behind the study is:

- 1.Muslim slum dwellers are mostly illiterate, having large families with low income. As such their economic condition is not so good.
- 2.These people are not aware of the betterment policies of the Government and hence are not the beneficiaries.
- 3.The socio-economic status of Muslim women is not up to the mark.
- 4.The socio-economic status of these peoples creates environmental problems.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

The present study is a pilot survey based on primary data obtained by canvassing interview schedule from the heads of the family of the sample households. Rahul nagar (Kallu-Kutti) a Muslim majority slum has been selected purposely for this study. 113 families of this locality were surveyed randomly. The questions were asked on social, economic and occupational aspects as well as their problems and suggestions for their betterment and slum improvement. Besides keen observations also formed the basis of understanding of the problems of these weaker sections. Some secondary data was collected from the concerned offices. The material was digested following the method of Khan, Z.T. (2001).

## **THE SAMPLE SLUM:**

Malegaon city is accommodating 129 total slums with 25336 huts, sheltering about 159953 populations (about 35 % of the total population). Rahul nagar of ward 21 has been selected for the case study. Total population of this slum is 1459 persons. Majority of the residents are Muslims. 113 families of this locality have been surveyed containing a population of 730. This locality lies on the north part of the city which is near to the core of the city. The slum is settled on Government place of road. Peoples are living here in tenements and huts lacking sufficient amenities and facilities.

## **SOCIAL STRUCTURE:**

The total surveyed population of Rahul nagar is 730, containing 346 male and 384 females, the percentage being 47.4 and 52.6 respectively. As such the sex ratio is 1110 females per thousand male (1110:1000). The high sex ratio is obvious, as Muslims do not discourage the female child-birth. The age structure shows that 36.55 % population is under age group of dependent population (children 27.29 + old 9.16).

The percentage of male literacy is 21.24 and female is 19.73. (Table 2). These figures indicate that the lower

percentages of literacy are due to their low economic status. Parents are not able to afford the expenditures of higher education and on the other hand the children are expected to earn as soon as they can, and as such their education can not go to higher level and they are engaged in some temporary jobs for a small earning . The marital status shows that 57.28 % persons are married and 18.54 % persons are unmarried a large number of widows (12.91 %) are found while the divorces are 11.27 % respectively (Table 3). These figures indicate the marriages in early age. Although widows are allowed for remarriages in Islam but the present socio-economic environment discouraged this facility.

**Table 2. Population Structure (Age and Education)**

| Age group & Education    | Male       | % of male    | Female     | %of female   | Total      | %of total  |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 1) Less Than 5 Years     | 66         | 9.04         | 58         | 7.96         | 124        | 17.00      |
| 2) 5 to 14.9 Years       |            |              |            |              |            |            |
| A) Primary               | 51         | 7.00         | 45         | 6.15         | 96         | 13.15      |
| B) Middle & High- school | 23         | 3.15         | 22         | 3.01         | 45         | 6.16       |
| C) Illiterate            | 24         | 3.29         | 35         | 4.79         | 59         | 8.08       |
| 3) 15 to 59.9 Years      |            |              |            |              |            |            |
| A) Primary               | 25         | 3.42         | 26         | 3.58         | 51         | 7.00       |
| B) Middle & High-school  | 47         | 6.44         | 49         | 6.71         | 96         | 13.15      |
| C) Higher secondary      | ---        | ---          | ---        | ---          | ---        | ---        |
| D) Illiterate            | 81         | 11.1         | 111        | 15.2         | 192        | 26.30      |
| 4) Above 60 Years        | ---        | ---          | ---        | ---          | ---        | ---        |
| A) Primary               | 05         | 0.68         | 02         | 0.28         | 07         | 0.96       |
| B) Middle & High- school | 04         | 0.55         | ---        | ---          | 04         | 0.56       |
| C) Higher secondary      | ---        | ---          | ---        | ---          | ---        | ---        |
| D) Illiterate            | 20         | 2.74         | 36         | 4.91         | 56         | 7.65       |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>346</b> | <b>47.41</b> | <b>384</b> | <b>52.59</b> | <b>730</b> | <b>100</b> |

(Source: Field Work)

The family structure reveals that there are 87.05 % single families. The average family size is more than six persons per family. The causes behind the large family size are that Muslims accept more than one wife's and the births of children as 'God-Gift' and hence do not adopt family planning measures. Only rare cases of family planning are observed.

