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Comparative study between authorized and unauthorized slum of Kolkata: special reference to Tangra, Slum and Basanti colony

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Abstract

There are a number of social problem that the modern society of our faces of it slums are an important one. Slums are the result of uneven development and capitalism. Slums promote family disorganization and increase certain kinds of crime. The main aim of this paper is to bring into light even in today's world where man has made path breaking advancement in all fields be it science & technology or be it combating fatal disease, there is still a section of the society who is still aloof from the mainstream of the development. The slum dwellers are the deprived section of the society living at the subsistent level whose only aim in life is to earn their daily bread and with the education of their offspring taking a backseat in their life. The slum should not be neglected by entitling them as "refugees", "illegal encroacher" but the problem should be addressed with the same seriousness with which the other social problems are dealt with. Steps should be taken both by the government as well as by the private agencies to improve their condition. Thus slum should be taken less as social evil and more as a problem requiring the immediate of people like us.

Keywords: Comparative study, authorized and unauthorized slum, Tangra, Slum and Basanti colony

1. Introduction

India holds the 15 position in largest passenger car markets globally, by 2016 Indian expected to become top 10 markets internationally. After independence, many multinational manufacturers have set up their operations in India. The latest movement of new cars on the Indian road has led to the emergence of an entirely new market in the pre-owned cars segment. Also, the pre-owned car market is set to grow at a CAGR of 18-20% end of 2015.

There cannot be a second opinion on the fact that the automobiles have become the indispensable part of our life. Today world over development of automobile is just beyond imagination these years. It is barely an indicator of country economy, but an individual's development chart can be measured on the grounds of the automotive vehicles used by him for day to day work and also for delight, status and fashion as well. The vehicle industry in India is one of the largest in the world and one of the fastest growing globally. It is also considered as a most profitable industry worldwide. According to the reports of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers [SIAM], annual car sales are anticipated to attain 5 million vehicles by end of 2015 and more than 9 million by 2020. To trust New York Times reports, a number of automobile corporations like Nissan, Hyundai Motors, Toyota, Suzuki and Volkswagen have expanded their manufacturing amenities due to India's strong engineering base and expertise in the manufacturing of cost-effective, in terms of fuel-efficient cars.

United Nations agency UN-Habitat Defines, "A Slum is a contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing & basic services. A slum is often not recognized & addressed by the public authorities as an integral or equal part of the city."

Slum Conditions as a group of individuals living under the same roof that lack one or more conditions listed below:

- Insecure residential Status.
- Inadequate access of safe water.
- Inadequate access of sanitation & other infrastructure.
- Poor structural quality of housing.
- Overcrowding.

According to the United Nations, the percentage of urban dwellers living in slums decreased from 47 percent to 37 percent in the developing world between 1990 and 2005. However, due to rising population, and the rise especially in urban populations, the number of slum dwellers is

rising. One billion people worldwide live in slums and the figure will likely grow to 2 billion by 2030. Recent years have seen a dramatic growth in the number of slums as urban populations have increased in the Third World. According to a 2006 UN-HABITAT report, 327 million people live in slums in Commonwealth countries - almost one in six Commonwealth citizens. In a quarter of Commonwealth countries (11 African, 2 Asian and 1 Pacific), more than two

out of three urban dwellers live in slums and many of these countries are urbanizing rapidly. The number of people living in slums in India has more than doubled in the past two decades and now exceeds the entire population of Britain, the Indian Government has announced. The number of people living in slums is projected to rise to 93 million in 2011 or 7.75 percent of the total population almost double the population of Britain.

