

**Socio-Economic Conditions of Slum Dwellers: A Sociological Study  
(With Special Reference to Mandya City)**

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**Abstract**

Slum dwellers in India regularly deals with problems such as lack of clean water, constant migration at slums, no sewage or waste disposal facilities, pollution, and unsanitary living conditions. High levels of pollution, lack of basic needs, and room-crowding are some of the basic characteristics of slum housing. India is a third largest country that suffers from poverty, malnutrition, diseases, unhealthy conditions, and more in Indian slums, which is alone responsible for more deaths of children than any other country in the world. Because of the dramatic rise of slums after independence, India's population has tripled. Most of the population is currently are slum dwellers in India. During the last two decades; migration from villages and small towns to metropolitan areas has increased tremendously in India. It leads to the degradation of urban environmental quality and sustainable development, especially in metropolitan cities. Every year, hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children die worldwide, and India alone is responsible for 25% of the deaths.

The problems faced by the people living as the slum dwellers in India have become significant concerns for the government. Slums are considered the major issue within many urban areas; particularly transportation, population, health, and safety. Considering today's poor urban environmental quality in India, most families affected by urban development projects are located in slum areas under consideration for resettlement or rehabilitation. There is a need to examine slum areas

and their living conditions and determine the most critical and problematic zone of the slums. Inadequate water supply facilities and poor sanitary conditions can have a deleterious impact on household outcomes. As because of continued urban migration, a congregation of urban poor in slums without safe water supply, inadequate sanitation facilities and increasing resources constraints have led to poor quality of life and community health in slums.

**Key Words:** Poverty, Malnutrition, Diseases, Unhealthy Conditions, Migration, Population, Rehabilitation

## **Introduction**

The problem of slums is the global issue. Slums are created as a impact of industrialization and urbanization. It is a social problem that spans the entire world today. The problem of slums is more serious than the problems like diseases, population growth and environmental pollution, Crimes, water problem. This problem is being highlighted in countries like New York, Paris, London, Munich, Bangkok, India etc. across the world. This problem has become a challenge in developed countries because Industries are developing along with urban growth. Due to this, people from rural areas are migrating to cities. Because the rural agricultural system is collapsing, the economic condition is deteriorating and it is becoming difficult to make a living, the villagers are migrating to the towns. Apart from the huge and multistairs buildings, multiplex houses that stand out in the cities, along with them, we can see clusters of slums, slums area, slums etc., which have been built by the poor people, who have built very cheap huts out of sugar cane leaves, coconut leaves, and tarpaulin. These include dirt, mess, unemployment, poverty, water problem, electricity problem, disease, immorality, sickness, crime. Sewerage system, lack of toilets, unsanitary and many such problems are included in the aspects that can be called stigmas of urban life. Hundreds and millions live in such areas, deprived of what we might call the bare minimum necessities of civilized human life.

## **Slums in India:**

As slums are a problem stuck to cities, such slums can be found in most of the cities of the world. In developed countries like USA-New York, France-Paris, England-London here we also find slums. Similarly, we see it in developing countries like Dhaka in Bangladesh, Karachi in Pakistan and India. It is related to the economic system there, in the same way in India, Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, slum areas are increasing day by day. Governments there have not been able to

take plans to solve such problems. These can be called "living garbage cans" of cities. In these areas, people are suffering from family disintegration, lack of education for children, dropout, delinquency, smoking and drinking. And these areas are equally well placed for the future development of the children of the next generation. Today, the development of slums has become a challenge for India.

### **Major slums in India are:**

- Mumbai – Dharavi
- Delhi – Balasva
- Ahmadabad - Parivarthana
- Bhopal - Sathnami Nagar
- Nagpur - Saroj Nagar
- Hyderabad – Indiramma Nagar
- Bangalore - Rajendra Nagar
- Kolkata - Basanti Nagar
- Chennai - Nochikuppaval

**Karnataka** has 2804 slum areas out of which 2397 slums have been designated as slums. There are 597 slums in Bangalore.

### **Overview of Karnataka:**

Karnataka is a state with its distinct culture, language and beliefs as well as various socio-economic characteristics which in many ways reflect the image of the nation. Karnataka is located in the southern part of the country between 11.31° and 18.45° latitude to the north and 74.12° and 78.40° longitude to the east. It is the 9th largest state in terms of population among the 29 major states and 7 union territories of the country. Maharashtra and Goa are in the north of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh is in the east, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are in the south and the Arabian Sea is in the west. This study will also focus on regional disparities as well as geographic and economic characteristics of the state to provide a relevance to the Human Development Report. Provided. The state of Karnataka emerged as a separate state of the Union of India on 1 November 1956, uniting the people of five regions with Kannada as their mother tongue. This new state consisted of 4 districts of the erstwhile Bombay province, 3 districts under the rule of Hyderabad princes, 2 districts and 1 taluk of Madras province.

