

CHAPTER - VII

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

This chapter deals with the summary of the study. The entire study is divided into six chapters which are summarised in this chapter. Major findings of the study are also discussed in this chapter. The researcher has also highlighted recommendation and conclusion of the study in this chapter.

Chapter I deals with the **concept** and **theory** of slum and urbanisation. In fact the term slum is difficult to conceptualise. Different scholars conceptualise this concept in different ways but despite of difference there occurs a commonality among slums which helps scholars to reach to a common definition. In the writings of **R.D. McKenzie, Charles Stokes, John Seeley, Herbert Gans, Harrington, E.E. Bergel, M.B. Clinard, Michael, Oscar Lewis** and others it is observed that though slum differs with respect to towns and cities but they have some common problems. Ideally Slums are characterized by urban decay, high rates of poverty and unemployment. They are commonly seen as “breeding grounds” for social problems such as crime, drug addiction, alcoholism, high incidence of mental illness, and suicide. In many poor countries they exhibit high incidence of disease due to unsanitary conditions, malnutrition and lack of basic health care. Urbanization has been taking pace significantly in numerous developing countries including India. The

urban population is increasing alarmingly in India. The quality of life has suffered in the Urban Centres of India not only due to migration but more so due to expanding gap between the demands and supply of necessary services and other infrastructure facilities. Unchecked land prices and unaffordable housing is forcing the poor to search for informal solution resulting in mushrooming of slums and squatter settlements. In India, the living conditions of slum dwellers are pathetic and they lack access to basic amenities like proper housing, safe drinking water, adequate electricity and proper sanitation. Problems of slums and various issues pertaining to development of slums are theorised by scholars. **A.R. Desai** and **Debadas Pillai** in their book '**Slums and Urbanisation**' talked about various issues pertaining to slums in India.

Chapter II deals with the **review** of **related literature**. Empirical studies on various issues of slums in India and abroad are reviewed in this chapter. Studies reveal that slums throughout the world are confronted with numerous problems. They are deprived of the minimum needs of human life. They lack proper housing facility, drainage, sanitation, health care. Unemployment, illiteracy, poverty and many other socio-economic problems compel them to involve into anti social activities. Studies reveal that slum in metropolitan cities of India like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai are confronted with serious problem pertaining to their housing, employment, health care and many other vital problems of life. Studies show that not only the slums of metropolitan cities are suffering from problems but slums all over the

nation have similar problems. Some empirical works are concerned with government plans and policies which reveal that government policies and NGOs initiatives are not sufficient to solve their problems. Studies reveal that there are many vital issues of slums which are still left for scholars for further research. Slum women's participation in development activities is also a vital issue but there is scanty of empirical works on this issue.

Chapter III deals with the methodology of the present study. This chapter contains statement of the problem, research design, universe, sampling of the study, tools and techniques of data collection, data analysis and field work plan and field work experience. The research problem is to study the participation of slum women on slum improvement programmes of Silchar town. The study is descriptive and qualitative in nature with some quantitative components. The study is delimited to the slum women of Silchar town. In Silchar town there are fourteen slum pockets according to Town and country planning department, government of Assam. All the slum pockets of Silchar town constitute the universe of the study and each and every slum women constitutes unit of study. Since slums of Silchar town are homogeneous in nature therefore three slum pockets of Silchar town are selected randomly for the study. Total estimated households in three slum pockets are 3186. Therefore, 20% of the total households are selected randomly from where 638 slum women are selected for the study. Considering the quality, quantity and nature of respondents, interview schedule and observation are selected as tools

for collection of primary data from the field. Secondary data are also collected from books, journals, news papers, magazines and records of different government offices. Field work was started in the month of December 2012 and the researcher finished the entire field work in the month of July 2014. Total 389 days are required to complete the entire field work. The primary data collected from the field are analysed by using simple statistical tools like tabulation numerical calculations. The tabulated data are further described and analysed. Some experience of the field is also discussed in this chapter.

