

CHAPTER - IV

SLUM PROFILE OF SILCHAR

This chapter presents firstly, an overview of the slums in Silchar town. Secondly, it throws light on the socio-economic background of the respondents. The primary materials forming the basis of the present chapter have been collected with the help of observation and interview.

Every town and city has its monstrosity and Silchar is no exception to it. Silchar is the headquarter of Cachar district in the state of Assam in India. It is located in the southern part of Assam situated on the banks of the Barak River. Silchar is the 2nd largest town of the state in terms of population and municipal area consisting of 28 wards. The population of Silchar is 228,985 as per 2011 census. Silchar is situated between longitudes 92°24' E and 93°15' E and latitudes 24°22'N and 25°8'N East and 35 meters above the sea level. It is 343 kilometres (213 miles) south east of Guwahati and on the left bank of river Barak. The area of Silchar town is 15.75 km². It has an average elevation of 22 meters (72 feet). The four states Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, and Meghalaya and one foreign country i.e., Bangladesh meet Silchar within 60 Km radius¹.

There are 14 Slum pockets in Silchar town according to Town and Country Planning Office namely, Madhura Ghat or Gandhighat Colony,

¹<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silchar>

Radharaman Colony, Adharnath Colony, Mokam Road or Manipuri Basti Road, Itkholaghat Colony, Idgah Ghat Colony or Swamiji Road, Kalibari Char, Mahut Para Lane 1 & 2, Sib Colony, Joydurga Colony – Biswanath Colony, Sweeper’s Colony, Fishermans’ Colony, Gossaipara, and New Colony. The data regarding the number of household and total population are taken from Silchar Municipal Board (2001), after that no data on Slums are available.

Table 3.1: List of slums in Silchar

Sl. No	Name of Slum pocket	Ward No	Number of Household	Total Population	Remarks
1	Madhura Ghat	1	286	1430	It is situated in the bank of river Barak
2	Radha Raman Colony	1	156	780	It is situated in the bank of river Barak
3	Adharnath Colony	1	130	650	It is situated in the bank of river Barak
4	Mokam Road or Manipuri Basti	2	168	840	Majority of the people are Muslim and Manipuri
5	Itkhola Ghat	3	520	2600	It is situated in the bank of river Barak
6	Idgah Ghat or Swamiji Road	3			It is situated in the bank of river Barak
7	Kalibari Char	7	2380	11900	It is situated in the Bank of river Barak. It is the oldest and the largest slum.
8	Mahut Para Lane 1&2	9	312	1560	-----
9	Sib Colony	20	56	280	This pocket developed in the Urban mainland of Silchar
10	Joydurga Colony-Biswanath Colony	20	260	1300	This pocket developed in the Urban mainland of Silchar
11	Sweeper Colony	24	78	390	-----
12	Fishermans’ Colony	27	130	650	This slum has lost successfully all the characters of the slum and it does not exist in reality not only by spirit but also by name.
13	Gossaipara	28	260	1300	This slum pocket is in the verge of extinction due to the conversion of railway track from M.G.to B.G.
14	New Colony	28	1820	9100	-----

Source: Silchar Municipal Board

Out of these 14 slums, it has been observed that some slums grow on the bank of river Barak, while the others grow in the threshold of the Urban and rural areas and a good number of small slums pockets appeared in the different urban mainland of Silchar.

Structure of a house is the indicator of socio- economic condition of a family in the society. Slum area is characterized by poor housing condition. Majority of the houses in slum pocket are kutcha with tin sheet and kutcha with polythene and bamboo roofing. RCC (Reinforced Cement Concrete) houses are less in number. But Biswanath Colony and Joy Durga Colony presents a very different picture, all the houses are concrete. There is existence of both joint and nuclear families in the slums of Silchar town, but nuclear families are more in number.

The social composition of different slum pockets shows that people of all caste viz, General, Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe, Other Backward Caste (OBC) are residing in the slum pocket. Majority of the people are Hindu by religion and belong to Bengali community. Only in some slum pockets like Itkhola Ghat and New Colony some muslims are residing. Kalibari Char which is the largest slum in Silchar town has all Hindu inhabitants.

