

CHAPTER - VI

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

People's participation is the most popular, puzzling and multi headed concept in the present academic world. People's participation is a central feature of present thinking on welfare and development. There appears to be an increasing consensus among scholars that participation is essential for any effective development.¹ Participation occupies a central place in development thinking and practice. Governments, funding agencies, donors, and civil society actors including NGOs and multi-lateral agencies like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have all arrived at a near consensus that development cannot be sustainable and long-lasting unless people's participation is made central to the development process.²

The concept of people's participation bears different meaning for different people. For project administrators participation in implementation is important, while political scientists' concern is to involve people in decision-making process. On the other hand, economists have given much emphasis on participation in sharing of benefits of development programmes. There is a

¹ Mukta,Gupta. 2000. *Economic participation of women*. New Delhi: Sarup & Sons, p 66

²Somesh Kumar. 2002. *Methods for community participation*. New Delhi: Vistaar Publications, p23

consensus that all these components are essential for effective operationalisation of the concept of participation.³

Participation is recognized as an intrinsic part in the process of development rather than being merely a facilitator. (Gupta: 2000. p.64). Participation in development is being sought the world over, not because it is a fad but because there has been a consensus on the usefulness of participation in development projects.

Participation can ensure effective utilisation of available resources. The people and other agents work in tandem towards achieving their objectives. The local people take responsibility for various development activities. All these initiatives improve efficiency and make the project more cost-effective. Lack of people's involvement has been seen as one of the major causes of the failure of most projects to be effective. People's participation can make the projects more effective by granting them a say in deciding the objectives and strategies and by participating in implementation, thereby ensuring effective utilisation of resources.

Many development interventions have been seen to create a kind of dependence syndrome. For instance, in India, because of widespread government development programmes, people have started looking to the

³ Shruti Banerjee. 2005. *Role of Women in Development Sector*. Delhi: Adhyayan Publishers & Distributors. Pp 41

government for solutions to every problem that they face. If the local resources however- both human and material – are utilised on the basis of decisions taken by the people themselves, the realisation grows that many problems faced by the people have local solutions at their levels. With active involvement of the local people, it is possible not only to break the mentality of dependence but also to increase their awareness, self-confidence and control of the development process. In fact, the involvement in decision-making, implementation and monitoring help in developing local human resources.

Development interventions are directed towards the upliftment of the weaker sections of society. Despite professed target groups and attempts to cover weaker sections, however, most projects have been at best only partially successful. The benefits are cornered off by the non-poor, the elite and the powerful people. People's participation can be a potent way of ensuring the flow of the benefits to the target groups.⁴

Considering the importance of people's participation, it becomes necessary for women to participate in all the developmental interventions equally with men. Women should not be cornered in the developmental interventions. Women's participation is at the core of nearly all promising activities. Women's participation is fundamental to democracy and essential to the achievement of sustainable development and peace. Women are making

⁴Somesh Kumar. 2002. Methods for community participation. New Delhi: Vistaar Publications.Pp27-28

their voices heard, and there can be no real democracy without women's full and equal participation.⁵

Women's voices and their participation in all aspects of society are more important, as witnessed in the context of the global economic crisis, political transitions in the Arab world and elsewhere and environmental disasters as stressed by the United Nations officials.⁶

International instruments and treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) call for women's equal participation in all aspects of life.⁷

The Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 proposed strategic objectives and specific actions in critical areas of concern, which, taken together, would contribute to build an enabling environment for women's participation in development.

The broad understanding of women's participation in development expressed in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action complements the concept of women's participation in all areas of public life contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against

⁵ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2011/10/women-s-political-participation> accessed on 13/10/ 2015

⁶ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41492#.VFAtjSUfy0> 23/12/2014

⁷ <http://www.sgiquarterly.org/feature2011Jan-2.html> 4/6/2014

Women has repeatedly noted the importance of ensuring equal opportunities for women's participation. In its examination of States parties' reports, the Committee also noted that where there is full and equal participation of women in public life and decision-making process, the implementation of their rights and compliance with the Convention improves

The Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality identified three critical dimensions of empowerment and enhanced participation of women in development. The first dimension of empowerment is improvement of *capabilities of women*, for example, in the areas of education and health followed by *access to opportunities and resources* like employment or land resource and *agencies like* political institutions and policy-making to *ensure* women's ability to participate in decision-making processes⁸.

Hence, after realizing the significance of people's participation and women's participation, the study makes an attempt to understand slum women's participation in the development programmes that will be introduced by the Government and different NGOs for the betterment of the slum people.

In the present study, the attempt is made to know the awareness of the slum women about the various developmental activities, Secondly, to examine the implementation of various developmental programmes and the participation of women in the programmes. Thirdly, to find out the constraints faced by slum women in participation of slum development programmes. Fourthly, to assess

⁸ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/enabling-environment2005/index.html> accessed on 9/4/2014

the impact of slum development programmes on women. The execution of the study also calls for collection of a good deal of information from Municipal administrators in various level of the official hierarchy. The following table provides the details of the aforesaid objectives.

Voting Behaviour: Voting behaviour is an important concept to understand people participation to politics. Political participation of a community or group of people is an important part of their participation to development activities. Hence the following table is made to highlight the voting behaviour of slums of Silchar town.

Table 6.1:

Voting behaviour of Respondents

Slum pocket	Yes	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	49(84.48%)	9(15.52%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	89(85.58%)	15(14.42%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	453(95.17%)	23(4.83%)	476(100%)
Total	591(92.63%)	47(7.37%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum Pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket 49(84.48%) of respondents cast vote in election and 9(15.52%) don't cast vote. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 104 respondents 89(85.58%) cast vote in election and only 15(14.42%) don't cast their vote. In *Kalibari char* 453(95.17%) respondents cast their vote and 23(4.83%) don't cast their vote. Thus maximum number of the respondents cast their vote in election. Thus, Participation of women in voting in the election is significantly higher as 591(92.63%) cast vote in election and 47(7.37%) don't cast.

Knowledge on Basic Problem of Slum Area: With a view to ascertain the extent of slum women's participation in slum development programmes in the slum pocket under study, it becomes essential to study the perception of the slum women to the basic problems of their area. Slum development programmes becomes meaningless if the slum women are unaware of the problems in their area.

It is observed from the study that the female respondents are aware of the vital glitch that confronts them every day. When the basic problems were placed before them, they could effortlessly recognize them. In *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket the first basic problem mentioned by respondents is that of poor housing because 48(82.76%) respondents pointed out that problem. Flood and water logging becomes the second basic problem as 47(81.03%) respondents have opined that. Sanitation was voiced by 42(72.41%) respondents in *Madhura Ghat*. Improper road is focussed by 40(68.97%). 11(18.97%) respondents expressed the problem of drinking water. 5(8.62%) respondents regard lack of electric connection as one of their basic problem. Lastly, when asked about any other problem that surrounds them 6(10.34%) respondents have said that they are facing the problem of corruption, eve teasing, unemployment and they are also deprived of relief and other government benefits.

In *Itkhola Ghat* it is observed that the first basic problem is that of drinking water because 96(92.31%) respondents pointed out that problem. Improper road becomes the second basic problem of this slum pocket as

83(79.81%) respondents have opined that. Water logging is considered as third basic problem to them as 82(78.85%) respondents have uttered that. Poor housing is focussed by 81(77.88%) which claims to be the fourth basic problem of the area. Next to poor housing is sanitation and flood which is voiced by 76(73.08%) respondents. The problem of lack of electric connection is regarded by 36(34.62%) respondents as their basic problem. Lastly when asked about any other problem that surrounds them, 14(13.46%) respondents say that they are facing the problem of corruption, eve teasing, unemployment and they are also deprived of relief and other government benefit.

In *Kalibari Char* the first basic problem is that of improper roads because 471(98.95%) respondents pointed out that problem. Lack of drinking water becomes the second basic problem as 470(98.74%) respondents have opined that. The third basic problem of the area is that of sanitation as 453(95.17%) respondents voiced about that. 425(89.29%) respondents expressed the problem of flood. The problem of water logging was pointed out by 421(88.45%) respondents. Poor housing was mentioned by 400(84.03%). Lack of electric connection was mentioned by 42(8.82%). Lastly when they are asked about any other problem 70(14.71%) respondents have said that they are facing the problem of eve teasing, unemployment and they are also deprived of relief and other government benefits.

Although by and large drinking water, sanitation, water logging, improper roads, poor housing and other remains the basic problem of the three

slum pockets, the thrust area of the respective slum pockets is different from one another.

The first basic problems of the three pockets are different. The first basic problem of *Madhura Ghat* is that of poor housing as 82.76% have said that but the first basic problem in *Itkhola Ghat* and *Kalibari Char* is drinking water and improper roads respectively as (92.31%) and (98.95%) respondents of respective slum area report it. The second basic problem in *Madhura Ghat* as identified by the respondents is that of water logging and flood as emphasise given to both these problems are equal i.e. 81.03% respondents opined that. Improper road is the second basic problem of *Itkhola Ghat* according to 79.81% respondents but improper road is the first basic problem of *Kalibari Char*. The second basic problem of *Kalibari Char* is of drinking water according to (98.74%) respondents. However, it is interesting to note that drinking water is the first basic problem *Itkhola Ghat*. Thus it is found that the respondents of the sample slum pockets could easily identify the basic problems of their area.

