

SOCIO – ECONOMIC AND OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SLUM – DWELLERS IN MALEGAON

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made here to focus upon the socio-economic and Occupational structure as well as to analyse the problem of the slum dwellers and suggest the redevelopment plan for their development. Author has selected slums 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 'Yassin-Miyan-ka-Takkiya 'of ward number 45 was selected for indepth study. The questionnaire was administrated to every family and identified the socio-economic problems and suggested manifold measures to solve these problems to Yassin-Miyan-ka-Takkiya in Malegaon city.

Keywords: Landuse, Socio-economic, Occupation, Slum-dwellers

INTRODUCTION:

The present study deals with the socio-economic and occupational structure 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 is 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. Malegaon city lies on the National Highway No.3. Railway junction Manmad lies at the distance on 36 km to the south of Malegaon the city of Malegaon. The city of Malegaon is on the left bank of the river Mosam, which joins the Girna River further to the south. It is a part of Western ghat which is known as Sahyadri Mountain in this area. Naturally the city lies on the lee-ward side & therefore this area suffers from low rainfall.

Malegaon receives 436.7mm. Annual Rain fall & 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 maxi. Temperature at 23°C mini. 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 landuse, socio-economic and occupational structure as well as to analyse 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.

The objectives behind the study are:

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.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:

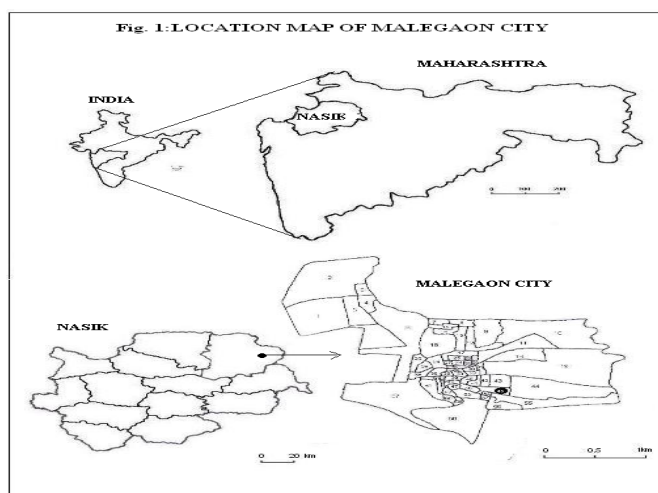
The present study is a pilot survey based on primary data obtained by canvassing interview schedule from the heads of the family of the sample households. Yassin-Miyan-Ka-Takkiya, a Muslim majority slum has been selected purposely for this study. 108 families of this locality were surveyed randomly. 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 SAMPLE SLUM:

Malegaon city is accommodating 129 total slums with 25336 huts, sheltering about 159953 populations (about 35 % of the total population). Yassin-Miyan-Ka-Takkiya of ward no. 45, Navapura has been selected for the case study. Total population of this slum is 1344 persons. Majority of the residents are Muslims. 108 Muslim families of this locality have been surveyed containing a population of 818. This locality lies on the south-east part of the city which is near to the core of the city. The slum is settled on private place of graveyard trust. Peoples are living here in tenements and huts lacking sufficient amenities and facilities.

SOCIAL STRUCTURE:

The total surveyed population of Yassin-Miyan-ka-Takkiya is 818, containing 406 male and 412 females, the percentage being 49.63 and 50.37 respectively. As such the sex ratio is 1014 females per thousand male (1014:1000). The high sex ratio is obvious, as Muslims do not discourage the female childbirth. According to the religious beliefs, mother has got three times higher rank than the father. The age structure shows that 40.95 % population is under age group of dependent population (children and old).



The percentage of male literacy is 36.18 and female is 31.54. In the rest of literates , the percentages of literacy is more up to the middle school and high school level being 42.02 % respectively while it is 22.61 % in primary school level and it decreases to 3.18 % up to higher secondary level (Table 1) . These figures also 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.