Education of the people is also low. Children of the slum areas go to the neighbouring schools. Kalibari Char has a school within the locality, so children go there. People are earning their livelihood by engaging in activities like business, driver, day labour, govt and private service. In Sweeper colony

majority of the male are employed as sweepers. Women are house wives, domestic servants in the neighbourhood, Ananganwadi workers etc. Women in Gossaipara also clean the thrown bottles of wine that are collected by the rag pickers. These wasted bottles are given to them by the man who deals with such bottles. The women clean such bottles for which they get only Rs 20 for washing 100 wine bottles. However the detergent is provided by the owner. These bottles are cleaned and send back to the wine company again. Wines are again filled in this bottle and are supplied to the market again. In this way bottles are recycled.



A slum woman engaged in bottle washing

Migration has always been an important characteristics of slum area and slums in Silchar are not exception to it. Many of the people have migrated due to poverty, for better education, for good employment opportunities and due to

marriage. Thus in the slums of Silchar some people have migrated and some are residing since many generations.

People use LPG, Kerosene stove and firewood for cooking purpose. People use katcha latrine, only few of them have sanitary latrine.

Participation of people in voting for election is significantly higher than the other urban counterparts.

All most all these slums have similar civic problems but their degree differs. The principal predicament that confronts the slum pockets is that of drinking water, sanitation, water logging, improper roads, and lack of proper electric connection etc. In Itkhola Ghat people are unsatisfied because they don't have supply water facility at home. In some parts of Kalibari Char people have to buy water for consumption and some people also use river water also drinking due to non availability of supply water facility. But people in some parts of Madhura Ghat are satisfied with the supply water facility as they were provided with supply water tap by the Ward Commissioner in the recent past but in some parts of Madhura Ghat people also consume river water which is injurious to their health. In Biswanath Colony people have opted for tube well, as there has been acute problem of supply water. In Joy Durga Colony, the supply water pipe is small. Thus, Some houses have supply water facilities and some don't have supply water facilities at their home, those who don't have supply water at home, they depend on their neighbours or on the municipality tap in the road.

The road condition of slum area is very poor. Slum dwellers of Silchar town face tremendous problem during rainy season. The condition becomes so severe that they cannot move freely outside their house during the rainy season. But two slum pockets viz Biswanath colony and Joy Durga Colony have concrete roads.

Improper drainage is also another problem of slum of Silchar town. There is lack of proper drainage system in all the slums pockets. There are concrete drains in some slum pockets but these are so narrow for which contaminated water overflows during rainy season.

Thus slums in Silchar are confronted with several problems, and to improve their poor living condition, several improvement initiatives like National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and many more have been introduced.



Condition of yard a slum household in Sweeper Colony



Supply water tap is just above the drain in slum pocket

All the slums in Silchar are characterised by improper roads, inadequate water supply, poor drainage facility and many more. Slums like Madhura Ghat is satisfied by the supply of water facility but in Kalibari Char people in some part are buying water for consumption and some are drinking river water, so adequate measures are needed to solve this problem. Slums like Joy Durga Colony and Biswanath Colony are in good condition, houses are concrete and roads are pucca, thus this two slums does not represent any of the characteristics of slum. But in other slum pockets houses are kutcha with C.I. Sheet and Kutcha with polythene and bamboo roofing. Thus development is uneven, so government and different NGOs must work in this regard. The important socio-economic variables are analyzed here in details below:

Table 3.2: Age wise distribution of the respondents

Name of Slum Pocket	18 -28	29 – 39	40- 50	51 – 61	62 years to above	Total
Madhura Ghat	11(18.97%)	23(39.66%)	13(22.41%)	3(5.17%)	8(13.79%)	58
Itkholaghat	29(27.88%)	34(32.69%)	27(25.96%)	10(9.62%)	4(3.85%)	104
Kalibari Char	137(28.78%)	157(32.98%)	97(20.38%)	62(13.03%)	23(4.83%)	476
Total	177(27.74%)	214(33.54%)	137(21.47%)	75(11.76%)	35(5.49%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

The table exhibits that the respondents taken for the purpose of the study are categorised into five groups, ranging from (18-28) years, (29-39) years, (40-50) years, (51-61) years and 62 years and above.

Out of total respondents taken from Madhura Ghat slum pocket 18.97% belong to the first age group of (18-28) years, followed by 39.66% who belong to the age group of (29-39) years. Further in the age group of (40-50) and (51-61) are 22.41% and 5.17% respectively and 13.79% belong to age group of 62 years and above. Thus greatest number of respondents are in the age group of (29-39) years.