Familiarity with Political Representatives: Familiarity with political representatives of one's locality is also another important aspect of people's participation. If people participate in development programmes they must know their local political representatives. Following table depicts to the awareness of the respondents about the different political representatives of their locality like ward commissioner, chairman of municipality board, vice-chairman of their municipality board, MLA and MP.

Table No 6.2
Familiarity with Ward Commissioner

Slum pocket	Aware	Unaware	Total
Madhura Ghat	55(94.83%)	3(5.17%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	99(95.19%)	5(4.81%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	474(99.58%)	2(0.42%)	476(100%)
Total	628(98.43%)	10(1.57%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

The above table displays the awareness of women about the Ward Commissioner of their respective wards. In *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket 55(94.83%) are aware of their Ward Commissioner and only 3(5.17%) are unaware. In *Itkhola Ghat* slum pocket 99(95.19%) know their Ward Commissioner and 5(4.81%) do not know their Ward Commissioner. In *Kalibari Char* slum pocket 474(99.58%) respondent know about their Ward Commissioner and 2(0.42%) are unknown about their Ward Commissioner. Thus, in the three slum pockets maximum number of respondents are aware of their Ward Commissioner as 628(98.43%) replied positively and only 10(1.57%) gave negative reply.

Table No. 6.3
Familiarity with Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board

Slum pocket	Aware	Unaware	Total
Madhura Ghat	49(84.48%)	9(15.52%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	68(65.38%)	36(34.62%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	273(57.35%)	203(42.65%)	476(100%)
Total	390(61.13%)	248(38.87%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket 49(84.48%) respondents replied positively and 9(15.25%) respondents replied negatively towards their familiarity with Chairman of Silchar Municipal board. In *Itkhola Ghat* 68(65.38%) respondents are aware with the Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board and 36(34.62%) are unaware. In *Kalibari Char* 273(57.35%) respondents are aware and 203(42.65%) are unaware. Thus out of total respondents 390(61.13%) are familiar with the Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board and 248(38.87%) are not familiar. However it is observed that respondents are aware about the Ward Commissioner than the Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board.

Since vice-chairman of municipality board is also concerned about the slum problems. Hence familiarity of slum women with vice-chairman is also important. The following table depicts the familiarity of the respondents with vice-chairman of Silchar municipality board.

Table No 6.4
Familiarity with Vice Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board

Slum pocket	Aware	Unaware	Total
Madhura Ghat	26(44.83%)	32(55.17%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	63(60.58%)	41(39.42%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	233(48.95%)	243(51.05%)	476(100%)
Total	322(50.47%)	316(49.53%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket 26(44.83%) are aware of the Vice Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board and 32(55.17%) are unaware. In *Itkhola Ghat* 63(60.58%) can recognize their vice-chairman and 41(39.42%) can't recognize.

In *Kalibari Char* 233(48.95%) know the Vice Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board and 243(51.05%) are unknown about the Vice Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board. Thus out of total 638 respondents 322(50.47%) are familiar with the Vice Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board and 316(49.53%) are not familiar. In the following table respondents' familiarity with their MLA is discussed.

Table 6.5
Familiarity with MLA

Slum pocket	Aware	Unaware	Total
Madhura Ghat:	32(55.17%)	26(44.83%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	50(48.08%)	54(51.92%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	255(53.57%)	221(46.43%)	476(100%)
Total	337(52.82%)	301(47.18%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket 32(55.17%) know their MLA and 26(44.83%) are unknown about their MLA. In *Itkhola Ghat* slum pocket 50(48.08%) can recognize their MLA and 54(51.92%) can't recognize. In *Kalibari Char* slum pocket 255(53.57%) are familiar with the MLA of their constituency and 221(46.43%) are not familiar. Thus, the above table clarifies that out of 638 respondents 337(52.82%) know about their MLA and 301(47.18%) are unknown about their MLA. In *Madhura Ghat* (55.17%) and in *Kalibari Char* maximum (53.57%) of the respondents are aware about the MLA of their constituency but in *Itkhola Ghat* maximum (51.92%) are unaware about their MLA.

Table 6.6:
Familiarity with MP

Slum pocket	Aware	Unaware	Total
Madhura Ghat	30 (51.72%)	28(48.28%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	44(42.31%)	60(57.69%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	300(63.03%)	176(36.97%)	476(100%)
Total	374(58.62%)	264(41.38%)	638((100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* 30(51.72%) are aware of their MP and 28(48.28%) are unaware but in *Itkhola Ghat* 44(42.31%) can recognize their MP and 60(57.69%) can't recognize their MP. In *Kalibari Char* 300(63.03%) are familiar with the MP and 176(36.97%) are not familiar with the MP. It is observed from the above table that 374(58.62%) know their MP and 264(41.38%) don't know their MP. In *Madhura Ghat* and *Kalibari char* majority of respondents are aware about their MP, 51.72% and 63.03% respectively but in *Itkhola Ghat* majority of women i.e, 60(57.69%) are unaware about their MP.

From the above analysis it is observed that respondents are more familiar with the Ward Commissioner than any other political representatives. Ward commissioner is the person who is available and easily accessible to them. Other political leaders do not frequently visit them. The researcher highlights participation of slum women in the formulation and implementation of slum improvement programmes as well

as slum women’s knowledge on the formulation and implementation process in the following parts of the chapter.

Participation in Formulation of Schemes: Participation of slum women in slum development programme is observed by measuring their involvement in formulation as well as implementation of the programme. The community people must have knowledge about their problem and they must know how to solve the problem by proper formulation and implementation of the programmes. Therefore, their knowledge is also incorporated to know their involvement. The following table depicts the knowledge of respondents on formulation of various schemes.

Table 6.7(a)
Respondent’s knowledge on the formulation of the schemes introduced by the government and NGO

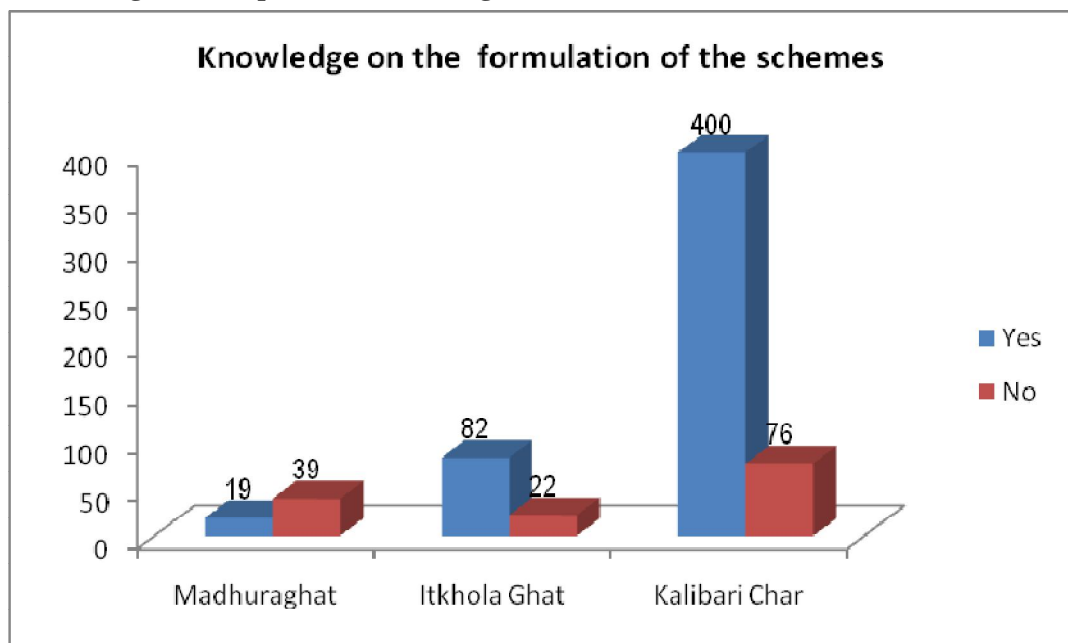
Slum pocket	Reply of respondents		Total
	Yes	No	
Madhura Ghat	19(32.76%)	39(67.24%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	82(78.85%)	22(21.15%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	400(84.03%)	76(15.97%)	476(100%)
Total	501(78.53%)	137(21.47%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

The answers presented in the above table divulge respondent’s knowledge on scheme formulation. In *Madhura Ghat* only 19(32.76%) respondents are familiar with scheme formulation and majority of the respondents 39(67.24%) are ignorant about the formulation of scheme. In *Itkhola Ghat* 82(78.85%) respondents know how schemes under various improvement programmes launched by the government and NGOs are

formulated in the slum pocket and 22(21.15%) respondents are unknown. In *Kalibari Char* also like *Itkhola Ghat* majority of the respondents 400(84.03%) know how schemes are formulated and only 76(15.97%) are unknown about scheme formulation. Out of total 638 respondents 501(78.53%) know about formulation of scheme and only 137(21.47%) are unknown about scheme formulation.