In **Chapter IV**, the researcher has discussed about the slum profile of Silchar town. Slum people of Silchar town are living in fourteen slum pockets. The selected three slum pockets are fully inhabited by slum population. Slums of Silchar town are having very poor socio-economic background. Their social status is very low due to poor economic condition, low level of educational attainment and their belongingness to lower strata of the caste hierarchy. Study reveals that majority of the slum women of Silchar town are working as domestic servants who are paid very less by their masters. A good number of slum women are unemployed housewives who do not earn to support their family. Very few slum women are in private jobs and business. Husbands of married slum women are having poor occupational status. Majority of the husbands are day labourers followed by driver, petty businessmen etc. Educational attainment of slum women is not satisfactory. Majority of the slum women have attained education up to lower primary and primary level. A bulk

proportion of them are still illiterate. Majority of the slum women under study belong to scheduled caste followed by other backward caste and general caste. The basic amenities of life are not available to them. Slums of Silchar town are having poor housing condition. They suffer from lack of electricity, supply water, drinking water, drainage facility etc. It is important to note that majority of the respondents belong to nuclear family but still joint families existing among slums. Majority of the respondents' family size is medium with 4-6 family members followed by big size and small size family respectively. Marital status of the respondents' reveal that majority of the respondents are married followed by unmarried, widow and divorced respondents. The religious background of the respondents reveal that majority of the slums of Silchar town are Hindus followed by very few Muslims.

Chapter V deals with policies and programmes introduced for slum improvement by government of India and government of Assam. Slum improvement programmes at Silchar town are also discussed in this chapter. Successive governments of India have formulated various programmes for slum improvement. These programmes are 'Slum Clearance programmes announced in the Second Five Year Plan of the Government of India. The Fourth Five Year Plan emphasized on urban planning and decongestion of cities. A Scheme for Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums was undertaken in the Central Sector to provide a minimum level of services, like, water supply, sewerage, drainage, street pavements. Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme was

launched in 1980-81 to provide proper sanitation to the slums. The scheme is being operated through Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) by providing subsidy through the central government and loans by HUDCO. The Urban Basic Services (UBS) Programme in India was initiated during the Seventh Five Year Plan period for urban poverty alleviation. Government revised the programme as “Urban Basic Services for the Poor” (UBSP) in 1991 and integrated it with other urban poverty alleviation programmes namely Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Low Cost Sanitation (LCS). The Eighth Plan underscored the urgent need for urban development, environmental protection and provision of basic amenities to the urban poor like drinking water, sanitation, education and health services. One of the key issues to be addressed is identified as the haphazard growth of the cities and shortage of housing resulting in the emergence of squatters, shanties and slums National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was inaugurated and launched by the Prime Minister of India in 1996. Additional Central Assistance (ACA) was allocated by the Planning Commission annually on the basis of slum population. Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programmes (IHSDP) has been introduced by the Government of India for improvement of slums in the cities/towns not covered under JNNURM in the country. Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) and The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) programmes were also introduced by central government. Assam government has also introduced several schemes for the improvement of slums

in the state of Assam. Many government programmes are implemented at Cachar district to eradicate slum problems. Construction of roads, drains, electricity, water supply etc. are provided to slum pockets but these are not sufficient to improve the conditions of slums of Silchar town.

Chapter VI deals with the concept of people's participation, significance of women's participation and Participation especially the participation of slum women in slum improvement programmes of Silchar town. Participation means direct involvement of the people and not indirect involvement through their representatives. In this study women have been taken as unit of study for participation in planning and decision making process, in implementation of development programmes and projects, in monitoring and evaluation of programmes and in sharing the benefits of development. Women constitute near about half percentage of slum population, therefore to make any developmental efforts successful participation of women is equally important as men. Participation of slum women in the process of planning and decision making is considered pre-requisite for slum development. In chapter VI researcher has mainly highlighted the participation of respondents in formulation and implementation of the schemes sanctioned for slum improvement. Majority of the respondents are aware of the basic problems of their vicinity. But the basic problems of all the slum pockets are not same. For one slum pocket basic problems are improper roads, drains, electricity but in other slum pockets these are drinking water, sanitation and poor housing.