Out of total respondents taken from Itkhola Ghat slum pocket 27.88% belong to the age group of (18-28 years), followed by 32.69% who belong to age group of (29-39) years and 25.96% are in the category of 40-50 years. However, 9.62% belong to 51-61 years and 3.85 belong to age group of 62 years and above.

In Kalibari Char 28.78% belong to the first age group (18-28 years), 32.98% are in the age group of (29-39) years. Further in the age group of (40-50) and (51-61) are 20.38% and 13.03% women respectively and only 4.83% respondents are (62+)years. Thus greatest number of respondents is in the age group of (29-39) years.

The above table exhibits that the highest number of respondents (33.54%) are in the age group of (29-39) years, followed by 27.74% in the age group of (18-28) years, 21.47% in the age group of (40-50) years, 11.76% in the age group of (51-61) years, and 5.49% in the age group of 62 years and above.

Table 3.3: Caste wise distribution of the respondents

Name of Slum Pocket	SC	ST	OBC	GEN	TOTAL
Madhura Ghat	28(48.28%)	-	5(8.62%)	25(43.10%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	42(40.38%)	1(0.96%)	22(21.15%)	39(37.5%)	104
Kalibari Char	299(62.82%)	-	70(14.71%)	107(22.48%)	476
Total	369(57.84%)	1(0.16%)	97(15.20%)	171(26.80%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In Madhura Ghat out of 58 respondents 28(48.28%) respondents are schedule caste (SC), 25(43.10%) are general, and 5(8.62%) belong to other backward caste (OBC). In Madhura Ghat there were no schedule tribe (ST) respondents.

In Itkhola Ghat out of 104 respondents 42(40.38%) respondents are schedule caste (SC), 39 (37.5%) are general, 22(21.15%) belong to other backward caste (OBC) and only 1(0.96%) respondent is schedule tribe (ST).

In Kalibari Char out of 476 respondents 299 (62.82%) respondents are schedule caste (SC), 107(22.48%) are general, and 70(14.71%) belong to other backward caste (OBC). Like Madhura Ghat in Kalibari Char also there were no schedule tribe (ST) respondents.

It is learnt from the above table that in all the slum pockets the number of schedule caste (SC) respondents are the highest 57.84%, followed by General 26.80% and then Other Backward Caste (OBC) respondents 15.20% and Schedule Tribe (ST) 0.16%.

Table 3.4 Religion wise distribution of the respondents

Name of Slum Pocket	Hindu	Muslim	Other	Total
Madhura Ghat	58(100%)	-	-	58
Itkhola Ghat	95(91.35%)	9 (8.65%)	-	104
Kalibari Char	476(100%)	-	-	476
Total	629(98.59%)	9 (1.41%)	-	638

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In Madhura Ghat all the respondents are Hindus. In Itkhola Ghat, 95(91.35%) respondents are Hindus and remaining 9(8.65%) are Muslims. In Kalibari Char also all the respondents are Hindus.

In the universe of the study, majority of the respondents are Hindus 629(98.59%) and only 9(1.41%) are Muslims.

Table 3.5: Marital status of the respondents

Name of Slum Pocket	Married	Unmarried	Widow	Divorcee	Total
Madhura Ghat	44(75.86%)	2(3.45%)	11(18.97%)	1(1.72%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	62(59.62%)	16(15.38%)	23(22.12%)	3(2.88%)	104
Kalibari Char	227(47.69%)	161(33.82%)	79(16.60%)	9(1.89%)	476
Total	333(52.19%)	179(28.06%)	113(17.71%)	13(2.04%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In Madhura Ghat 44 (75.86%) respondents are married out of 58 respondents, 11(18.97%) are widow, 2(3.45%) are unmarried and only 1(1.72%) is divorcee.

In Itkhola Ghat 62(59.62%) respondents are married out of 104 respondents, 23(22.12%) are widow, 16(15.38%) are unmarried and 3(2.88%) are divorcee. All the widows depend on their son's earning or family earning and the divorcee lives in their maternal house and are dependent on them.