Fig. 6.1 : Respondent’s knowledge on the formulation of the schemes



As **table 6.7(a)** reveals that **78.53%** respondents are aware about the formulation of schemes under various programmes introduced by the government and NGO, these 78.53% respondents are further asked to specify the key person in formulating the schemes which is depicted in the table below:

Table 6.7(b)
Knowledge on Key persons involved in formulation of the programmes

Slum Pocket	Ward Commissioner	Ward Commissioner and leaders of the slum	Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and male members	Total
Madhura Ghat	12(63.16%)	7(36.84%)	-	19(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	62(75.61%)	15(18.29%)	5(6.10%)	82(100%)
Kalibari Char	206(51.5%)	143(35.75%)	51(12.75%)	400(100%)
Total	280(55.89%)	165(32.93%)	56(11.18%)	501(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* out of 19 respondents who are familiar with scheme formulation, 12(63.16%) says that Ward Commissioner acts as the key person in scheme formulation and 7(36.84%) respondents say that both ward commissioner and leader of the slum are the key person in scheme formulation. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 82 respondents 62(75.61%) tell that the Ward commissioner acts as the key person, 15(18.29%) respondents utter about the Ward Commissioner and leader of the slum and 5(6.10%) respondents have said that the ward commissioner, leader of the slum and male members decides. In *Kalibari Char* out of 400 respondents 206(51.5%) respondents have said that it is the ward commissioner who take key role in the formulation of development schemes for the betterment of the people of the area. 143(35.75%) respondents say that ward commissioner and leader of the slum both decide in the formulation of the schemes and 51(12.75%) respondents added that the ward commissioner, leader of the slum and male members decide. Thus, table no **6.7(b)** reveals that Ward Commissioner plays the most important role in the formulation of this improvement programmes or schemes.

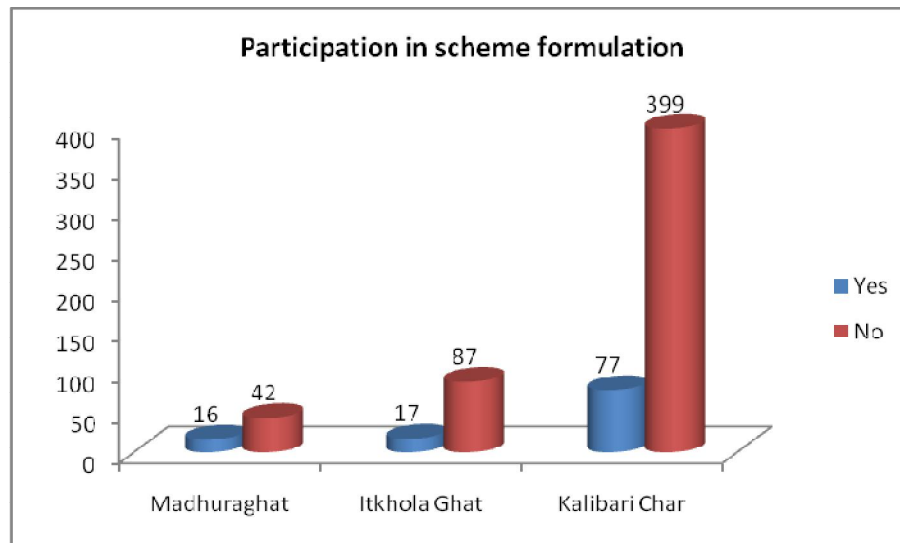
Table 6.8(a)
Respondent's active participation in scheme formulation

Slum pocket	Yes	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	16(27.59%)	42(72.41%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	17(16.35%)	87(83.65%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	77(16.18%)	399(83.82%)	476(100%)
Total	110(17.24%)	528(82.76%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* 16(27.59%) respondents participated actively in scheme formulation and 42(27.41) didn't participated in any scheme formulation. In *Itkhola Ghat* 17(16.35%) respondents replied positively and 87(83.65%) replied negatively. In *Kalibari Char* 77(16.18%) respondents participated and 399(83.82%) respondents didn't participated in any scheme formulation. Thus out of total 638 respondents 110(17.24%) replied affirmatively that they participated and 528(82.76%) replied negatively that they did not participated. Among the three slum pockets highest number of participation of the respondents in the scheme formulation is in *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket 27.59%, followed by *Itkhola Ghat* 16.35% and *Kalibari Char* 16.18%. The respondents who participated in scheme formulation were also asked to specify year and programmes in which they participated but none of them could state about any of the programmes.

Fig. 6.2 : Respondent's active participation in scheme formulation



The respondents who replied negatively are further asked to spell out the reasons for not participating in the formulation process. **Table no 6.8(b)** shows reason for non participation.

Table 6.8(b)

Reasons for not participation in scheme formulation

Slum pocket	Male member decides	Women are not informed	Women's decision is Ignored	Pre-occupied with family activities	Total
Madhura Ghat	18(42.86%)	9(21.43)	9(21.43%)	6(14.29%)	42(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	21(24.14%)	30(34.48%)	15(17.24%)	21(24.14%)	87(100%)
Kalibari Char	254(63.66%)	77(19.30%)	54(13.53%)	14(3.51%)	399(100%)
Total	293(55.49%)	116(21.97%)	78(14.77%)	41(7.77%)	528(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

Above table shows that 42 respondents did not participated in the formulation process in *Madhura Ghat*. Out of 42 respondents who did not participated in the formulation process 18(42.86%) respondents say that male

member decides, 9(21.43%) each uttered that they are not allowed and their voice is ignored and 6(14.29%) are pre-occupied with their own activities.

In *Itkhola Ghat* 87 women did not participated in any scheme formulation. Out of 87 women, 30(34.48%) expressed that they are ignored and not allowed, 21(24.14%) each said that male member decides and they are pre-occupied with own activities and 15(17.24%) feel that they were ignored.

In *Kalibari Char*, out of 399 respondents who replied negatively, 254(63.66%) uttered that male member decides, 77(19.30%) expressed that they are not allowed, 54(13.53%) feel that they were ignored and 14(3.51%) are pre-occupied with their own activities.

Out of total 528 respondents who did not participate in scheme formulation, 293(55.49%) could not participate because male members decide how to formulate the scheme 116(21.97%) are not allowed to participate in scheme formulation, 78(14.77%) respondents feel that they are ignored and 41(7.77%) are preoccupied with their own activities. Highest number of respondents i.e. 55.49% could not participate because male members decide, which tells the existence of patriarchal society in the slum pockets under study.

Participation in Scheme Implementation: Implementation of schemes is processed after formulation. In this stage, scheme is fully utilised for betterment of the beneficiaries. Therefore, participation in this stage is very vital on the part of the community people for whom the scheme is granted. Thus,

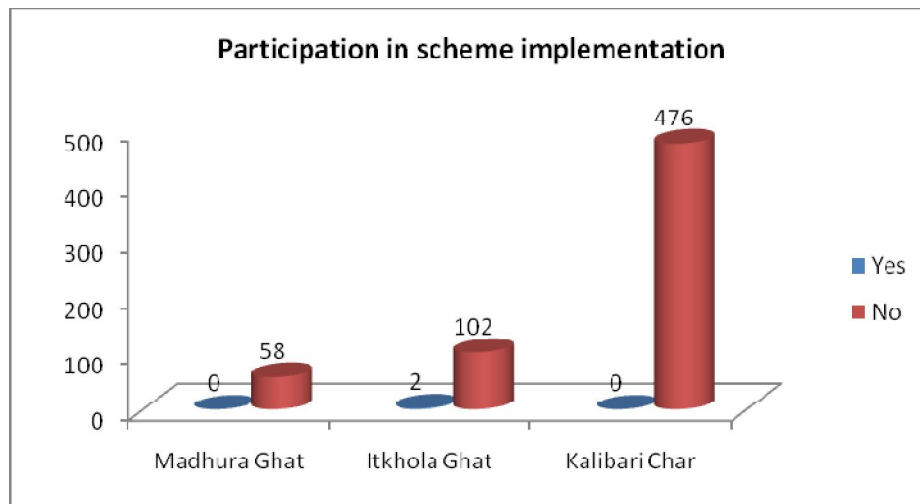
women's participation in scheme implementation is discussed in this part of the chapter.

Table 6.9(a)
Respondents' participation in scheme implementation

Slum pocket	Yes	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	-	58(100%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	2(1.92%)	102(98.08%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	-	476(100%)	476(100%)
Total	2(0.31%)	636(99.69%)	638(100%)

Table 6.9(a) reveals that the participation of women in the implementation of development programmes or schemes is very poor. In *Madhura Ghat* and *Kalibari Char* none of the women participated in any scheme implementation. Only 2(1.92%) women out of 104 in *Itkhola Ghat* took an active part in implementation by monitoring the Improvement of Itkhola Ghat road. Out of total 638 respondents **only 2(0.31%) participated in the scheme implementation** and 636(99.69%) did not participated. Participation of women in the implementation process is extremely poor.

Fig. 6.3 : Respondents' participation in scheme implementation



Women who did not participated in the implementation process were also asked to disclose the reasons for not participating in the implementation process. **Table 6.9(b)** tells the cause given by women for not participating in the implementation process.

Table No 6.9(b)
Reason for not participating in the implementation process

Slum pocket	Male dominates	Pre-occupied with own activities	Shyness	Our voice are ignored	Male guardians do not allow	Leaders dominate	Total
Madhura Ghat	17 (29.31%)	13 (22.41%)	2 (3.45%)	11 (18.97%)	-	15 (25.86%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	45 (44.12%)	21 (20.59%)	7 (6.86%)	12 (11.76%)	7 (6.86%)	10 (9.80%)	102
Kalibari Char	143 (30.04%)	88(18.49%)	-	77 (16.18%)	90 (18.91%)	78 (16.39%)	476
Total	205 (32.23%)	122 (19.18%)	11 (1.73%)	100 (15.72%)	97 (15.25%)	103 (16.19%)	636

It is observed from the above table that in *Madhura Ghat* there was no participation in the implementation process. Out of 58 respondents 17(29.31%) says that male dominates, 13(22.41%) are pre-occupied with their own activities, 2(3.45%) said they could not participate due to shyness, 11(18.97%) feel that their voice is ignored and 15(25.86%) said leaders dominate them.