Majority of the respondents are aware of the political representatives of the area, including the chairman and vice-ward of Silchar Municipal Board (SMB) but they are more familiar with the Ward Commissioner of their respective wards. Many of the respondents also want to make a good proximity with the Ward Commissioner. However a bulk proportion of the respondents are also not familiar with MLA and MP of their respective legislative assembly and parliament. Respondents are aware of the formulation of schemes and majority of the respondents are of the view that ward commissioner is the key person who played an important role in the formulation of schemes for various improvement programmes. Majority of the respondents are not actively participating in scheme formulation. Similarly, respondents are aware of the implementation of the improvement programmes and they said that ward commissioner is the key person to implement improvement schemes. Majority of the respondents do not participate in scheme implementation. They face constraints for participation. Constraints are domination of male members of the family, ignorance of the voices of women, women's pre-occupation with the domestic works, domination of the local leaders etc. While respondents are asked about the benefits of the schemes they replied that slum people are getting benefited with the schemes provided by the government. People are gradually getting benefits like electricity, water supply, roads, housing, ration cards and such other benefits. Majority of the respondents are of the view that they approach their respective ward commissioners for getting government benefits. Self Help Groups are in existence in the slum pockets but very few slum women

are members of SHGs. The members are also getting benefitted with SHGs. Respondents are of the view that the government schemes are available but officials should provide more attention to the proper implementation of the schemes. It is also observed that the three slum pockets are victims of regular flood so, relief is given to them during flood but the quality and quantity of relief is not satisfactory. Respondents are of the view that government schemes should be continued further for the improvement of the slums. Some NGOs are working in slum pockets but their activities are not highly appreciated by the respondents. Respondents also opined that schemes are sometimes misutilised by the implementing machinery. The future needs of slum pockets of Silchar town are highlighted by the respondents on priority basis. But future needs of all slum pockets are not same.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The majority (33.54%) of respondents are in the age group of (29-39) years
2. In all the slum pockets the numbers of schedule caste respondents are the majority (57.84%), followed by General 26.80% and then Other Backward Caste 15.20%.
3. Majority (98.59%) of slum population of Silchar town are Hindu. There are very few slums that are Muslim.

4. Majority (52.19%) of respondents are married followed by unmarried, widow and divorced respondents.
5. Majority of respondent's husband are day labour followed by drivers and petty businessmen. Very few are engaged in private jobs and other activities.
6. The level of education of the respondents is very low. Majority of (50.31%) respondents have only crossed lower primary level of education.
7. In Madhura Ghat (58.62%) and Itkhola Ghat (49.04%) majority of respondents are housewife but in Kalibari Char majority (50.63%) of respondents are domestic servants.
8. Majority respondents have migrated due to poverty, employment, marriage and other reasons, but apart from marriage there has been no instances of individual migration, all of them have migrated with their families
9. Greatest numbers of respondents live in nuclear family and their family size is medium.
10. Slum area is characterised by poor housing and all the three slum pockets taken for the purpose of study is no exception to it. In all the three slum pockets majority of the respondents live in kutchha with tin Sheet.

11. Though large numbers of respondents are getting supply water for drinking, but the respondents in Itkhola Ghat are not happy as they have to walk few distance to fetch drinking water and some respondents in Kalibari Char have to buy drinking water.
12. Majority (50.63%) of the respondents use LPG for cooking. But there are respondents who use firewood also.
13. Majority of the respondents use Katcha latrine, thus lack of adequate sanitation facilities is one of the serious area of concern that seeks proper attention of the government and NGOs.
14. Participation of women in voting in the election is high.
15. Many basic problems are identified by the respondents. The basic problems of the slum pockets are more or less similar but their priority is not the same in all the pockets.
16. The respondents are aware of the different political representatives of the area. But they are more familiar with Ward Commissioner comparing to other political representatives.
17. They feel that Ward Commissioner is near to them and he is quite reachable to them in time of need. Besides there is no legal formalities in meeting the Ward Commissioner, people can directly share their grievances with the Ward Commissioner.