In Kalibari Char 227(47.69%) respondents are married out of 476 respondents, 161(33.82%) are unmarried, 79(16.60%) are widow, and only 9(1.89%) are divorcee. Out of total respondents 333(52.19%) respondents are married, 179(28.06%) are unmarried, 113(17.71%) are widow and 13(2.04%) are divorcee.

Thus in all the three slum pockets the greatest number of respondents are married. Highest number of unmarried respondents is in Kalibari Char 33.82%.

Table 3.6: If married husband's occupation

Slum Pocket	Business	Driver	Day Labour	Govt Emp.	Private Emp.	Other	Total
Madhura Ghat	9 (20.45%)	7 (15.91%)	15 (34.09%)	-	5 (11.36%)	8 (18.18%)	44
Itkhola Ghat	15 (24.19%)	9 (14.52%)	12 (19.35%)	2 (3.23%)	10 (16.13%)	14 (22.58%)	62
Kalibari Char	51 (22.47%)	77 (33.92%)	84 (37.00%)	-	10 (4.41%)	5 (2.20%)	227
Total	75 (22.52%)	93 (27.93%)	111 (33.33%)	2 (0.60%)	25 (7.51%)	27 (8.11%)	333

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In Madhura Ghat out of 44 married respondent 15(34.09%) respondents' husband were day labour, 9(20.45%) were in business, 7(15.91%) were driver, 5 (11.36%) private employee, and 8(18.18%) were engaged in other activities to earn their livelihood.

In Itkhola Ghat out of 62 married respondents 15(24.19%) respondents' husband were in business, 12(19.35%) were day labour, 10(16.13%) were private employee, 9(14.52%) were driver, 2(3.23%) were government employee and 14(22.58%) were engaged in other activities to earn their livelihood.

In Kalibari Char out of 227 married respondents 84(37.00%) respondents' husband are day labour, 77(33.92%) were driver, 51(22.47%) were in business 10(4.41%) were private employee, none were government employee and 5(2.20%) were engaged in other activities to earn their livelihood.

Total married respondents were 333 as seen in table no:4, Out of total married respondents 75(22.52%) husband are in business, 93(27.93%) were driver, 111(33.33%) were day labour, 2(0.60%) were Government Employee,

25(7.51%) were private employee and 27(8.11%) were engaged in other activities. Thus the greatest number of respondents' husband was day labour.

Table 3.7: Unmarried respondents father's occupation

Slum Pocket	Business	Driver	Day Labour	Govt Emp.	Private Emp.	Other	Total
Madhura Ghat	-	-	1(50%)	-	-	1(50%)	2
Itkhola Ghat	5(31.25%)	3(18.75%)	-	1(6.25%)	1(6.25%)	6(37.5%)	16
Kalibari char	58(36.02%)	67(41.61%)	31(19.25%)	2(1.24%)	3(1.86%)	-	161
Total	63(35.20%)	70(39.11%)	32(17.88%)	3(1.68%)	4(2.23%)	7(3.91%)	179

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum Pockets

In Madhura Ghat out of 2 Unmarried respondents, 1 respondent's father is day Labour and another respondents' father was employed in other activities.

In Itkhola Ghat out of 16 Unmarried respondent 5 respondents' father were in business, 3 respondent's father are driver, 1 government employee and 1 private employee, 6 respondents' father were employed in other activities and, no respondents' father was day labour.

In Kalibari Char out of 161 Unmarried women 67 respondent's father are driver, 58 are in business, 31 day labour, 3 private employee and 2 govt employee.

Out of total 179 unmarried respondents, 63(35.20%) respondents father were in business, 70(39.11%) respondents father were driver, 32(17.88%) were day labour, 3(1.68%) were Govt. Emp, 4(2.23%) were private employee and 7(3.91%) were engaged in other activities.

Among the three slum pockets maximum number of unmarried respondents are in Kalibari Char.