**Table 4. Population Groups**

| S.N. | Popu. Group  | Total Families | Total Male | Total Female | Total Population | %Of Total population |
|------|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1    | Shaikh       | 32             | 100        | 128          | 228              | 31.23                |
| 2    | Ansari       | 25             | 98         | 84           | 182              | 24.94                |
| 3    | Hindu BC     | 18             | 42         | 47           | 89               | 12.19                |
| 4    | Shah         | 11             | 34         | 44           | 78               | 10.68                |
| 5    | Momin        | 07             | 20         | 28           | 48               | 6.57                 |
| 6    | Khan         | 09             | 18         | 23           | 41               | 5.62                 |
| 7    | Pathan       | 05             | 13         | 15           | 28               | 3.84                 |
| 8    | Saiyyad      | 03             | 10         | 10           | 20               | 2.74                 |
| 9    | Khatic       | 03             | 11         | 05           | 16               | 2.19                 |
|      | <b>Total</b> | <b>113</b>     | <b>346</b> | <b>384</b>   | <b>730</b>       | <b>100</b>           |

(Source: Field Work)

Although Muslims do not have any caste system yet there are nine groups . The major groups Shaikh being 31.23%, followed by Ansari 24.94%, Hindu ( BC) 12.19%, Shah 10.68%, Momin 6.57%, Khan 5.62%. The percentage of Pathan, Saiyyad and Khatic is less as mention in table 4. Major festivals 'Id- ul-Fitra' and 'Id-ul-Azha'. 'Id-Milad-un-Nabi', 'Shabe-Barat', Moharram' are some other festivals. A remarkable social condition observed that Muslim women are to follow the tradition of 'purdah'. Out of the total 113 families only two families are leaving out in this tradition (18 families belongs to Hindu community).

## ECONOMIC STATUS:

The economic status of the surveyed families is highlighted in table 5.

**Table 5. Average Monthly Income**

| Sr.No. | Income Groups | Range in Rs.   | No. of Families | Families % |
|--------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1      | Very Low      | Below Rs. 2000 | 62              | 54.87      |
| 2      | Low           | 2001 to 4000   | 41              | 36.28      |
| 3      | Low-Medium    | 4001 to 6000   | 10              | 8.85       |
|        | <b>Total</b>  |                | <b>113</b>      | <b>100</b> |

(Source: Field Work)

The figures reveal that a major part of the population is economically weak. Traditionally males (62.81%) are the earning members, some females are engaged in some economic activity, either widows, divorces or other needy females are engaged in small earning. A major part of the earning is spent on their food and cloths. Wood and coal is used the major fuel (82.30%) followed by kerosene (15.93%). The use of LPG is only 1.77% families. This is one cause for air pollution. Muslims are non-vegetarian. Although due to the low income, they are not able to include it in their daily food but take it rarely. The average consumption of edible oil is only 0.62 kg. Per week per family. The assets of these people are their own houses (huts) 76.11% and 23.89% will be rental.