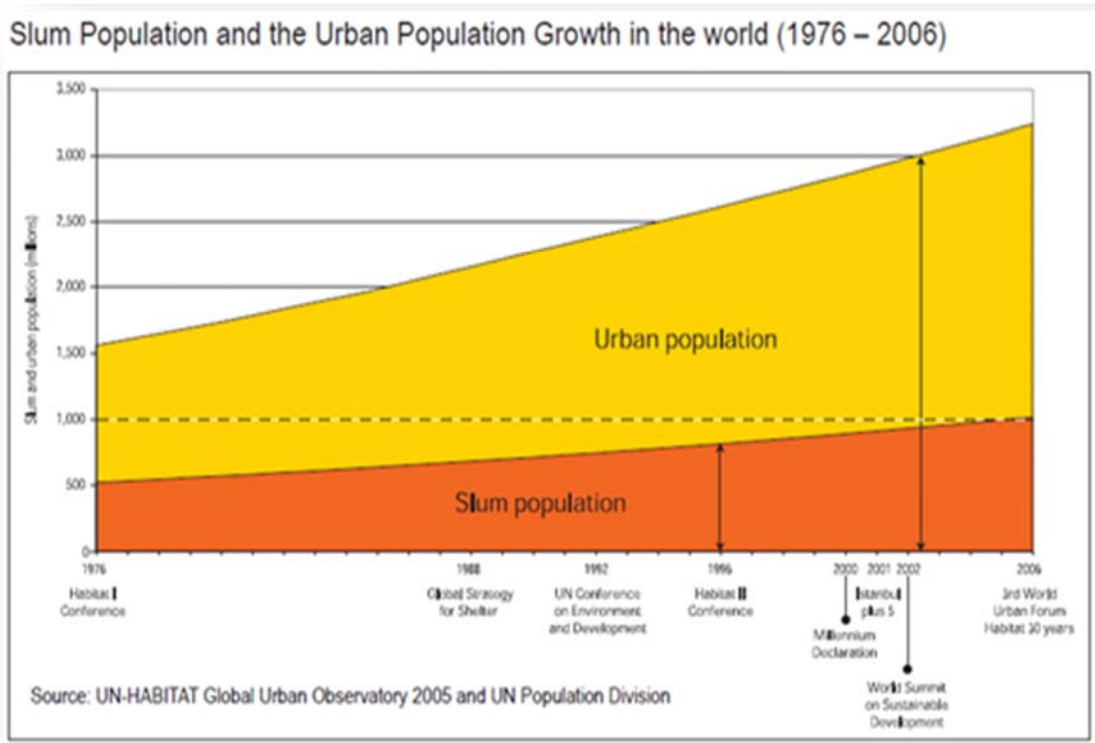
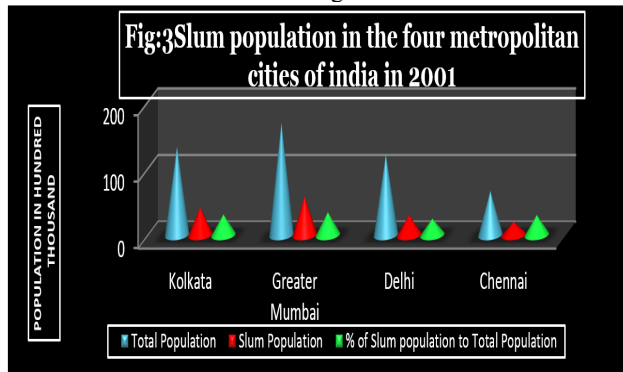


Fig1:Slum population and Urban population growth of the World (1976-2006)



Fig2:Urban population living in Slum in different countries

According to the 2001 census, in India around 285 million people or about 28 percent of the population live in the urban areas. Urban areas are the backbone of the country's economy, acting as major attraction zones and reservoirs of skills for the millions of migrants from the rural areas. In India, about 55% of GDP was contributed by the urban sector in 1990-91 and has passed the 60% mark by the year 2001. Nevertheless, urban growth resulting in rising unemployment and low productivity work sharing in the informal sector, squatting in teeming slums, congestion, encroachment on public space, water & air pollution. Another important aspect is that of the inequality of distribution of resources especially income which has led to the deterioration of the living standards of a section of the urban people. This is one of the main causes of the origin of slums in cities.