Table 3.8: Education of the respondents

Slum Pocket	Illiterate	Lower primary (1-4)	Upper primary (5-8)	Secondary (9-10)	Above HSLC	HSSLC	Graduate	Total
Madhura Ghat	19 (32.76%)	26 (44.83%)	11 (18.97%)	1 (1.72%)	-	1 (1.72%)	-	58
Itkhola Ghat	27 (25.96%)	32 (30.77%)	21 (20.19%)	17 (16.35%)	4 (3.85%)	3 (2.88%)	-	104
Kalibari Char	95 (19.96%)	263 (55.25%)	63 (13.24%)	13 (2.73%)	20 (4.20%)	17 (3.57%)	5 (1.05%)	476
Total	141 (22.10%)	321 (50.31%)	95 (14.89%)	31 (4.86%)	24 (3.76%)	21 (3.29%)	5 (0.78%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum Pockets

In Madhura Ghat out of total respondents, 26(44.83%) women's education is upto lower primary level, 19(32.76%) women are illiterate, 11 (18.97%) women's education is upto upper primary, 1(1.72%) woman's education is upto secondary level and 1(1.72%) women have also passed her HSSLC exam.

In Itkhola Ghat out of total respondents, 32(30.77%) women's education is upto lower primary level, 27(25.96%) women are illiterate, 21(20.19%) women's education is upto upper primary, 17(16.35%) women's education is upto secondary level, 4(3.85%) women are above HSLC and only 3(2.88%) women have crossed their HSSLC. None of the respondent in Itkhola Ghat is graduate.

In Kalibari Char 263(55.25%) women's education is upto lower primary, 95(19.96%) women are illiterate, 63(13.24%) women's education is upto upper primary, 20(4.20%) women are above HSLC, 17(3.57%) women have passed their HSSLC, 13(2.73%) women's education is upto secondary level, and 5(1.05%) women are graduate.

The level of education of the respondents is low. 50.31% respondents have crossed their lower primary level, 14.89% education is upto upper primary level. 3.76% and 3.29% respondents have crossed their HSLC and HSSLC respectively. Only 0.78% of the respondents were graduate from Kalibari Char, there were no graduate respondents in Madhura Ghat and Itkholaghat. 22.1% respondents are illiterate.

Table 3.9: Occupation of the respondents

Slum Pocket	Housewife	Student	Domestic servant	Self Employed	Wage earner	Business	Govt Emp	Private Emp	Other Specify	Total
Madhura Ghat	34 (58.62%)	-	22 (37.93)	-	-	-	-	1 (1.72%)	1 (1.72%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	51 (49.04%)	4 (3.85%)	31 (29.81%)	1 (0.96%)	-	4 (3.85%)	1 (0.96%)	3 (2.88%)	9 (8.65%)	104
Kalibari Char	173 (36.34%)	18 (3.78%)	241 (50.63%)	1 (0.21%)	-	26 (5.46%)	9 (1.89%)	1 (0.21%)	7 (1.47%)	476
Total	258 (40.44%)	22 (3.45%)	294 (46.08%)	2 (0.31%)	-	30 (4.70%)	10 (1.57%)	5 (0.78%)	17 (2.66%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum Pockets

In Madhura Ghat out of 58 respondents 34(58.62%) are housewife, 22(37.93%) are domestic servant, 1(1.72%) is a private employee and another 1(1.72%) are engaged in other activities. There were no student, self-Employed,

wage earner, business and Govt employee respondents in Itkhola Ghat. Highest numbers of respondents in Madhura Ghat were housewives.

In Itkhola Ghat out of 104 respondents 51(49.04%) respondents are housewife, 31(29.81%) are domestic servants in the neighbourhood, 9(8.65%) are engaged in other activities to earn their livelihood, 4(3.85%) are in business, 3(2.88%) are engaged as private employee, 1(0.96%) women is a government employee (Anganwadi worker) and 1(0.96%) is self employed and 9(8.65%) women are earning money through other activities. In Itkhola Ghat also none of the respondents were wage earner. Like Madhura Ghat in Itkhola Ghat also utmost number of women was housewives.

In Kalibari Char out of 476 respondents, 241(50.63%) respondents are domestic servants, 173 (36.34%) are housewives, 26(5.46%) are in business, 18(3.78%) are students, 9(1.89%) are govt employee, 1(0.21%) is a private employee and 1(0.21%) is self employed, and 7(1.47%) are engaged in other activities. Unlike both the slum pockets in Kalibari Char highest number of respondents were domestic servants.