In *Itkhola Ghat*, out of 102 women, who did not participated in the implementation process 45(44.12%) said that male dominates, 21(20.59%) are pre-occupied with their own activities, 7(6.86%) express shyness as the reason for not participating, 12(11.76%) respondents feel that their voice is ignored, 7(6.86%) uttered that male guardians do not allow, 10(9.80%) say that leaders dominate them.

In *Kalibari Char*, 143(30.04%) said that male dominates, 88(18.49%) are pre-occupied with their own activities, 77(16.18%) feel that their voice is ignored, 90(18.91%) said that male guardians don't allow and 78(16.39%) say that leaders domination are the main reasons.

Fig. 6.4 : Reason for not participating in the implementation process

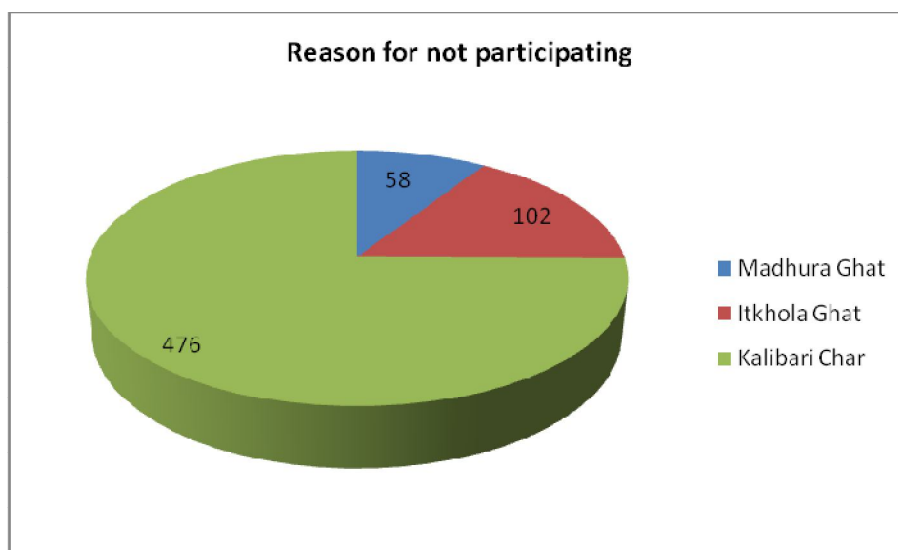


Table 6.10

Key persons in the implementation of the improvement programmes or schemes

Slum pocket	Ward Commissioner	Ward commissioner and leader of the slum	NGOs	Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and Males of the slum	Ward commissioner, leader of the slum and both male and female adults	Don't know	Total
Madhura Ghat	53 (91.38%)	5(8.62%)	-	-	-	-	58 (100%)
Itkhola Ghat	85 (81.73%)	10(9.62%)	-	5(4.81%)	4(3.85%)	-	104 (100.01%)
Kalibari Char	404 (84.87%)	41(8.61%)	-	20(4.20%)	11(2.31%)	-	476 (99.99%)
Total	542 (84.95%)	56 (8.76%)	-	25 (3.92%)	15 (2.35%)	-	638 (100%)

Source: Field data collected from the slum pocket

In *Madhura Ghat* out of 58 respondents 53(91.37%) say that the Ward Commissioner acts as the key person in the implementation process and 5(8.62%) say that ward commissioner and leader of the slum act as the key persons in implementation process.

Out of 104 respondents 85(81.73%) say that ward commissioner acts as the key person in the implementation of development programmes or schemes in *Itkhola Ghat*. 10(9.62%) expressed that the Ward Commissioner and leader of the slum act as the key persons. 5(4.81%) say that the Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and males of the slum are the key persons in the implementation of development programmes or schemes and lastly 4(3.85%) respondents expressed that the Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and both male and female adults play the key role in the implementation process.

In *Kalibari char* out of 476 respondents, 404(84.87%) have held that Ward Commissioner plays a key role in the implementation of developmental programmes or schemes. 41(8.61%) opined that Ward Commissioner and leader of the slum acts as the key persons in the implementation process. The role of Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and males of the slum as the key person in the implementation process are pronounced by 20(4.20%) respondents. The part of Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and both male and female adults are mentioned by 11(2.31%) respondents.

Thus out of total 638 respondents 542(84.95%) have said that the Ward Commissioner act as the key person in the implementation process. 56(8.78%)

held that the Ward Commissioner and leader of the slum plays the key role in the implementation process. 25(3.92%) opined that the Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and males of the slum have the key role in the implementation process and lastly 15(2.35%) say about the Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and both male and female adults.

In the three slum pockets present a similar picture, Ward Commissioner act as the key persons in both the formulation and implementation of improvement programmes or schemes in the three slum pockets. The data tells that women are aware of the key persons in the formulation and implementation process but their participation in the formulation and implementation level is not sound. 17.24% women participated in the formulation process and only 0.31% women participated in the implementation process

**Table 6.11(a):
Respondents' awareness of the constraints in the implementation of slum improvement programmes**

Slum pocket	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Madhura Ghat	14(24.14%)	19(32.76%)	25(43.10%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	43(41.35%)	19(18.27%)	42(40.38%)	104
Kalibari Char	278(58.40%)	198(41.60%)	-	476
Total	335(52.51%)	236(36.99%)	67(10.50%)	638

Development is always accompanied by constraints and slum development programmes is no exception to that. In *Madhura Ghat* 14(24.14%) of respondents have expressed that there are constraints and 19(32.76%) have said that there are no constraints at all and 25(43.10%) of them are completely

unaware about any constraints. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 104 women 43(41.35%) of them said that there are constraints in the implementation of slum development programmes, 19(18.27%) of them said that there are no constraints at all and 42(40.38%) of them are not at all aware about any constraints. In *Kalibari Char* 278(58.40%) have admitted that there are constraints and 198(41.60%) denied of any constraints. Thus out of total 638 respondents 335(52.51%) have expressed that there are constraints and 236(36.99%) have said that there is no constraint. And 67 (10.50%) are unaware of any constraints. Among the three pockets, highest numbers of women who feel that there are constraints are in Kalibari Char 58.40%, followed by Itkhola Ghat 41.35% and Madhura Ghat 24.14%. In the following table reason for constraint has been discussed.

Table No 6.11(b)
Reasons that act as constraints in the implementation of
slum improvement programmes

Slum pocket	Male dominates	Leaders dominate	Total
Madhura Ghat	5(35.71%)	9(64.29%)	14(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	32(74.42%)	11(25.58%)	43(100%)
Kalibari Char	161(57.91%)	117(42.09%)	278(100%)
Total	198(59.10%)	137(40.90%)	335(100%)

Source: Field data collected from the slum pockets

The reasons that act as constraints in the implementation of slum improvement programmes are shown in table no 6.11(b). In *Madhura Ghat* out of 14 women, who consider that there are constraints, 5(35.71%) feel that male dominates, 9(64.29%) says leaders dominates them. In *Itkhola Ghat* 43 respondents have said that there are constraints, out of 43 respondents,

32(74.42%) reveal that male dominates them, 11(25.58%) feel that leaders dominate them. In *Kalibari Char* out of 278 women, 161(57.91%) speak about male domination, 117(42.09%) disclose that leaders dominate them.

So far, the researcher has discussed about participation of slum women in formulation and implementation of the slum improvement programmes. Now, the researcher highlights their awareness and satisfaction with the programmes initiated by governments

Opinion from below- Awareness and satisfaction: It is observed from the study that various slum improvement programmes have been taken by government for betterment of slums of Silchar town. But it is of immense importance to study their awareness and satisfaction with these programmes.

**Table 6.12(a):
Are you benefitted by the slum improvement programmes
introduced by the govt/NGO?**

Slum Pocket	Benefitted	Not benefitted	Total
Madhura Ghat	30(51.72%)	28(48.28%)	58(100)
Itkhola Ghat	54(51.92%)	50(48.08%)	104(100)
Kalibari Char	309(64.92%)	167(35.08%)	476(100)
Total	393(61.60%)	245(38.40%)	638(100)

Source: Field data collected from the slum pockets

Table 6.12(a) displays the opinion of the respondents, whether they are benefitted by slum improvement programmes or not. Out of total 58 respondents, in *Madhura Ghat*, 30(51.72%) respondents are benefitted by slum

improvement programmes and 28(48.28%) are not benefitted. In *Itkhola Ghat*, out of 104 respondents, 54(51.92%) said that they are benefitted from the slum improvement programmes and 50(48.08%) are not benefitted. In *Kalibari Char*, out of 476 respondents 309(64.92%) are helped by the slum improvement programmes and 167(35.08%) have not got any help. Thus, out of total 638 respondents 393(61.60%) said they are benefitted by the slum improvement programmes and 245(38.40%) are not benefitted by the slum improvement programmes. Among the three slum pockets highest number of respondents got benefitted dwells in *Kalibari Char* (64.92%).

Fig. 6.5 : Are you benefitted by the slum improvement programmes introduced by the govt/NGO?