2. Objectives of the study

The present study attempt to

The main objective of the study was to find out the Socio-economic, cultural & physical factors that are associated with the slums. The main objectives of my study are as follows:

- ❑ To highlight the socio-Economic of Kolkata slums with special reference to Basanti colony & Tangra slum.
- ❑ To examine the demographic characteristics of the study area.
- ❑ To point out the problems those are associated with them.
- ❑ To study the level of basic amenities available in slum.

3. Methodology

1. The research has been conducted through socio-economic survey.
2. The Interviewees and research area were selected using non-probability sampling techniques.
3. To Prepare a questionnaire for interview of inhabitants in slum area for primary data collection.
4. Observation has been made data reliable and realistic
5. Data, collected from primary sources, has been compiled from Quantitative analysis. Researcher use Microsoft Office Excel for analysis the Quantitative data and presented analysis results in different charts.

3.1. History of Kolkata Slum: Less than three centuries ago the present day city of Kolkata was no more than a rural district in lower Bengal, a flat rice swamp interspersed with patches of jungle with a few scattered villages on the riverbanks. No one would have ventured to forecast that a "city of palaces" would shortly arise here. Infact, the Kolkata region was thought to have potential as early as the Mughal period. In 1690, Job Charnock realized the potentials of the region and laid the foundations of British Calcutta on the site of Sutanuti, Gobindapur and kalikata villages on the eastern banks of the Hugli River.

With the growth of trade, attention was given to the improvements of systems of communication and mercantile activities in Calcutta received a tremendous stimulus with the opening of railways and the other ways of communications. Naturally the port of Calcutta called for further improvements and docks were built. It must be noted that up to 1860 the port of Calcutta had a very small hinterland comprising only Howrah, Hooghly, 24 parganas, and a small part of Eastern Bengal. But the establishment of jute and other cotton factories in Calcutta and its suburbs and the opening of new lines of communication expanded this hinterland. The growth of the port and commerce attracted the rural poor to Calcutta in search of jobs. Since the communication system did not allow them to commute daily they had to live in the city itself in unsanitary and sub-human conditions which gave birth to the so called Slums. Part of the Slums consisted of the areas where the British Population's servants lived with not even minimum facilities. Slums of Kolkata can be divided into groups, the older slums located in the heart of the city, some as old as 150 years, and the more recent slums mostly located in the outskirts of the city. Most of the slums are located in residential areas within the city. Few slums exist on the western side of the bypass while there are slums on the eastern & north-eastern side of the bypass which are located on raised land that was previously low-lying wetlands (Bheri Region). This area is still surrounded by vast water bodies into which sewerage flows from the city. The remaining land is utilised for vegetable and flower cultivation, while fish cultivation occurs in the water bodies. Many Slums have arisen around the garbage dump. (Ex: Dhapa).

3.2. Study Area: Authorized Slum: The Authorized slums can be classified into four broad groups. The first kind of slums existed during the British period when middlemen took land from the landowners usually for a long term and build hut type settlements which they let out to migrants. As mentioned earlier these migrants needed a place to live and had no alternative but to accept accommodation without basic amenities. There is another type of slum called "thika tenant slums" where the slum dwellers have taken possession at a fixed rent and have constructed their houses. A third type of slums is those constructed by zamindars (landowners) themselves and let out to the slum dwellers. These types of slums are locally called Bustees. The fourth type of slums are refugee Resettlement colonies (Udbastu colonies) where land has been leased out for 99 years to the refugees from present day Bangladesh by the government at nominal rents.