"C" State now known as Kodage occupies the position of "Coorg" and 9 districts ruled by the Mysore kings but the new state was named "Mysore State" but was renamed as Adhyata Karnataka in 1973 to fulfill the long-standing aspirations of the people of the state. Administratively the state is currently divided into 30 districts. Before the reorganization of the state, there were only 19 districts and in 1986 Bangalore City District was formed in later. After that in 1997-1998 in the process of redesignation Udupi Chamarajanagar Koppala, Bagalkote, Gadag and Haveri Davangere resulted in formation of 7 districts. Previously, there were these revenue divisions namely Bangalore, Mysore,

Belgaum, Gulbarga and the respective offices of Divisional Officers were abolished in 2003 as a result of administrative reforms.

### **Definitions :**

According to **Eric Partridge**: District, city or town street, alley yard crowded with lower class or poor dwelling place such street or limb is increasing number of crowded crowd, foul smell and bad behavior.

According to **World Organization Urban Land Policy Report**: An overcrowded, dilapidated unsanitary building or group of buildings. In these conditions, the health, safety and moral life of the residents or the community is affected by all conditions without any condition.

According to **Govt of India**: Dilapidated, overcrowded. Faulty system. A slum is an area composed of dwellings where the safety, health and moral development of the occupants are compromised due to lack of ventilation, light and sanitation facilities or a combination of all these factors.

### **A definition given at a seminar on Slums removal in Mumbai (May 1957):**

It was haunted by dilapidated and neglected buildings. A meandering illegal overgrown and generally neglected overgrown and overcrowded area.

### **Field of Study:**

It is more relevant to know some facts about India under the heading of field study field picture. India is the seventh largest country in the world in terms of a republic of southern India. It is the second most populous country in terms of population. The total area of the country is 32,87,263 sq km. Population According to the 2011 census, the population of India is 121 crore. India with a temperate climate is said to be a rich country with poor natural human resources. The north latitude of the equator is  $8.4^{\circ}$ ,  $-37.6^{\circ}$ , and the east longitude is  $68^{\circ}.7^{\circ}$ ,  $97.25^{\circ}$ . is in between. The most important situation in India in terms of its respective borders is the West Asia region and Africa beyond the Arabian Sea in the west, Burma, Malaysia and Indonesia in the east. The vast Indian Ocean in the south and the Himalayan mountain ranges in the north, geographically the Himalayan ranges are like high walls of cobs, but these fertile plains of the Indus and Ganges rivers in the south and north India have attracted invaders many times throughout history, and the neighboring tribes considered the foreigners incompetent. Here the crops are grown on high land with fertile soil. India is a country of many

languages, castes and religions that sees unity in diversity. It is a very rich country in terms of transport links and economy. We are rich in many different mineral resources.

Growing pulses in irrigated areas like sugarcane. 19.3 per cent of the total area of the state is forested. The state has abundant mineral resources, of which high quality iron ore, copper, manganese, chromite, bauxite, gold, granite and limestone are important. Karnataka is the proudest state of the nation with golden rivers.

### **Introduction to Mandya District:**

Mandya district is also one of the state and progressive districts of Karnataka. Mandya district, which is rich in black soil, has an area of 4.971 sq km and a population density of 355 sq km. Mandya district is an agricultural district in a country like India, which is an agricultural country. Mandya is a politically advanced district of the district but it can be observed that the people of Mandya are educationally backward in the economic field also. The people of Mandya are mostly illiterate, uneducated, unemployed and below the poverty line. All this is due to many shortcomings in the agricultural sector, the use of advanced or modern equipment is very low and most of the land is rain sheltered. Many educational institutions have been established here, including the Mandya University, Postgraduate Center and the Bangalore Agricultural University.

### **Origin of the name Mandya**

It is difficult to say exactly how the name Mandya came to this region, there are many opinions and Sthalapuranas about it, and it is believed that the name Vedaranya came to this region in the past. Because of the Mandavya sages, it is said that the idol of Janardhana here is the same as Mandeo. There is a mythological story that another sage of the same age established a temple of Sakaleshwar Swami here and received Vishnudarshan and named this place as Vishnupura. Also, there is an opinion that the king named Indra Varman, who was lamenting without a son, came here in the Dwapara Yuga, worshiped Janardha, got a son named Somavarman, built a fort, built an agrahara, and then the people of the village called Mandvemu migrated here and built a village and named it after their old town.