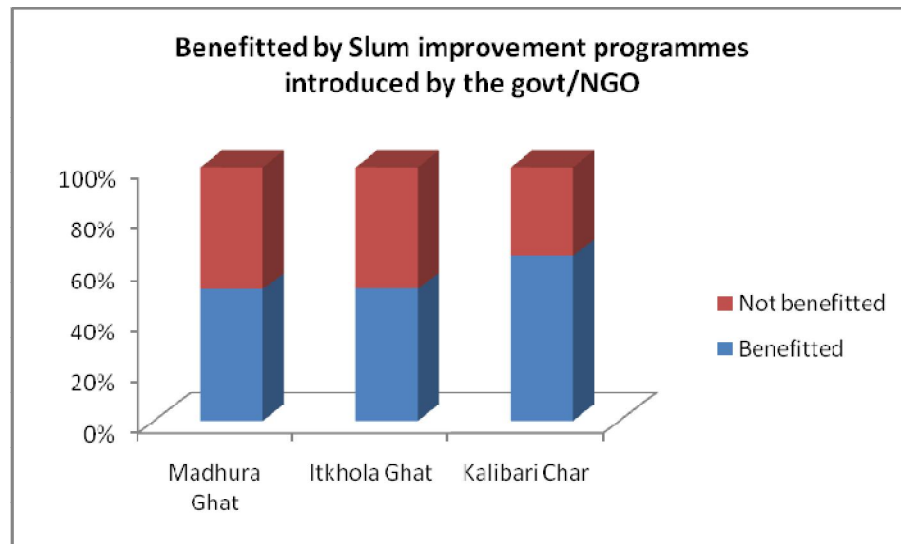


Table 6.12(b)
Benefits received by the respondents

Slum Pocket	Road & drain	Road, drain & slab	Water supply	All cards	Financial aids	All benefits	Road, drain & water supply	Road, drain, electricity & water supply	Total
Madhura Ghat	4 (13.33%)		10 (33.33%)			5 (16.67%)	7 (23.33%)	4 (13.33%)	30 (100%)
Itkhola Ghat	23 (42.59%)				4 (7.41%)	8 (14.81%)	13 (24.07)	6 (11.11%)	54 (100%)
Kalibari Char	10 (3.24%)	73 (23.62 %)		34 (11.00 %)	55 (17.80%)	94 (30.42%)	43 (13.92%)		309 (100%)
Total	37 (9.41%)	73 (18.58 %)	10 (2.54%)	34 (8.65 %)	59 (15.01 %)	107 (27.23%)	63 (16.03%)	10 (2.54%)	393 (100%)

Table 6.12(b) exhibits the benefits that the respondents have got from slum improvement programmes. The respondents who are benefitted by the slum improvement programmes are asked to specify the benefits that they have got from slum improvement programmes. Out of 30 respondents, in Madhura Ghat, who are benefitted by slum improvement programmes, 4(13.33%) are benefitted due to road and drain construction, 10(33.33%) are benefitted by water supply, 5(16.67%) got all the benefits from the slum improvement programmes, 7(23.33%) are benefitted due to road, drain and water supply that are introduced for the benefit of the slum area and 4(13.33%) are benefitted by road, drain, electricity and water supply. In Madhura Ghat, highest number of respondents are benefitted by water supply programmes introduced by the government in the recent past, before the availability of supply water respondents used river water for drinking purpose without any purification.

In *Itkhola Ghat*, out of 54 respondents 23(42.59%) are benefitted by road and drain construction, 4(7.41%) are beneficial due to financial aids like widow pension, 8(14.81%) got all the benefits from the slum improvement programmes, 13(24.07%) are benefitted due to road, drain and water supply and 6(11.11%) are benefitted from road, drain, electricity and water supply that are introduced for them. In *Itkhola Ghat*, highest number of respondent (42.59%) are benefitted by Road and drain construction. Roads like *Netaji Nagar Road*, *Kalicharan Road*, *Manasha Bari Bylane* are improved under the government programmes as replied by the respondents and it is also observed by the researcher that the above mentioned roads are improved.

In *Kalibari Char*, 10(3.24%) respondents are benefitted by road and drain, 73(23.62%) respondents are benefitted from road, drain and slab construction, 34(11.00%) get the benefits of cards like BPL Card, APL Cards and other cards, 55(17.80%) respondents got financial benefits, 94(30.42%) respondents got all the benefits, 43(13.92%) respondents mentioned about the benefits of road, drain and water supply. In *Kalibari Char*, the respondents are benefitted by construction of drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir at *Kalibari Char* and Improvement of drain cum slab at *Kalibari Char* and many more programmes.

Thus, out of total 393 respondents, who are benefitted by slum improvement programmes, 37(9.41%) respondents are benefitted by the construction of road & drain, 73(18.58%) respondents talked about the

construction of road, drain and slab. Only 10(2.54%) respondents are satisfied with the drinking water facility initiated for them. 34(8.65%) are benefitted by the APL, BPL cards, 59(15.01%) respondents have got financial aids like widow pension, 107(27.23%) have got all the benefits of slum improvement programmes, 63(16.03%) respondents are benefitted by road, drain and water supply on the other hand, only 10(2.54%) respondents are benefitted by road, drain, electricity and water supply. The data reveals that highest number of respondents 27.23% are benefitted by all the improvement initiatives.

61.60% are benefitted by slum improvement programmes and 38.40% are not benefitted by slum improvement programmes. People are benefitted by road, electricity, Ration Card, BPL Card, Water Supply, Kerosene Card, drain construction and other benefits.

Table 6.13(a)

Whether respondent approach anybody for getting a benefit?

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	39(67.24%)	19(32.76%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	89(85.58%)	15(14.42%)	104(100%)
Kalibari char	435(91.39%)	41(8.61%)	476(100%)
Total	563(88.24%)	75(11.76%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the field

In *Madhura Ghat* out of 58 respondent, 39(67.24%) of them approached the higher authority for getting benefit and 19(32.76%) of them don't approach anybody. They are further asked to clarify whom did they approach for getting benefit. In *Itkhola Ghat*, out of 104 respondents, 89(85.58%) of them

approached higher authority for getting benefit and 15(14.42%) of them didn't approach anybody. In *Kalibari Char*, out of 476 women, 435(91.39%) of them approached higher authority for getting benefit and 41(8.61%) of them didn't approach anybody. Out of total 638 respondents, 563(88.24%) approached the higher authority for getting benefit and 75(11.76%) did not approach anybody. Thus, large number of respondents approached the higher authority for getting benefit.

Table 6.13(b)
Persons whom the respondents approach

Slum Pocket	Ward commissioner	Ward Commissioner and leader of your slum	Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and Chairman of Sitchar Municipal Board	Ward Commissioner and Political Leaders	Ward Commissioner and MLA	Ward Commissioner and NGO	Ward Commissioner and Males of the slum	Total
Madhura Ghat	30 (76.92%)	9 (23.08%)	-			-	-	39 (100%)
Itkhola Ghat	65 (73.03%)	12 (13.48%)	9 (10.11%)	-		3 (3.37%)	-	89 (100%)
Kalibari Char	377 (86.67%)	30 (6.90%)					28 (6.44%)	435 (100%)
Total	472 (83.84%)	51 (9.06%)	9 (1.60%)			3 (0.53%)	28 (4.97%)	563 (100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the field

Table 6.13(b) narrates that out of 39 respondents of Madhura Ghat who said that they approach other for getting benefit, 30(76.92%) of them seek the help of Ward Commissioner and 9(23.08%) of them took the help of Ward Commissioner and leader of their slum pockets. In Itkhola Ghat, out of 89 respondents, 65(73.03%) of them seek the help of Ward Commissioner, 12(13.48%) of them take the help of Ward Commissioner and leader of the

slum, 9(10.11%) respondents approach the Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board. 3(3.37%) of them approach the Ward Commissioner and NGOs. In Kalibari Char, 377(86.67%) respondents seek the help of Ward Commissioner, 30(6.90%) respondents take the help of the Ward Commissioner and leader of the slum and 28 (6.44%) respondents depend on the Ward Commissioner and male members of the slum. It is observed that 472 (83.84%) respondents approached the Ward Commissioner, 51(9.06%) seek the help of Ward Commissioner and leader of the Slum, 9(1.60%) went to Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum and Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board and 3(0.53%) seek the help of Ward Commissioner and NGO. However it is worthy to note that none of the respondents went to political leaders like MLA and MP.

Benefits given by Self Help Group: Self Help Group has always played an important role in improving the living standard of people, but the study indicates that the role of Self help group in the three Slum pockets is not sound.

Table 6.14
Respondent's membership on any SHG

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	3(5.17%)	55(94.83%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	5(4.81%)	99(95.19%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	21(4.41%)	455(95.59%)	476(100%)
Total	29(4.55%)	609(95.45%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket.

In *Madhura Ghat*, 3(5.17%) respondents and in *Itkhola Ghat*, 5(4.81%) respondents are member of self help groups. In *Kalibari Char*, out of 476 women, 21(4.41%) women are member of SHGs. Thus, women are not encouraged at all. It seems that the slum women are not aware about the benefits of self help group and the self help group still needs to gain ground in the three slum pockets. The respondents who are benefitted in the three pockets added that they got financial benefits for the construction of house, for employment generation and for other purpose.