1. Authorized Slum: Tangra Slum

❖ Location

Tangra Slum is located in Ward No.58. The Study area is situated in Tangra Road besides Topsia Road. From the map of Tangra Slum it may be identified that:

- Geographical Coordinate : 22° 33' 0" N, 88° 23' 0" E
- UTM : 45Q 642242 2494365
- In the Northern Side: Debendra Chandra Dey Road
- In the Southern Side: Topsia Road
- In the Western Side: Chingrighata Road
- In the Eastern Side: Maheswaritala Road

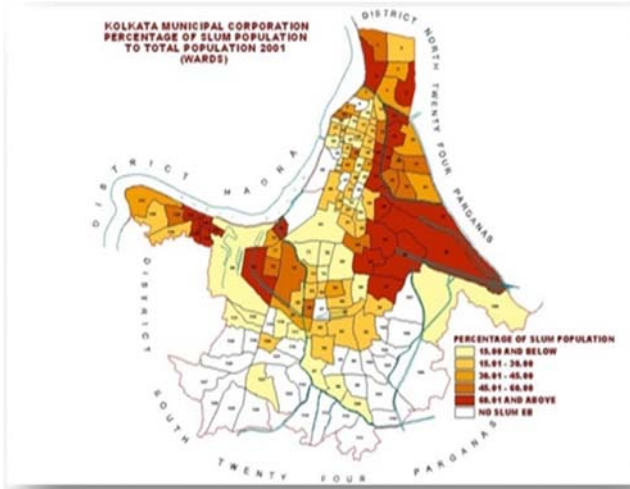


Fig 4: Percentage of urban population to total population of Kolkata Municipal Corporation



Fig 5: Location of Tangra Slum

Tangra Slum is a Special type of authorized slum in east Kolkata that traditionally housed a large number of tanneries owned by mainly people of Chinese origin. "47 South Tangra Road", may be the most confusing postal address, as it used to cover the whole of Chinatown Tangra with over 350 tanneries. Most of the standing structures have been built, over many years, by the industrious Chinese, upon marshy and reclaimed low lying land. Over the past several decades, it has served as the location of Calcutta's Chinatown. This is not a coincidence; the Chinese of Calcutta have gradually turned this part of the Kolkata into an important destination for

sourcing finished and semi-finished leather. The Chinese specialized in the manufacture of leather and turned it into one of the major industries of West Bengal, providing employment to tens of thousands of local inhabitants. In addition to the huge volume of exports to the developing and developed countries, finished leather is supplied to the major shoe and leather goods manufacturers all over the country. Many made-to-order shoe shops in Kolkata are also run by entrepreneurs from this community.

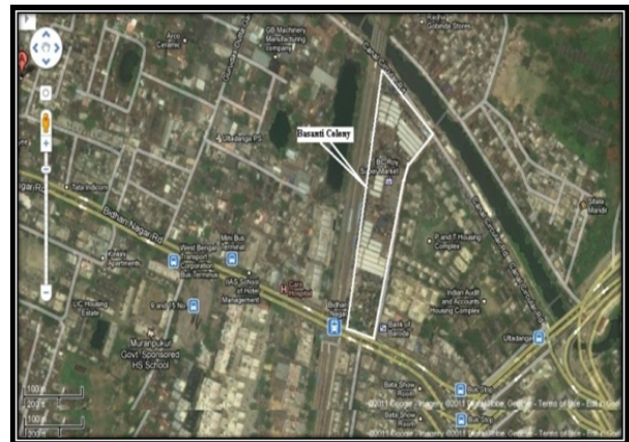
Food from Tangra is a distinct variety of traditional Hakka Chinese cuisine adapted to Indian ingredients and the Bengali palate. This has spread to the rest of India, along with the recipes earlier unique to Tangra. Tangra is now the most popular destination for Chinese food. Kolkata Chinatown is changing rapidly. The population is no longer renewed by waves of migration and many traditional professions such as dentistry, laundry and tannery are no longer the preserve of the Chinese. The West Bengal government, under direction from the Supreme Court, recently moved all tanneries to Bantala, a suburb in the east of Kolkata.