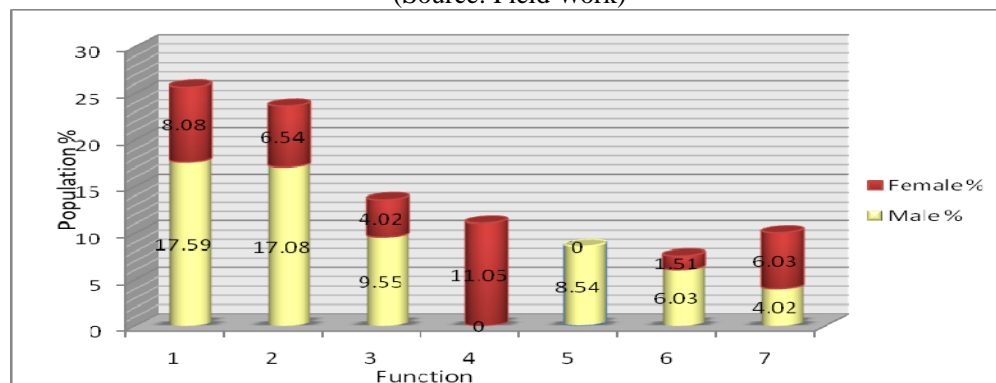
## OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Due to the low educational status, these peoples are mostly engaged in either temporary job Or doing some small privet business . Table 6 shows the functional classification of peoples who working in different categories. A majority of population is engaged in loom work (25.63%) and Building construction (23.62%) followed by Thhela (13.57%), House work (11.05%), Waiter (8.54%) Privet job (7.54%), other (10.05). Such as work in handloom, power loom and sizing in loom workers, gavandi, centering, plumbing in building construction, mutton, cycle repair, tailor, driver, fitter etc. are the small privet jobs. Grocery shop, general fancy items, and cloths in thhelas, while beggars, plastic gathering in other work. Only 27.26 percent population is earning whole the rest is dependent. There are 54.27% males, 37.19% females and 8.54 % children's (child labor) are mainly the earning members. Hence, as mention in table six the economic condition of these people is not satisfactory. In this locality a major part of the population is local.

**Table 6. Functional Classification**

| Category          | Total Male | Male %       | Total Female | Female %     | Total      | Total %    |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Loom Worker    | 35         | 17.59        | 16           | 8.08         | 51         | 25.63      |
| 2. Build. Constr. | 34         | 17.08        | 13           | 6.54         | 47         | 23.62      |
| 3. Thhela         | 19         | 9.55         | 08           | 4.02         | 27         | 13.57      |
| 4. House work     | ---        | ---          | 22           | 11.05        | 22         | 11.05      |
| 5. Waiter         | 17         | 8.54         | ---          | ---          | 17         | 8.54       |
| 6. Privet job     | 12         | 6.03         | 03           | 1.51         | 15         | 7.54       |
| 7. Other          | 08         | 4.02         | 12           | 6.03         | 20         | 10.05      |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>125</b> | <b>62.81</b> | <b>74</b>    | <b>37.19</b> | <b>199</b> | <b>100</b> |

(Source: Field Work)



( Fig. 2 Occupational Structure )

**HOUSING STRUCTURE:**

These people are living sub-standard houses. The structural condition of houses in this locality is as follows, namely Huts (90.26%), Katcha House (6.19%), Semi-pucca (2.65%) and Pucca (0.9%). The number of one room houses is 74.92% followed by two roomed houses (22.29%) and rest 2.29% are having more than two rooms. The ownership of houses is only 76.11% while the rest are the tenants. The high percentage of tenants is because of the people who occupied the land unauthorisingly. Although the structural condition of houses is not up to the mark. The size of the plot of the house can be observed in table 7.

**Table 7: Size of Plots**

| Sr.No. | Size of Plots (sq.ft.) | No. of Houses | %          |
|--------|------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1      | 000 to 100             | 28            | 24.04      |
| 2      | 100 to 150             | 47            | 43.27      |
| 3      | 150 to 200             | 20            | 17.31      |
| 4      | 200 to 250             | 12            | 09.61      |
| 5      | Above 250              | 06            | 05.77      |
|        | <b>Total</b>           | <b>113</b>    | <b>100</b> |

(Source: Field Work)

**AMENITIES AND FACILITIES:**

Drinking water is the major problem of this locality. Public taps and hand pumps are the source of drinking water. The water through the hand pump is not adequate, hence, the problems acute in summer. The waste of the houses is seen scattered on the streets in absence of proper arrangement for its removal. Due to lack of proper drains the waste water collects on the roads and pollutes the atmosphere.