Table 6.15
Respondent's opinion on benefit of people through SHG

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Madhura Ghat	12(20.69%)	16(27.59%)	30(51.72%)	58(100)
Itkhola Ghat	4(3.85%)	26(25%)	74(71.15%)	104(100)
Kalibari Char	77(16.18%)	147(30.88%)	252(52.94%)	476(100)
Total	93(14.58%)	189(29.62%)	356(55.80%)	638(100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

The above table represents the opinion of respondents about the benefits of Self-Help Group (SHG) in their area. In *Madhura Ghat* 12(20.69%) of them replied in affirmative in favour of SHG and 16(27.59%) of them have given negative reply and 30(51.72%) of them are completely ignorant about the benefits of SHGs. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 104 women only 4(3.85%) of them replied in affirmative and 26(25%) of them are not in favour of SHG. Remaining 74(71.15%) are completely ignorant about the benefits of SHGs. In *Kalibari Char* 77(16.18%) of them replied in affirmative out of 476 respondents

and 147(30.88%) of them have given negative reply and 252(52.94%) of them are completely unaware. Thus only 93(14.58%) feel that introduction of SHG gives benefit to the people, 189(29.62%) of them feel that SHG has no benefit and 365(55.80%) are quite ignorant. It is found that 55.80% are unknown whether the SHG has benefit or not because 95.45% respondents are not member of SHG as seen in table no 6.14.

Table 6.16
Does your ward commissioner stand by you in your need?

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	37(63.79%)	21(36.21%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	87((83.65%)	17(16.35%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	375(78.78%)	101(21.22%)	476(100%)
Total	499(78.21%)	139(21.79%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

In *Madhura Ghat*, 37(63.79%) respondents have expressed that their ward commissioner helps them and 21(36.21%) are not happy with the work of the Ward Commissioner. Some respondents have also mentioned about personal benefits, they added that they got blanket and other things of their need. The Ward Commissioner also provides them with address proof. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 104 respondents, 87(83.65%) have expressed that their ward commissioner helps them in their need and only 17(16.35%) are not happy with the work of the Ward Commissioner. According to the respondents the ward commissioner along with the developmental activities also settle disputes, gives financial assistance in times of need, provide them with address proof when required, help to perform the death rituals, give them job etc. Thus it can be said that the

majority of the respondents are happy with their ward commissioner. In *Kalibari Char*, 375(78.78%) have expressed that their ward commissioner helps them in their need and 101(21.79%) are not happy with the work of the Ward Commissioner. Like the other two other pockets in *Kalibari Char* the Ward Commissioner provide address proof and also renders other helps when the people approach them. Out of total respondents 499(78.21%) said that ward commissioner stands by them in their need and 139(21.79%) said that they don't get help from the ward commissioner. Thus the role of Ward Commissioner in the three slum pocket is similar and significant.

Table 6.17
The authority who is approached by respondents to solve their problems

Slum Pocket	Ward Commissioner	Ward Commissioner & Leader of your slum	Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum & Chairman of Slicher Municipal Board	Ward Commissioner & Political leaders	Ward Commissioner & MLA	Ward Commissioner & NGO	Males of the slum	Total
Madhura Ghat	49 (84.48%)	9 (15.52%)	-	-	-	-		58 (100%)
Itkhola Ghat	83 (79.81%)	17 (16.35%)	-	-	-	4 (3.85%)	-	104 (100%)
Kalibari Char	410 (86.13%)	33 (6.93%)	-	3 (0.63%)	1 (0.21%)	-	29 (6.09%)	476 (99.99%)
Total	542 (84.95%)	59 (9.25%)	-	3 (0.47%)	1 (0.16%)	4 (0.62%)	29 (4.55%)	638 (100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the field

In *Madhura Ghat*, 49(84.48%) respondents prefer to approach the Ward Commissioner to solve their problems and 9(15.52%) go to Ward commissioner and leader of the slum to solve their problems. In *Itkhola Ghat* 83(79.81%) approach the Ward Commissioner for help, 17(16.35%) approach the Ward

Commissioner and leader of slum for help and 4(3.85%) approach the Ward Commissioner and the NGOs in time of need. Like Madhura Ghat and Itkhola Ghat in Kalibari Char also majority of the respondents prefer to approach the Ward Commissioner. Out of 476 respondents, 410(86.13%) prefer to approach the Ward Commissioner to solve their problems. 33(6.93%) go to the ward commissioner and leader of the slum. 3(0.63%) depend on Ward Commissioner and political leaders to solve their problem. 1(0.21%) approaches the Ward Commissioner and MLA and lastly, 29(6.09%) depend on the males of their slum pocket.

Lastly, out of total 638 respondents, 542(84.95%) approach the Ward Commissioner, 59(9.25%) depend on the Ward Commissioner and leader of the slum, 3(0.47%) rely on Ward Commissioner and Political leaders, 1(0.16%) depends on Ward Commissioner and MLA, 4(0.62%) go to Ward Commissioner and NGO and 29(4.55%) depend on the males of the slum.

The picture of the three slum pocket is similar. Respondents in the three pockets prefer to approach the ward commissioner first to solve their issues, in Madhura Ghat 84.48% respondents and in Itkhola Ghat and Kalibari Char 79.81% and 86.13% respondent respectively prefer to approach the Ward Commissioner first to solve their problems. Along with the ward commissioner they approach the leader of their area, male member of the slum, then MLA of their area, political leaders, NGOs and others. Only few of them try to solve the problem by themselves. A very interesting thing comes out in *Kalibari Char* is

that there are some women leaders who are very active in solving the problems of their fellow friends, such type of women leadership is not seen in the other two pockets. Thus largest number of people depends on the ward commissioner to solve their problems.

**Table 6.18(a):
Respondents' opinion on availability of relief during flood**

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Madhura Ghat	32(55.17%)	23(39.66%)	3(5.17%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	83(79.81%)	15(14.42%)	6(5.77%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	372(78.15%)	77(16.18%)	27(5.67%)	476(100%)
Total	487(76.33%)	115(18.03%)	36(5.64%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

In *Madhura Ghat*, out of 58 women, 32(55.17%) of them accepted that they get relief during flood and 23(39.66%) of them denied and 3(5.17%) of them are completely unaware about the whole matter. In *Itkhola Ghat* 83(79.81%) of them acknowledged that they get relief during flood and 15(14.42%) of them said no and 6(5.77%) of them are completely unaware about the whole matter. In *Kalibari Char*, 372(78.15%) of them get relief during flood, 77(16.18%) of them don't get and 27(5.67%) are unaware about the whole issue. Thus, 487(76.33%) said that they get relief during flood, 115(18.03%) said that they don't get relief and 36(5.64%) are unaware about the whole issue.

Table 6.18(b)
Authority who provides relief during flood

Slum Pocket	Govt	NGO	Both	Other Specify	Total
Madhura Ghat	29(90.63%)	-	2(6.25%)	1(3.13%)	32(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	74(89.16%)	-	6(7.23%)	3(3.61%)	83(100%)
Kalibari Char	296(79.57%)	-	76(20.43%)	-	372(100%)
Total	399(81.93%)	-	84(17.25%)	4(0.82%)	487(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

The respondent who said that they get relief were asked to specify the authority who give the relief. In *Madhura Ghat*, out of 32 women, who have given affirmative answers 29(90.63%) of them said that Govt. gives relief, 2(6.25%) of them said that both Govt. and NGO gives and 1(3.13%) of them said that Political parties also gives. But the respondents are not happy with the quantity and quality of relief.

In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 83 women, 74(89.16%) of them said that Govt gives relief, 6(7.23%) of them said that both Govt. and NGO gives and 3(3.61%) of them said that political parties like BJP also extend their hand in giving relief. But utmost number of respondent were dissatisfied with the quantity and quantity of relief, they feel that the relief is only for name sake.

Out of 372 women, in *Kalibari Char*, 296(79.57%) of them said that Govt. gives and 76(20.43%) of them said that both Govt. and NGO gives. Like the other two slum pockets, the residents of *Kalibari Char* are also unsatisfied with the amount of flood relief. Thus, total 399(81.93%) respondents said that only

government gives relief, 84(17.25%) said that both government and NGO gives and only 4(0.82%) said that others also give. The above table reveals that the role of NGO in giving relief is not much vital, only 17.25% respondents said that both government and NGOs are giving relief. But utmost number of respondent are dissatisfied with the quantity and quality of relief, they feel that the relief is given only for name sake.