3.3. Unauthorized Slum

Unauthorized slums are those which are simply encroachments on the roadside (locally called Jhupri), canals (Khalidhar) or any vacant place by the poor people either displaced from the city itself or retrenched from their work place. Another type of encroachment is reported as displacement due to an excessive increase in family size.

3.4. Unauthorized Slum: Basanti Colony Location: Basanti Colony is located in Ward No.32. The Study area is situated in Ultadanga besides Bidhannagar Railway Station & Canal circular Road. From the map of Basanti Colony it may be identified that:

- Geographical Coordinate : 22° 35' 40" N, 88° 23' 32" E
- In the Northern Side: Canal Circular Road
- In the Southern Side: Ultadanga Main Road
- In the Western Side: Bidhannagar Railway Station (Platform No.4)
- In the Eastern Side: Bidhannagar Station Road



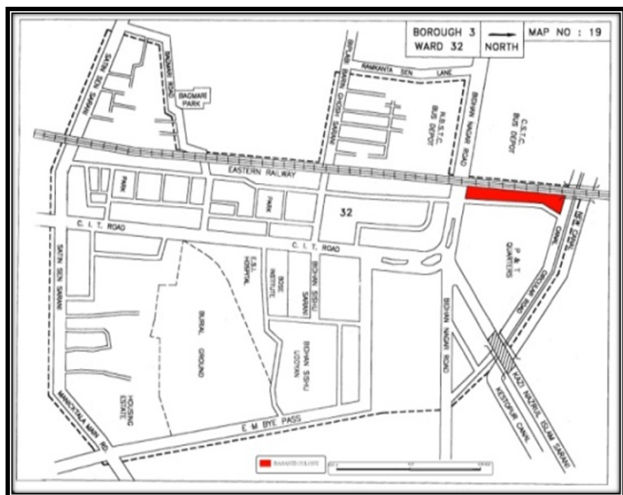


Fig 6: Location of Basanti Colony

As a result of the industrial growth and rapid urbanization of Kolkata during 1930-1940, workers from south 24 parganas, North 24 parganas and from present day Bangladesh poured into this city in search of employment and income. The thirties and forties witnessed a significant enhancement of the industrial base in and around Kolkata to support British war effort. This led to the migration of cheap labour from this place. This led to the migration of cheap labour from the hinterland. These people found cheap accommodation, mostly in huts made of mud and bamboo. The production of huts without basic infrastructure facilities eventually led to the growth of Basanti Colony. This growth Continued and the vacant areas were rapidly filled up.

3.5. Population Density and Composition:Population Density in slums is usually very averaging around 15 persons / katha or 2800 persons /hector. There is an acute shortage of space often with one room being rented to one family. The population density in Basanti Colony is around 15-20 people /katha while it is 10 people /katha in Tangra slum. The density of population in slums is comparatively high as compared to the non-slum area. From the sample survey it is observed that the density of population is high in Basanti Colony than the Tangra sum. The high population density shows the unhygienic condition of living. Beside that the numbers of persons have been increased in the recent few years due to the immigration & natural increase. Above all the man-land ratio is very high as a result of which high population density. From the sample survey it is found that in Tangra Slum 53% are male & 47% are female to total population while in Basanti Colony 56% are male & 44% are female to total population. The composition of population may be explained in terms of Age & Sex. It is observed that the percentage of male & female population in each age group is different from one another. It is noticed from the survey that in Basanti Colony & Tangra Slum the age group between 0-14 the male concentration is slightly higher than female population which indicate the underdevelopment & high birth rate of the slum area. On the other hand, in Basanti Colony the age group between 14-40 the female concentration is slightly higher than male population & in Tangra Slum the age group between 14-40 the female concentration is higher than male population.