18. The awareness of women respondents about the different government programmes like APHED, SJSRY and other programmes is very low.
19. It is observed that their unawareness is mainly because of male domination in the family.
20. The wakefulness of women about the different NGOs is sound. But majority of the respondents are not aware of NGOs programmes for slum improvement
21. A small percentage of respondents said that official agencies have taken up initiatives to arouse people's interest in slum developmental activities. Thus the role played by the official agencies in this regard is not very encouraging.
22. It is also important to note that no NGO has taken any step to arouse people's interest all such initiatives were taken in case of government programmes.
23. The female population of the sample slum pockets have little to say in the formulation process.
24. The participation of women in implementation process is worst than their participation in the formulation process, only few women participated in the implementation process.

25. The women who could not participate in the implementation process said that they could not participate because male dominates, they were pre-occupied with their own activities and they also felt that their voice is ignored.
26. Ward Commissioner acts as the key person in both the formulation and implementation of improvement initiatives followed by the leader of the slum and the male members of the slum.
27. Every programme is implemented under the dominance of males which in turn gives the impression that women are not at all empowered and their participation level is low.
28. Majority (61.60%) of respondents have admitted that they are benefitted by various slum improvement programmes. They are benefitted in terms of road improvement, electricity, water supply, Kerosene Cards, drain construction and others.
29. Majority (88.24%) of respondents approach the higher authority for getting benefit. They approached the Ward Commissioner, Leader of the Slum, and others.
30. The role of self-help group in the three slum pockets is not sound. Few women are members of Self-help group. It seems that the 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.

31. The respondents who were benefitted in the three pockets due to SHG added that they get financial benefits for the construction of house, for employment generation and for other purposes.
32. The ward commissioner along with the developmental activities also settle disputes, gives financial assistance in times of need, provide them an address proof when required
33. He also helps them to perform the death rituals, gave them job etc. Thus majority of the respondents are pleased with the Ward Commissioner.
34. 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.
35. The three slum pockets are the regular victims of periodic floods as these slum pockets are located near by the biggest river i.e. Barak river.
36. Majority (76.33%) of respondents say that they get relief during flood but the respondents expressed their displeasure with the quantity of flood relief, they feel that the relief was only for name sake.
37. NGOs are not that active in giving flood relief, 81.93% of respondents said that only government provides them relief.

38. A significant percentage of respondents has uttered that various officers visit the area for monitoring the programmes and schemes.
39. Respondents also feel that the people of the area have been benefitted by the slum improvement programmes. People of the area are benefitted by road improvement, water supply, drain construction, Chief Minister Ration Card, BPL card and many more.

CONCLUSION

In any developmental and welfare activity people's participation is a very essential component. People's participation is currently recognized as a pivotal element for the welfare programmes. As women constitute almost half of the total population, therefore their participation in development programmes is sinequa-non. Women's participation thus becomes indispensable. Genuine and unflinching involvement of the women right from the initial stage ensures the success of different programmes. Thus the slum women in Silchar town must be involved in the improvement programmes right from the beginning, so that the programmes reached its desired goal. Enthusiastic women's participation can play a appropriate role in the development and increasing community awareness, creating a sense of responsibility, including a pride of ownership.

Efforts must be taken by the government and NGOs so that more women can participate in the different process of .development. It is observed that in slum pockets of Silchar town women are practically away from participation in the formulation and implementation process. Various constraints that come in

the way of women's participation must be removed and women must be encouraged to participate in the improvement initiatives because various government development programmes like District Development Plan have also provision for people's participation at the grass root level.

Recommendation

Efforts may be taken by the government and NGOs so that more women can participate in the decision making process of formulation and implementation of the programmes. Role of NGOs in slum improvement programmes is almost negligible in Silchar town. NGOs should start awareness programmes for participation of women in improvement programmes also. Initiatives should be taken to educate large number of slum women of Silchar town so that in future they can actively participate in development process. Self Help Group is an important organisation which makes women self-sufficient and increases status of women in family and society. Self Help Groups must be increased and women should be motivated to involve themselves with SHGs.