Anadi Agrahara Mandeya is recorded as Anadi Agrahara Mandeya in the inscription of 1276 in Ananta Padmanabhagudi of Hosaboodanur neighboring Mandya, belonging to the time of Narasimha, and in the copper inscription of 1516 of Vijayanagar king Krishnadevaraya's time, which is reported from Mandya, there is a preposition of Agrahara Mandeya and Chikkamandeya from these

inscriptions, the original form of the name of Mandya place is Mandeya, which was also an important educational center in the past. Becomes

### **Slum Areas in Mandya District:**

Mandya district has 7 taluks. They are Mandya, Maddur, Srirangapatna, Nagamangala, Pandavapur, Malavalli, Krishnarajapet these also have slum areas.

Sl. no	Taluk	families	Population
1	Mandya	5600	31989
2	Maddur	1092	5574
3	Srirangapatna	237	1261
4	Pandavapur	259	1354
5	Malavalli	1480	8278
6	Nagamangala	599	3271
7	Krishnarajapet	948	5773
	Total	10215	57500

### **Details of slums in Mandya city:**

Mandya city has 24 slums like Pourakarmika Colony, Near Kamma Devasthan Slum, Behind Nanda Talkies, Halahalli Tank Bidge, Sihi neeru kola Slum, Nalabandawadi, Guttalu Harijan Colony, Slaughter House, Kallahalli Muslim Block, Douri Samaja, Santhe maidhana, RTO Slum, Christian Colony and others. The total number of families in the city is 5600 and the total population living in these slums is 31989. It has 16643 males and 15226 females. There are many castes and religions here. Scheduled Caste Population 10290 Scheduled Tribe Population 1724, Minorities 11731 and Others are 8234.

### **Methodology:**

To study any field scientifically, many methods have to be adopted. So only when these methods are adopted it is possible to get better information. We have adopted the following Primary data collection methods. 50 respondents selected through the simple random sample method.

1. Observation
2. Interview
3. Questionnaire

### **Objective of the study:**

The field study aims to understand the status of present day slum dwellers. Also what profession they are depending on and how they are leading their life. And know what kind of problems they are facing and how they are coping.

- To know the living conditions of slum dwellers in modern society.
- To know about the socio-economic Conditions of contemporary slum dwellers.
- To know the basic problems of slum dwellers.
- To know health status and health facilities availed.

### **Data Analysis:**

For the field study the slum area of Mandya city was selected and the areas are Nalabandawadi, Tamil Colony and near Kalamma temple. We interviewed 50 respondents in the field study of the area. Among the slum dwellers who informed us, more women than men gave information. Here they speak Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and Marathi. Most of them belong to Hindu Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people and also Muslims and Christians are living. The slum dwellers depend on brickwork and chowtri labor for their livelihood. The study includes information on respondents gender-based classification, gender-based age group, marital status, language, religion, caste, family members profile, occupation, income and education.

**Table no: 2 Gender Based Classification**

Sl. No.	Gender	Number	Per cent
1	Male	15	30
2	Female	35	70
Total		50	100

Above the table shows- 02 the percent of the 50 respondents we studied in Mandya city slums. 30% male and 70% women interviewed. It is found that there are more women in our study.

**Table no: 3 Language Profile**

Sl. No.	Language	Number	Per cent
1	Kannada	15	30
2	Tamil	15	30
3	Telugu	10	20
4	Urdu	7	14

5	Marathi	3	6
Total		50	100

**Table no: 4 Religion profile**

Sl. No	Religion	Number	Per cent
1	Hindu	41	82
2	Muslim	7	14
3	Christian	2	4
Total		50	100

Above the table no-4 shows the details the religion of the respondents. Out of the 50 people studied, Hindus are 82 percent, Muslims are 14% and Christians are 4% have been found. There are mostly Hindus are majority.

**Table no-5 Caste**

Sl. No.	Castes	Number	Per cent
1	Scheduled Caste	25	50
2	Scheduled Tribes	10	20
3	Vokkaligas	3	6
4	Others	12	24
Total		50	100

Above the table shows the respondents belonging to Scheduled Castes are 50 Per cent, Scheduled Tribes are 20 per cent, Vokkaligas are 6 per cent and others are 24 per cent. Majority of Scheduled Caste.