4. Marital Status

Being one of the important aspects in demography, marital status helps us in understanding the composition & structure

of the population. In this study marital condition is enumerated on the basis of the households. According to the marital condition, sample population of Basanti Colony & Tangra Slum can be divided into three categories:

- ❖ Unmarried
- ❖ Married
- ❖ Widow/Widower
- ❖ Separated

From the sample survey it is observed that in Tangra Slum, 47% male & 33% female are unmarried while 41% male & 46% female are married where 9% are widower & 13% are widow. On the other hand 3% male & 5% female are separated. In Basanti Colony 39% male & 37% female are unmarried while 53% male & 49% female are married where 6% are widower & 8% are widow. On the other hand 2% male & 6% female are separated. It is interesting to note that about 20-25% woman of this two area specifically in Basanti Colony were married before the legal age of 18 year. The other striking fact that in the sample of the two slums majority of the separated persons are women. It is observed that after separation the separated woman became the head of the household consisting of her children.

4.1. Migration:The concentration of slum population has been increased this is because of the large scale immigration from the backward sectors of the society, Specially from rural areas which lead to large scale increase in the population of slum.

The sample survey shows that in Basanti Colony 45% people are migrant & 55% people are non-migrant, while in Tangra slum 70% people are migrant & 30% people are non-migrant.

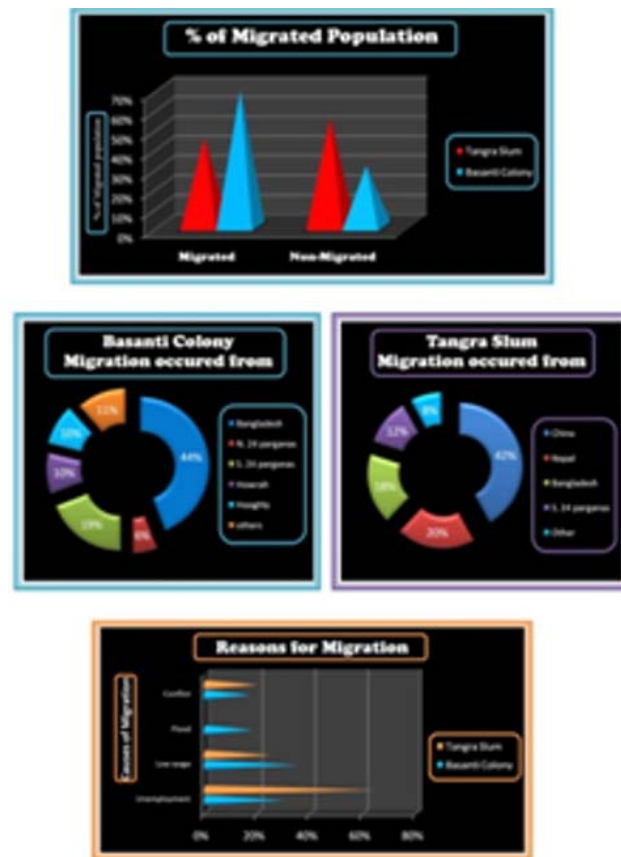


Fig 7: Migration scenario

Most of the migrant of the Basanti Colony have their native place in the interior part of West Bengal & Bangladesh. Among the migrants of Basanti colony; 44% migrants from Bangladesh, 6% from N.24 parganas, 19% from Lakhikantapur, Canning, Diamond Harbour, Jaynagar, Namkhana & Sundarban in S.24 parganas, 10% from Howrah, 10% from Hooghly & 11% from other places.

Among the migrants of Tangra Slum; 42% migrants from China before 1900 A.D, 20% from Nepal, 18% from Bangladesh, 12% from S.24 Parganas, 8% from other places.

Migrants are attracted for various job opportunity as well as better communication system. The slum is surrounded by high as well middle class residential area. These residential areas generate huge domestic helpers which in turn fulfilled by the residents of the area. Thus presence of residential area attracted a large number of migrants. Large scale immigration causes the problem of congestion and over population. These immigrants either hold their living space illegally or they settle as squatter settlers.