Table 1: Population Structure (Age and Education)

Age group & Education	Male	% of male	Female	%of female	Total	%of total
1)Below 5 Years	51	6.23	48	5.87	99	12.10
2) 5 to 14.9 Years						
A) Primary	48	5.87	46	5.62	94	11.49
B) Middle & High- school	43	5.26	35	4.28	78	9.54
C) Illiterate	05	0.61	05	0.61	10	1.22
3) 15 to 59.9 Years						
A) Primary	48	5.87	32	3.91	80	9.87
B)Middle & High-school	130	15.89	126	15.41	256	31.3
C)Higher secondary	16	1.96	10	1.22	26	3.18
D) Illiterate	43	5.26	78	9.53	121	14.79
4) Above 60 Years						
A) Primary	07	0.85	04	0.49	11	1.34
B) Middle & High- school	04	0.49	05	0.61	09	1.10
C) Higher secondary	--	--	--	--	--	--
D) Illiterate	11	1.34	23	2.82	34	4.16
Total	406	49.63	412	50.37	818	100

(Source: Field Work)

The marital status shows that 69.86 % persons are married and 14.59 % persons are unmarried a large number of widows (7.94 %) are found while the divorce are 7.71 respectively (table 2). 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: Marital Status

Sr.No.	Status	Male	Female	Total	%
1	Married	146	153	299	69.86
2	Unmarried	39	23	62	14.59
3	Widows	08	26	34	7.94
4	Divorce	08	25	33	7.71
	Total	--	--	428	100

(Source: Field Work)

The family structure reveals that there are 88.89 % single families. The average family size is more than seven persons per family. The causes behind the large family size are that Muslims accept the births of children as 'God-Gift' and hence do not adopt family planning measures. Only rare cases of family planning are observed.

ECONOMIC STATUS:

The economic status of the surveyed families is highlighted in table 4. These figures reveal that a major part of the population is economically weak. Traditionally males (65.28 %) 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

Table 3: Average Monthly Income

S.N.	Income Groups	Range in Rs.	No. of Families	Families %
1	Very Low	Below Rs. 2000	51	47.22
2	Low	2001 to 4000	37	34.26
3	Low-Medium	4001 to 6000	20	18.52
	Total		108	100

(Source: Field Work)

cloths. Wood and Coal is used the major fuel (80.56%) followed by kerosene (12.96%). The use of LPG is only 6.48% families. 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 0.67 kg. Per week per family. The assets of these people are their own houses (huts 25 %), cycles (27.06%) and other goods like Television, Fan, Radio and DVD-CD player.

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Due to the low educational status, these peoples are mostly engaged in either temporary jobs or doing some small privet business. Table 5 shows the functional classification of peoples who working in different categories. A majority Of population is engaged in loom work (31.35 %) and building construction (26.73 %) . followed by privet job (13.20%), house work (11.88%), thhela (9.24 %), hotel work (3.96%) and other work (3.64%). 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

Table 4: Functional Classification

Category	Total Male	Male %	Total Female	Female %	Total	Total %
Loom Worker	74	24.35	21	7.0	95	31.35
Building Constr.	47	15.53	34	11.2	81	26.73
Privet Job	31	10.2	09	3.0	40	13.20
House Work	--	--	36	11.88	36	11.88
Thhela	25	8.24	03	1.0	28	9.24
Waiter	12	3.96	--	--	12	3.96
Other	09	3.00	02	.064	11	3.64
Total	198	56.28	105	34.72	303	100

(Source: Field Work)

small privet jobs. Grocery shop, general fancy items, and cloths in thhelas, while beggars, plastic gathering in other work. Only 37.04 percent population is earning whole the rest is dependent. There are 61.32 % males, 34.27 % females and 3.96 % children's are mainly the earning members. Hence, as mention in table no. six the economic condition of these people is not satisfactory. In this locality a major part of the population is local.

AMENITIES AND FACILITIES:

Drinking water is the major problem of this locality. Public taps and hand pumps, wells and tub well are the source of drinking water. The water through the tub well 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 45 % people have taken electric connection for domestic use, while the rest use electricity for their neighbors per

month rental. 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 1.3km. away.

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS:

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 Yassin-Miyan-ka-Takkiya is one slum where slum improvement activities have been done under various schemes of slum improvement, like concreting of streets, construction of roads and drains, 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 repair of house.
- 3) Education can bring them forth for their social and economic upliftment. Schools should be opened in this locality and educational facilities upto 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) Nutritive food items should be distributed among these people.
- 7) Health camps should be arranged and medical facilities should be provided free of cost.
- 8) 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.

CONCLUSION:

The efforts of Govt., Municipal Corporation Malegaon, Nasik Development Authority, for improvement of the slum area in Malegaon city are appreciable. However, many problems still remain to be solved for the people of slums in Malegaon. The study concludes that this locality needs particular attention of the Govt. and Municipal Corporation, so that healthier and more hygienic atmosphere may be provided. The standard of living of these people should be raised by providing better employment, better housing and better sanitation conditions. Education will also go on a long way in improving their present deplorable condition.

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