

**A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL STATUS, OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE, FAMILY PATTERN AND KINSHIP BASIS IN A SLUM AREA OF BHOPAL CITY (M.P)****Farooq Ahmad Ganiee**

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**Abstract**

This research paper is based on three hundred (300) respondents of a slum area of Bhopal city namely Vishwakarma Nagar slum area opposite Bhopal Habibganj railway station. The data regarding education status, occupational structure, family pattern and kinship basis were collected through a well framed interview schedule method then the collected data was tabled and conclusions deduced. This study explored the level of education, occupational structure, occupation types, problems faced with the work, family pattern including family types, sizes and average dependent ratio of family members and basis of kinship of slums of study slum area. Some respondents statements were also reported during survey and along with primary source of data their statements are presented in the proper locations. The present study found that life in slums is really threatening and challenging for the people who are living in it. In the study slum area people were found having low standard of living in every respect of life whether its education or occupation or their family average size and so on. This was also observed during the study that people in the study area slum living in abject poverty and having many other problems like problem of unfair employment wages, housing and shelter, water, sanitation, health, social insecurity and livelihoods along with special needs of vulnerable groups like women, children and aged people.

**Keywords:** - slum, status, occupational, pattern, wage, conditions, standard, insecurity, vulnerable, aged.

**Slum**

A slum is a heavily populated urban informal settlement characterized by substandard housing and squalor. While slums differ in size and other characteristics from country to country, most lack reliable sanitation services, supply of clean water, reliable electricity, timely law enforcement and other basic services.

## **Educational status, occupational structure, family pattern and kinship basis of respondents of study slum area.**

### **Age distribution of the respondents**

The distribution of the respondents by age is presented in below table. The respondents are mostly distributed among the age groups of 20-25 years (3%), 25-35 Years (33%), 35-45 years 40.66%, and 19.33% are among the age group of 45-55 Years the remaining 4.66% are in the age group of 55-65. The table is indicating that maximum numbers of respondents were taken from the age groups of 25-35, 35-45 and 45 – 55, because people in these age groups were almost main earners of households, married and more responsive to their social, economic, cultural, political and neighborhood environment stimuli around them.

#### **Age of the respondents**

Age group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20-25	9	3%
25-35	99	33%
35-45	120	40.66%
45-55	58	19.33%
55-65	14	4.66%
Total	300	100%

### **Education level of the respondents**

The table below represents the education level of respondents and, the table indicates that 35.66% of respondents were illiterate, 13% having I-V level, 35% having VI-IX level, 15.33% having secondary level school education and only 1% respondents have bachelors or above bachelors education. The data shows that the higher the education level the lower the number of respondents. From the data it appears that a very high proportions 83.66% (35.66%+13%+35%) of respondents are illiterate or having very low of education. So a large scale of illiteracy and low level of education, these urban poor people has little hope of rising up in occupational mobility.

*As case 1 stated that:*

*I never care about my illiteracy but now I think about the future of my children that they will be in trouble of poverty like me, if they don't get education they can't get any good work.*

### **Educational status of respondents**

Education level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No school	107	35.66%
I-V	39	13%
VI-IX	105	35%
Higher .S. Sc	46	15.33%

Bachelors & above	3	1.0%
Total	300	100%

### **Occupational structure of respondents**

The occupational profile of the surveyed households reveals that majority of the respondents earn their livelihood by doing daily wage work in the informal sector of the city as shown in below table that 41.33% of the respondents are engaged in unskilled labour work with no fixed place of work and with no fixed wages. The wages, working conditions, the standard of living of unskilled labour workers were found low in comparison to other group of workers. The another 38.33 % of respondents were found as daily wage skilled labours engaged in informal sector of the city such as plumbers, carpenter, mason, painters and other service providers.. The next 16% of the respondents were found earn their livelihood by pursuing self-employed occupations like in petty businesses and sundry jobs such as setting up small shops (jhoupri type and tin made shops on road) of eating items, pan- cigarette, vegetable, fruit vending and running tea stall or learn some trade privately and, after working as an apprentice in some shop open one of their own. And only 4.33% of respondents were found as salaried employees or earn from formal service sector as small job holders such as security guards, peons etc. The occupation distribution in terms of work can be seen in the next table (respondents occupation type)

### **Occupation of the respondents**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unskilled Labor	124	41.33%
Skilled labour	115	38.33%
Self employed	48	16%
Salaried	13	4.33%
Total	300	100%

### **Occupation type of Respondents**

The below table represents that the respondents of this study were involved in different occupations. Due to lack of education and employment training they usually do not get entry into the more competitive formal sectors of urban employment. The works in which the respondents were being found engaged, there is no need of education or any formal training for the particular

works. A very high proportion 124 (41.33%) respondents are unskilled workers and the majority among them is illiterate. They are lucky if they get, on an average 20 days work in a month and they include men and women.