Table No 6.19
Respondents’ opinion on inspection and monitoring of the programmes by officers at the District level and NGO workers

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Madhura Ghat	21(36.21%)	7(12.07%)	30(51.72%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	48(46.15%)	16(15.38%)	40(38.46%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	239(50.21%)	129(27.10%)	108(22.69%)	476(100%)
Total	308(48.28%)	152(23.82%)	178(27.90%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

The numbers displayed in the table confirms that the wakefulness of women regarding the monitoring of officers for all the programmes and schemes in Madhura Ghat is low because out of 58 respondents 21(36.21%) of them uttered that various officers visit the area for monitoring the programmes and schemes. 7(12.07%) women said that officers don't visit the area for the said purpose and 30(51.72%) of them are totally ignorant about the whole matter. In Itkhola Ghat slum pocket 48(46.15%) of them, replied in positive, 16(15%) give negative reply and 40(38.46%) of them are totally ignorant about the whole matter. In Kalibari Char, wakefulness of women is the highest. 239(50.21%) of them uttered that various officers visit the area for monitoring

the programmes and schemes. 129(27.10%) women said that officers don't visit the worksites and 108(22.69%) of them don't know anything. It is learnt from the above table that officers at the district level inspect and monitor all aspects of programmes through visit to the worksites as 308(48.28%) of them give positive answers and 152(23.82%) give negative answers and 178(27.90%) are unaware about the whole issue. Among the three slum pockets women in *Kalibari Char* gave the highest number of positive answers 50.21%

Table 6.20 (a)
Respondents' opinion on benefit of slum pockets by programmes introduced by Govt. and NGOs

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Madhura Ghat	32(55.17%)	23(39.66%)	3(5.17%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	69(66.35%)	20(19.23%)	15(14.42%)	104(100%)
Kalibari char	300(63.03%)	176(36.97%)	---	476(100%)
Total	401(62.85%)	219(34.33%)	18(2.82%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

In *Madhura Ghat*, out of 58 women, 32(55.17%) have opined that the slum improvement programmes have been beneficial for the slum pocket and 23(39.66%) of them feel that the people of the area are not benefitted and 3(5.17%) of them don't know whether the fellow residents of their area have been benefitted or not. In *Itkhola Ghat*, 69(66.35%) respondents have opined that the slum improvement programmes have been beneficial for their slum pocket, 20(19.23%) expressed that the resident of the area have not been benefitted and 15(14.42%) women said that they don't know whether their fellow resident have been benefitted or not. In *Kalibari Char* 300(63.03%) have

opined that slum improvement programmes have been beneficial for the people of the area and 176(36.97%) of them feel that the people of the area are not benefitted.

Thus out of total 638 respondents 401 (62.85%) respondents said that slums pockets have been benefitted 219 (343.3%) gave a negative answer and 18 (2.82%) are unaware whether the slum pockets are benefitted or not by the slum improvement programmes.

Table No. Table 6.20(b)
Benefits received by slum people

Slum Pocket	Road & drain	Road, drain & slab	Water supply	All cards	Financial aids	All benefits	Road, drain & water supply	Road, drain, electricity & water supply	Total
Madhura Ghat	-	-	5 (15.63%)	10 (31.25%)	-	5 (15.63%)	8 (25%)	4 (12.5%)	32 (100%)
Itkhola Ghat	25 (36.23%)	-	-	14 (20.29%)	6 (8.70%)	17 (24.64%)	7 (10.14%)	-	69 (100%)
Kalibari Char	-	149 (49.67%)	-	-	39 (13%)	67 (22.33%)	45 (15%)	-	300 (100%)
Total	25 (6.23%)	149 (37.16%)	5 (1.25%)	24 (5.99%)	45 (11.22%)	89 (22.19%)	60 (14.71%)	5 (1.25%)	401 (100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Slum pocket

The respondents who said that the slum improvement programmes have been beneficial for the slum pockets. They are further asked to narrate the benefits that the slum pockets got from slum improvement programmes introduced by the government and NGOs. Thus, table No 6.20(b) shows the opinion of the respondents regarding the benefits that the slum pockets got from slum improvement programmes.

In *Madhura Ghat*, out of 32 respondents, who agreed that slum improvement programmes have been beneficial for the area, 5(15.63%) of them said that slum pocket are benefitted by water supply programmes introduced by the government, 10(31.25%) respondents said that the people of *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket also benefitted by the facilities of APL and BPL cards, 5(15.63%) respondents feel that slum pockets got all the benefits that are provided by the government and NGOs, 8(25%) of respondents feel that *Madhura Ghat* pocket is benefitted by road drain and water supply programmes undertaken by the government and 4(12.5%) said about road, drain, electricity and water supply programmes.

In *Itkhola Ghat*, out of 69 respondents who agreed that slum improvement programmes have been beneficial for the slum pocket, 25(36.23%) respondents said that road and drain construction has benefitted the slum pocket, 14(20.29%) respondents talk about APL,BPL cards which benefitted the people of *Itkhola Ghat* slum pocket. 6(8.70%) respondents said that the people of the slum pockets also get financial aids for improving their conditions which in turn lead to the development of the slum pocket, 17(24.64%) respondents said that the people of the slum area got all the benefits and 7(10.14%) respondents said that slum pockets were also benefitted by road, drain and water supply.

Out of 300 respondents in Kalibari Char, 149(49.67%) respondents said that the slum pockets are benefitted by road, drain and slab construction,

39(13%) respondents said that the people of the slum pocket also get financial benefits, 67(22.33%) respondents said that people get all the benefits from the slum pocket and 45(15%) respondents are also benefitted by road, drain and water supply.

Thus out of total 401 respondents 25 (6.23%) said that slum pocket got the benefit of road and drain, 149 (37.16%) respondent say about road, drain and slab construction, only 5 (1.25%) say about water supply, 24 (5.99%) respondents uttered about the benefits of different types of cards, 45 (11.22%) say about financial benefits and 89 (22.19%) respondents say that slum pocket got all the benefits, 60 (14.71%) say about road, drain and water supply and again only 5 (1.25%) uttered about road, drain, electricity and water supply. Therefore, the slum pockets are benefitted by slum improvement programmes.

Table 6.21
Satisfaction of respondents with the implementation pattern adopted by the Govt. and NGOs for the improvement programmes

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Madhura Ghat	13(22.41%)	38(65.52%)	7(12.07%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	23(22.12%)	72(69.23%)	9(8.65%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	93(19.54%)	383(80.46%)	-	476(100%)
Total	129(20.22%)	493(77.27%)	16(2.51%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

The above table demonstrates that in *Madhura Ghat* only 13(22.41%) respondents are pleased and 38(65.52%) are displeased with the implementation pattern adopted by the government and 7(12.07%) of them has no idea about the

implementation pattern adopted by the government. However, in Madhura Ghat 55.17% feel that the people of the area have also been benefitted. But none of them has participated in the implemented process. So, it can be said that large number of respondents are disappointed with the implementation pattern. In *Ikhola Ghat*, only 23(22.12%) women are pleased and 72(69.23%) are displeased with the implementation pattern adopted by the government and 9(8.65%) of them are completely at dark about the implementation pattern adopted by the government. *Kalibari Char* also presents a similar picture like that of *Madhura Ghat* and *Ikhola Ghat* 93(19.54%) women are satisfied and, 383(80.46%) are dissatisfied with the implementation pattern adopted by the government. In all the three slum pockets the rate of dissatisfaction is much higher than the rate of satisfaction. As seen from table 493 (77.27%) of the respondents are displeased with the implementation pattern adopted by the government and NGOs. The situation in the three slum pocket is alike, people are benefitted by slum improvement programmes, they have also uttered that the people of the area have also been benefitted but they are not at all happy with the implementation pattern.

Fig. 6.6 : Satisfaction of respondents with the implementation pattern adopted by the Govt. and NGOs for the improvement programmes

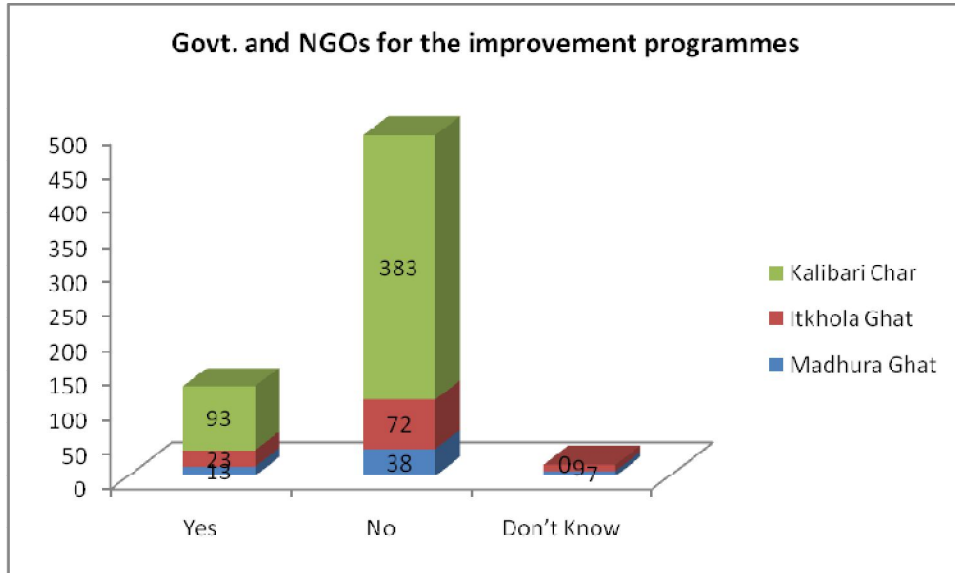


Table 6.22
Opinion for total withdrawal of all slum improvement programmes from your slum pocket

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	No clear answer	Total
Madhura Ghat	2(3.45%)	38(65.52%)	18(31.03%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	9(8.65%)	82(78.85%)	13(12.5%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	21(4.41%)	386(81.09%)	69(14.50%)	476(100%)
Total	32(5.02%)	506(79.31%)	100(15.67%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

Above table exhibits the opinion of respondents regarding the continuity of slum improvement programmes. In *Madhura Ghat* 38(65.52%) respondents are of the view that slum improvement programmes should not be withdrawn only 2(3.45%) of them said that slum programmes should be withdrawn and 18(31.03%) of them do not give any clear answer. In *Itkhola Ghat* also most of the women 82(78.85%) are of the view that slum improvement programmes

should not be withdrawn and only 9(8.65%) women are against the continuity of slum improvement programmes and 13(12.5%) of them do not give any clear answer. In *Kalibari Char*, out of 476 women, 386(81.09%) of them are in favour of continuing the slum programmes and 21(4.41%) of them are against the continuing of slum improvement programmes and 69(14.50%) of them do not give any clear answer. It is observed that 32(5.02%) women who said that slum improvement programmes should be withdrawn are not benefitted by slum improvement programmes so they said that slum improvement programmes should be withdrawn. Besides this, 100(15.67%) respondents who do not give clear answer are also not highly satisfied with the benefits that were provided to them so they did not give any clear answer.