From the sample survey it is observed that in Basanti Colony 30% due to unemployment, 35% due to low wage, 18% due to flood & 17% due to social & political conflict leave their native place & settle in Basanti Colony. On the other Hand in Tangra, 65% due to unemployment, 20% due to low wage & 20% due to social & political conflict leave their native place & settle in Tangra.

4.2. Family Size: In the sample survey it is very difficult to classify family either into nuclear or extended because there is a great diversity in memberships of nuclear & extended family. Here, the classification is based on the residential group i.e., those relative who stay under the same roof & take their meals from the same kitchen. The basis of classification is the relations among the members and also measured by its generation depth. On the basis of these criteria the type of family can be divided into three groups:

1. Nuclear : Husband, wife, children
2. Joint: Husband, wife, children & married sons with their families.
3. Extended: Husband, wife, their parents, unmarried or married children and unmarried brothers of the husband.

In Tangra, 60% families are joint type, 12% families are extended type and 28% families are nuclear type while Basanti Colony, 42% families are joint type, 6% families are extended type and 52% families are nuclear type.

4.3. Housing Status: In the study areas houses are mostly of pacca type. The roof materials are mainly Tiles, Tin, wood, Asbestos etc. In Basanti Colony roof materials are mainly of Asbestos & Tarpaulin while in Tangra, roof materials are mainly cemented. Walls are made up of bricks with or without plaster. The floor materials is usually cemented or made of mud in Basanti Colony while in Tangra all the houses have cemented floor material. From the sample survey, it can be said that most of the cases Peoples of Basanti Colony have got one room for their whole family whereas Tangra have two or more room for their whole family.

The above discussion shows that the housing is better in Tangra in comparison with Basanti Colony. The main reason behind it that Tangra is registered slum where local councilor paid attention for their development but it is reverse in case of Basanti Colony as this is an unregistered slum and the councilor have not done too much for the same dwellers.

4.4. Religious Status: Tangra Slum is slightly the structural pattern of the sample population in terms of religious affiliation reveals that the Hindus and Muslims are the two most important constituent units in Basanti Colony whereas Tangra slum constitutes Hindu, Chinese & Nepali.

In Basanti Colony, 68% people are Hindu & 32% are Muslims while in Tangra Slum 51% people are Hindu. Tangra Slum is slightly different from any other slum in terms of religious perspective. In Tangra, 51% people are Hindu, 39% people are Catholic Chinese & 10% are Nepali. The different religious groups have an effect in their life styles. As Tangra slum where a major portion of Chinese lived posses a different types of life styles than that of Hindu Bustee of Basanti Colony.

Caste is another important social indicator. In general caste can be divided into four broad categories:

General, SC, ST and OBC

In the general group there are Brahmin and Kayastha. Even among the slum dwellers of Kolkata they enjoy higher social position. The educational performance among them is higher than that of other castes. This is because of their tradition. Surprisingly, the average family income of the upper caste is not higher than the average for the entire group. Numerical predominance of schedule caste can be estimated from its percentage. Among them most of the people belongs to General caste. Schedule caste, Schedule Tribe & OBC are very few in these two slums. In Basanti Colony General Caste people concentration is high as compared to Tangra.

From the sample survey it is found that in Basanti Colony, 68% are general, 17% are Schedule caste & 15% are Schedule Tribe whereas in Tangra 50% are general, 35% are Schedule caste & 15% are OBC.

5. Conclusion: The analysis of the data on the physical living condition of the slum dwellers under the survey enables us to conclude that there is a great disparity between the labor and service they render to the society for their existence and the return they get in terms of very low wages. This gap between labor input & wage output of the slum dwellers appears to be in disarray which affects the demographic social and cultural aspects of their life. As a result mortality, fertility, life expectancy, health and hygiene, literacy and other socio-cultural activities including aesthetic values are very much neglected. If the civic authority desires to improve the living condition of slum dwellers, priority should be given to improve their job opportunities so that the working force generated by the slum dwellers could be organized in a such a way as to give them necessary opportunities to earn at least a minimum economically modest living.

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