**Table no: 6 Occupation Profile**

Sl. No.	Occupation	Number	Per cent
1	Masonry work	15	30
2	Small business	8	16
3	House keeper	5	10
4	Chowtri work	10	20
5	Others	12	24
Total		50	100



Table no-6 shows the occupation of the respondents. Among the 50 respondents, percentage of those who do Masonry work 30 per cent, Small business 16 per cent, House workers 10 per cent, Chowtri work 20 per cent and do other jobs 24 per cent do multiple jobs also. But none of the interviewed respondents were found to have government jobs.

**Table no : 7 Monthly income details**

Sl. No.	Income	Number	Per cent
1	1000-2000	5	10
2	2001-3000	7	14
3	3001-4000	10	20
4	4001-5000	12	24
5	5001 and above	16	32
Total		50	100

Table no-7 shows the monthly income of the respondents. Among the 50 respondents who earned income between 1000-2000 10 per cent, 2001-3000 income earners 14 per cent, earning income up to 3001-4000 is 20 per cent, earning up to 4001-5000 24 per cent and earn more than 5001 is 32 per cent of slum dwellers are earning their monthly income in this way.

**Table no : 8 Problems of slum areas**

Sl. No.	Problems	Number	Per cent
1	Housing problem	17	34
2	Drinking water	15	30
3	Toilet problem	10	20
4	Road problems	8	16
Total		50	100

Above the table no-8 shows the problems of the slum dwellers. Among the 50 respondents, 34 per cent having housing problem, 30 per cent having pure drinking water problem, 20 per cent have not toilet room facilities, 16 per cent of respondents said road problems.

**Suggestions:**

- i. Housing, toilet, drinking water system and drainage facilities should be provided to slum dwellers.

- ii. Due attention should be paid to the health and sanitation of slum areas.
- iii. People should be made aware about environmental cleanliness.
- iv. Government officials should take initiative in addressing their problems.
- v. Migration from rural areas to urban areas should be prevented. For that, planning programs should be implemented to create jobs at the rural level.
- vi. Industries and factories should be set up in rural areas.
- vii. More facilities should be provided for children living in slums.
- viii. Government schools should play a role in the development of children living in slum areas and teachers should make children interested in education.
- ix. Families living in slum areas should be sensitized in sending their children to school.
- x. Government organizations and non-governmental organizations should focus on their development. Adult education system should be implemented in slum areas.
- xi. Conduct a survey of slum areas and collect data to find out what their problems are and take steps to solve them. They should be trained and provided credit facilities for self-employment.
- xii. Accommodation facilities should be provided.
- xiii. Teachers should try to bring dropouts back to school.

### Preventive Programs Needed:

- **Decentralization of Industries:** Industries are concentrated in only a few cities in India where industrialization is in full swing. If it is decentralized, the possibility of construction of slums will be reduced due to the concentration of lower class workers in one place.
- **To prevent mass migration of people from villages to cities:** Improving rural life, increasing educational employment opportunities in villages, providing all kinds of facilities in cities can prevent migration.
- **Trying to establish factories in rural areas also:** Instead of setting up factories in urban areas, small scale factories should be set up in rural areas. This will get employment. Immigration should be controlled.

- **Efforts to create social awareness and environmental consciousness:** Cultivating self-service, self-respect and self-respect in people. Creating awareness and concern for the environment.

### **Summary and Conclusion:**

We chose the slum areas of Mandya city for this research study. What we can learn from this study is that we have tried to explain the socio-economic problems of people living in slums from a sociological perspective. The slums chosen for research study in Mandya city are Nalabandwadi, Tamil Colony and three slums near Kalamma temple. People living in these areas have been living for about 50 years. They are from different regions. They have migrated due to various reasons such as lack of employment, lack of increase in wages, sunshine, agricultural pursuits in the places where they live. People of various religions and castes live in the slums.

People living in this area engage in various jobs for livelihood like carpentry, painting, trading, chowtry work, labor work, harvesting etc. Women are also going to work. It can be seen that the people living in slums are faced with many problems such as housing problem, water problem, toilet problem, lack of drainage, lack of environmental cleanliness, electricity problem etc. If the people there depended more on alcohol and smoking, then it became a health problem.

It was learned that the people living in the slums are not getting the schemes implemented by the government properly. Only the number of associations of BPL families namely Sthreeshakti Sangh, Mahila Swasahaya Sangh, Dharmasthala Sangh, has increased. Non-governmental organizations are not working in slums.

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