However, when these 32 (5.02%) respondents are asked to provide remedies for their opinion that slum improvement programmes should be withdrawn, none of them could provide the remedies. *Itkhola Ghat* has the highest number of respondents 8.65% who feel that the slum improvement programmes should be withdrawn.

Table 6.23(a):
Respondents' satisfaction on slum improvement programmes
introduced by the Govt and NGOs

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Madhura Ghat	11(18.97%)	36(62.07%)	11(18.97%)	58(.98)
Itkhola Ghat	25(24.04%)	58(55.77%)	21(20.19%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	84(17.65%)	237(49.79%)	155(32.56%)	476(100%)
Total	120(18.81%)	331(51.88%)	187(29.31%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Slum Pocket

In *Madhura Ghat* 11(18.97%) of them are happy with the slum improvement programmes and 36(62.07%) of them are unhappy and 11(18.97%) of them are neither happy nor unhappy with the programmes initiated by the govt or NGO. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 104 women taken for the purpose of study, 25(24.04%) of them are happy with the slum improvement programmes and 58(55.77%) of them are unhappy and 21(20.19%) of them are neither happy nor unhappy with the programmes initiated by the govt. or NGO. In *Kalibari Char*, 84(17.65%) of them are happy with the slum improvement programmes and 237(49.79%) of them are unhappy and 155(32.56%) of them are neither happy nor unhappy with the programmes initiated by the govt. or NGO. Thus, the answer presented reveals that majority of the respondents 331(51.88%) are not satisfied with the slum development programmes in their respective slum pockets, only a small percentage of respondents 120(18.81%) has expressed their satisfaction and 187(29.31%) has not given any opinion. It is also to be noted that highest number of positive answers came from *Itkhola Ghat* slum pocket 24.04% and highest number of negative answers came from *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket 62.07%.

Table 6.23(b)
Whose Programmes Respondents favour Govt. or NGOs

Slum Pocket	Govt	NGO	Total
Madhura Ghat	11(100%)	-	11(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	24((96%)	1(4%)	25(100%)
Kalibari Char	84((100%)	-	84(100%)
Total	119(99.17%)	1(0.83%)	120(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Slum Pocket

The respondents who are satisfied with the slum improvement programmes are further asked to denote whether govt. programmes are better or NGOs programmes are better. Table No 6.23(b) recite that in *Madhura Ghat* all 11(100%) respondents said that govt. programmes are better. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 25 respondents 24(96%) said that govt. programmes are better and 1(4%) respondent said that NGO programme is better and added that Swamiji welfare society has done a good work. In *Kalibari Char* also all the 84(100%) respondents said that Govt. programmes are better. It means that NGOs are yet to gain ground in this regard, the role of NGO is absent in *Madhura Ghat* and *Kalibari Char*, in *Itkhola Ghat* only one woman talked about NGO. If government and NGO both work simultaneously then improvement of slum area would be at fast pace.

Table 6.23(c)
Redress of grievances for dissatisfaction of implementation programme

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	22(61.11%)	14(38.89%)	36(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	36(62.07%)	22(37.93%)	58(100%)
Kalibari Char	157(66.24%)	80(33.76%)	237(100%)
Total	215(64.95%)	116(35.05%)	331(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Slum Pockets

331 respondents who are unhappy with the slum development programmes as displayed in table no 6.23(c) are further enquired if they have redress, their grievances or not. It is learnt from table no 6.23(c) that, 215(64.95%) said that they have tried to redress their grievances while

116(35.05%) respondents has replied in negative in this regard. However, the respondents have approached the Ward Commissioner, leader of the slum, political leaders and others to redress their grievances.

Table 6.24
Knowledge on misutilisation of sanctioned scheme

Slum Pocket	Yes	No	Refuse to comment	Total
Madhura Ghat	8(13.79%)	13(22.41%)	37(63.79%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	17(16.35%)	23(22.12%)	64((61.54%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	75(15.76%)	96(20.17%)	305(64.08%)	476(100%)
Total	100(15.67%)	132(20.69%)	406(63.64%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from the slum pocket

The above table discloses that sanctioned scheme are misutilised in some areas. In *Madhura Ghat*, 8(13.79%) of them said that they know the person who are misutilising the sanctioned scheme. 13(22.41%) of them said that they are unaware of such fact and 37(63.79%) of them refuse to comment.

When the respondents are interviewed in *Itkhola Ghat* 17(16.35%) of them said that they can discern the person who are misutilising the sanctioned scheme. 23(22.12%) of them said that they are oblivious of any such happening in *Itkhola Ghat*. But the most striking is the 64(61.54%) respondents who refuse to comment on this. It can be said that the 64(61.54%) respondents are aware of certain malfunctioning that is going on but they are silent on this matter.

Finally, in Kalibari Char, out of 476 women, 75(15.76%) of them replied in positive. 96(20.17%) of them said that they are unaware of such fact and

305(64.08%) of them refuse to comment. Thus, out of total 638 respondents majority of the respondents 406(63.64%) refuse to comment and 132(20.69%) replied in negative, only 100(15.67%) replied in positive but when they were asked to be more categorical then they replied in negative. Thus, it can be presumed that the respondents refuse to comment or replied in negative only in the fear that their positive replies may create difficulties in future

Opinion on Future Needs: The respondents in *Madhura Ghat* are asked about the basic future needs of their area, Majority of the respondents (55%) want good sanitation facility as one of their future needs. Desire for good housing is one of their future needs. Some women want a women organisation which may help them from time to time. Good road is another future need of the respondents of Madhura Ghat. Respondents also aspire for Ration Card, water supply at home, proper construction of drain, employment facility, sanitary latrine, electric facility, good education facility. The respondents also want other benefits like financial benefits, personal benefits.

Majority of respondents in *Ikhola Ghat* want high-quality road as one of their future needs. Good quality road has emerged to be the vital need of the area. Water supply at home is the second future need of the respondents as 76.92% of them said that. When interviewed the respondents said that they have to walk long distance to fetch drinking water. Drinking water is also the first basic problem of the area. The respondents are somewhat confused as to their future needs. It is observed that their indication is towards personal benefits

instead of community development. Good Housing is also pointed out by respondents. Respondents also wish for a women organisation which will contribute in their overall development and where they can redress their grievances. Respondents give stress in need of sanitary latrine as maximum of the slum dwellers use *katcha* Latrine, besides women also desire electric connection in their house. Next to electric connection is drain construction which is also their future need. Migration has been responsible for mushrooming of slums, and migration occurs due to lack of proper employment opportunities and poverty. Good Employment opportunities are also pointed out by women as their future need. They also give stress in need for good education facilities. The need for ration card is highlighted by women as their future need. The inevitability of medical facilities and street light was emphasised by women respectively.

In Kalibari Char, 85.50% respondents want sanitary latrine as one of their future needs along with improvement in road condition, which has emerged to be the second future need of the area. Improvement in the water supply facility is also mentioned by them. As people in the slum pocket are drinking river water and some people are also buying supply water from their neighbours for consumption and some of the respondents who are consuming supply water also don't have supply water facility in their home. Good sanitation in their area is also proposed by some respondents. A women organisation is proposed by respondents where the women could redress their grievances. Apart from these proposals drain construction in their area is needed

to keep the environment clean. The demand for good employment opportunities as their future needs is put forwarded by respondents as good employment opportunities may improve their standard of living. In *Kalibari Char* people live in *kutch*a house with CI Sheet, polythene and bamboo roofing so good housing as their future need is expected by them. The respondents also want good education facility as their future need. The need for ration Card is put forwarded along with electricity and good medical facilities. There is no demand for street lights in *Kalibari Char* slum pocket.

The future needs of the three slum pockets are similar but when the future needs are placed before them, the weightage given to various needs differs from respondents to respondents and from pocket to pocket. The different need that is put forwarded by the respondents is also their basic problem. Their future needs also include water supply, good housing, women organisation, electricity, drain construction, employment, education facility and other.

Conclusion: In this chapter an attempt has been made to discuss in detail about slum women's participation in the improvement initiatives which are introduced for them. The study clarifies that female respondents are well aware of the various developmental Programmes/schemes that are introduced by the government and NGOs from time to time for the benefit of the slum areas.

The various government development programmes are implemented by the Ward commissioner, Leader of the slum, males of the slum and other key

`persons. As regarding the programmes of the NGOs, all the programmes are implemented by the NGOs themselves. The female have a very little role in the implementation of various development programmes.

The slum women faced constraint to participate in the formulation and implementation of slum development programmes. They face constraints because male members dominate, leaders also dominate them and their voice is ignored in the formulation and implementation process. The slum women are also pre-occupied with their own activities. They said that the ward commissioner act as the key person in the formulation and implementation process and regarding the NGO programmes, the NGO workers only decide. The slum development programmes have good impact on women. They are benefitted by the programmes that are introduced for them by the government and NGOs. The respondents also feel that the people of the area are also benefitted by the improvement initiatives.