Though public latrine (Sulabh Shauchalay) will not provided, people use open space for latrine, this is one major event of pollution. Street light have been provided on main roads but not in small streets. About 47.3% people have taken electric connection while 20.19% taken electricity rental per month for domestic use, while the rest lives without domestic electricity. There is no facility of any school, health, park, play-grounds or any other type of recreation in this locality. The main market of the city is about 1.8 km. away.

**NUTRITIONAL STATE AND DIETARY HABIT:**

The dietary habits and the pattern of food intake are directly related with income and social customs (Ashton, J. C., 1992; Healthy cities & Edmundson W.C., 1992; Diet, Disease and Development). Roti (for bajra), chapatti and rice are the staple food and a common dish right from breakfast to dinner round the year. Some people take chapatti with tea for their breakfast. In the lunch, generally Roti, chapatti or rice with pulse or vegetables is taken. People of better financial condition take chapatti, rice, pulses, vegetables or non-vegetable. Items in the dinner again the roti, chapatti, vegetable, pulse are repeated.

**CONCLUSION:**

The major problem of these people are sub-standard housing, insanitation, lack of public amenities like water supply, lavatory, sewage, water and air pollution, lack of recreational facilities and unemployment. Some schemes of Government have been launched like 'Slum Clearance and improvement scheme' of Central Government, 'Maharashtra Slum Clearance Board' of State Government is working for rehabilitation and environmental improvement. Some other schemes of state government are also in action like 'Gramin Awas Yojna', Environmental Improvement Scheme', Indira Vikas Yojna', 'Slum Clearance Scheme', scheme of the corporation and City Development Scheme of Nasik Development Authority for providing basic amenities and facilities.

Although Rahul nagar is one slum where slum improvement activities will not done under various schemes, yet provided basic amenities and facilities are not satisfactory. The Government has launched several loan schemes and Community Development Programmes for weaker sections and minorities, but these people are not properly aware of these schemes and hence are not the beneficiaries. Some people, who have tried for the benefits of these schemes, could not get loans due to the lengthy formalities and processes.

These people need some benefits from the Govt., like-

1. Housing and land ownership, proper supply of water and electricity, drains, lavatories, sanitation, concreting of streets and street light etc. for providing basic amenities.
2. Loans should be provided for construction and repaired of house.

3. Education can bring them forth for their social and economic upliftment. Schools should be opened in this locality and educational facilities up to higher secondary level should be provided. Education with vocational courses should also be provided, free of fees, so that the youngsters can get advantage.
4. The proper implementation of various Govt. Schemes through easier processes may be helpful in providing employment facilities and upliftment of their economic conditions. The emerging Non Govt. Organizations (NGOs) can help in this direction.
5. Employment opportunities should be provided for the socio economic upliftment, which can help in the improvement of their nutritional state.
6. Health camps should be arranged and medical facilities should be provided free of cost.
7. Considering the majority of the Muslims in the locality, it is advised that the State Minority Commission should take initiatives for the betterment of the Muslim majority slum areas of the city by making extensive surveys and specific planning.

#### REFERENCES:

- [1] Ashton, J.C. *Healthy Cities*, Open University Press, Milton Keynes., 1992.
- [2] Edmundson, W. C, Sukhatme, P.V. and Edmundson, Stella. A *Diet, Disease and Development*, Mac-Millan, India Company Ltd., Delhi. 1992.
- [3] Gupta G.P. *City Landscape and Environs-A Cultural Ecological Perspective. (A case Study of flood prone area of Bharatpur)*. Arihant Publisher Jaipur- India., 1989.
- [4] Khan, Z. T. Socio-Economic Occupational Structure and Nutritional Level of Slum-Dwellers in Raipur City. *The Deccan Geographer*. 2001, 39, 50-59.
- [5] Lal, K. M. *Population-Settlements Development and Planning.-A case study of the Son-Karmnasa north of Ghazipur and Ballia district (U P)*, Chugh Publication Allahabad, India, 1988.
- [6] Narasimha Murthy, K.L. *Ecology, Environment and Development*. Mangal Deep Publication Jaipur, India, 2003.
- [7] Sinha S.N. *Environmental Psychology*. Pointer Publishers, Jaipur-India, 1997.

----