*Case 2 stated that:*

*Many days in a month I live without any work, as I am working as a day labour. Every morning I wake up early in the morning and go to the market place and wait there for work with other labours. The people who need workers come to the market place to hire us. Some time I get information of work from other labours and I also some time provide information of work to them. In this way we live our uncertain life in this city.*

### **Respondents occupation type**

Occupation	Frequency
Unskilled Labor	124
Driver	6
Tailor	14
Carpenter	12
Mason/plumber	40
Painter/whitewasher	24
Maid	15
Tea vender	6
Vegetable/fruit vender	7
Small shop	12
Apprenticeship work	27
Govt./semi-govt. jobs	5
Small job in pvt. Sector	8
Total	300

### **Problems faced with the work**

The table with name problems faced by respondents at work represents the problems that are facing respondents with their work. The table shows a very high proportion 80.66% respondents face the under employment problem. And 19.33 % of respondents faces the problems like unsafe conditions at work or far to travel from their dwellings for work. During the field survey it was observed that the problem of underemployment persists as the main problem due to irregular work and mostly people complain of low wages.

### **Problems faced by respondents at work**

Problems	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Underemployment	242	80.66%
Unsafe condition and Far to travel	58	19.33%
Total	300	100%

## Family Pattern

### Family type of the respondents

The family is one of the permanent social institutions which, in one form or the other form, is found in all most all societies of the world. It is one of the means most valued possessions. It is made of individuals and is also a part of the large social network. It is the only the social institution other than religion, which is formally developed in all societies. Almost everyone is born in to a family and establishes one of his own. Three types of families (nuclear, joint and single parent) were found exist among the respondents of this research study. As shown in the table below, that (75%) of respondents families are nuclear families followed by joint family with (20.33%) and single parent families with (4.66%). The single parent families were found mother-centered, which occur due to the separation of wives and husbands, broken marriages and widowhood, and these single parent families were also found in nuclear types. these single parent nuclear families were add with the nuclear families as in the below table, there are 225 nuclear families and 14 single parent these become 239 families in the next two tables because of addition of 14 families with 225 families and their percentage would be 89.66%. So a very high proportion 89.66% of respondents has nuclear families.

### Respondents family type

Family type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Nuclear family	225	75%
Joint family	61	20.33%
Single parents	14	4.66%
Total	300	100%

### Average Family size of the respondents

The following below table discloses that a very high proportion 79.66% of respondents is from nuclear families with 1115 members with family average size of 4.66. These families include parents, their children, and in few cases close relatives, all living together under the same roof. On the other hand a small proportion 20.33% of respondents joint families have on a family average size of 6.70 with 409 members. This poses not only greater overcrowding and absence

of privacy in the small residential space but also greater economic hardships. When we combine the average number of members per family of the nuclear family with those of joint families, we arrive at the figure of an average size of (5.08) member per family.

### Respondents average family size

Family Type	Respondents	Average family size	Total Member
Nuclear family	239	4.66	1115
Joint family	61	6.70	409
Total	300	5.08	1524

### Average Family member Dependent ratio

By dependent members we mean non earning members who rely on their parents. They constitute children too small or too weak to earn living, unemployable persons, too old, ill and mentally retarded persons. The data table below tells us that the 239 respondents of nuclear families have an average of 3.29 dependent members per family which together add up to 787 members. On the other hand the 61 respondents of joint families have an average of 3.83 dependent members per family which taken together make up an aggregate of 234 members. The total numbers of both types of families come 1221 members, the average of which works out to 3.40 dependent members ratio.

### Average dependent ratio of family members

Type	Dependent members	Average income to dependent ratio	Respondents
Nuclear families	787	3.29	239
Joint families	234	3.83	61
Total	1021	3.40	300

### Kinship Basis of the Respondents

Kinship generally refers to the family relationship through blood, adoption or marriage. Kinship System in India indicates the specific mode of behavior to determine each and every possible form of relationship between the individuals in a society and it establishes definite functions for every relationship not only by blood but by marriage as well. The below table represents the

kinship basis of respondents as the table indicates that there is very high proportion of respondents kinship relationships from father's side with 78%, followed by others side in very low percentile i.e. from mothers side 6%, husbands side 5%, wife's side 5.66% and from both sides kinship relationships are 5%. The data table discloses that kinship relationships has greater influence from father's side relations because those poor people who migrate from their native places or where they live before and find some work and settle in any new place, first they prefer to call their close relatives and slowly other relatives and friends. So the overall impression from the data is that relations from father's side are chosen first to call by these people against other relations that means Primary relatives are given first preference after that secondary relations.

### Respondents kinship basis

Kinship	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Fathers side	234	78%
Mothers side	19	6.33%
Husbands side	15	5%
Wife side	17	5.66%
Both sides	15	5%
Total	300	100%

### Conclusion

The present study found that the people who are living in slum having low level of education, having no stability with their occupational works because of informal sectors where they works and, also were found they face various types of problems with the works which they do in day to day lives for their livelihoods. Living conditions were also found low due to their family environments. So it recognizable that the attention must be paid to various factors or issues and processes which either constrain or enhance slum people's ability to make a living in an educationally, economically, ecologically and socially sustainable manner.

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