The occupational distribution of respondents reveals that highest number of respondents were domestic servants 294(46.08%), then were housewife 258(40.44%), others were less in number 30(4.70%) were in business, 22(3.45%) were students, 10(1.57%) were govt employee, 5(0.78%) were private employee, 2(0.31%) were self employed and 17(2.66%) were engaged in other activities to earn their livelihood. There were no student, Govt

Employee and Women engaged in business as respondents in Madhura Ghat. Besides this, there was also no wage earner as respondents in the sample pockets. In Madhura Ghat and Itkhola Ghat highest number of respondents was housewife but in Kalibari Char highest number of respondents was domestic servants.

Table 3.10: Reason for Migration

Slum pocket	Poverty	Conflict with in laws	Education	Employment	Natural disaster	Marriage	Total
Madhura Ghat	17(32.69%)	-	-	19(36.54%)	-	16(30.77%)	52
Itkhola Ghat	9(15.25%)	-	2(3.39%)	26(44.07%)	-	22(37.29%)	59
Kalibari Char	67(30.04%)	-	3(1.35%)	88(39.46%)	-	65(29.15%)	223
Total	93(27.84%)	-	5(1.50%)	133(39.82%)	-	103(30.84%)	334

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

Migration has always been an important characteristic of slum area and the three slum pockets of Silchar town are no exception to it.

In Madhura Ghat 52 respondents have migrated and 8 of them are residing since their birth. 17(32.69%), families have migrated due to poverty, 19(36.54%) families have migrated for good employment opportunities and 16(30.77%) respondents have migrated due to marriage.

In Itkhola Ghat 59(59%) respondents have migrated and 45 of them are residing since their birth. Out of 59, families of 9(15.25%) have migrated due to poverty, 2 (3.39%) of them have migrated for better education, 26(44.07%) for good employment opportunities and 22(37.29%) due to marriage.

In Kalibari Char 223 respondents have migrated and rest 253 of them are residing since their birth. Out of 223, families of 67(30.04%) have migrated due

to poverty, Families of 3(1.35%) respondents have migrated for better education, 88(39.46%) for good employment opportunities and 65(29.15%) due to marriage.

Out of total respondents who have migrated 133(39.82%) have migrated for employment, 103(30.84%) have migrated because of marriage and 93(27.84%) have migrated due to poverty and 5(1.50%) have migrated for better education. Thus highest number of respondents has migrated for better employment opportunities. Apart from marriage, there have been no instances of individual migration, all of them have migrated with their families. None of the respondents have migrated due to conflict with in laws and natural disaster.

Table 3.11(a): Nature of the family of the respondents

Slum Pocket	Joint	Nuclear	Total
Madhura Ghat	18(31.03%)	40(68.97%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	28(26.92%)	76(73.08%)	104
Kalibari Char	155(32.56%)	321(67.44%)	476
Total	201(31.50%)	437(68.50%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum Pockets

In Itkhola Ghat, 28(26.92%) respondents lives in joint family and about 76 (73.08%) respondents lives in nuclear family.

Like Madhura Ghat and Itkhola Ghat in Kalibari Char also 201(31.50%) have joint family and 437(68.50%) lives in nuclear family.

Thus nature of the family of the respondents indicates that 437(68.50%) respondents resides in nuclear family and 201(31.50%) have joint family.

Besides if we see the individual sample pockets majority of the respondents have nuclear family.

Table 3.11(b): Size of the family of the respondents

Slum Pocket	Small (1-3)	Medium(4-6)	Big (above 6)	Total
Madhura Ghat	13(22.41%)	38(65.52%)	7(12.07%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	26(25%)	58(55.77%)	20(19.23%)	104
Kalibari Char	77(16.18%)	288(60.50%)	111(23.32%)	476
Total	116(18.18%)	384(60.19%)	138(21.63%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum Pockets

On the basis of size, the families are categorised into three types; small (1-3), medium (4-6), big (above 6).

In Madhura Ghat 13(22.41%) respondents belong to small family, 38(65.52%) respondent's family size is medium and 7(12.07%) respondents lives in big family.

In Itkhola Ghat 26(25%) respondents belong to small family, 58(55.77%) respondent's family size is medium and 20(19.23%) respondents lives in big family.

In Kalibari Char 77(16.18%) respondents belong to small family, 288(60.50%) respondent's family size is medium and 111(23.32%) respondents lives in big family.

Thus maximum number of respondents 384(60.19%) have medium size families, followed by big 138(21.63%) and then small 116(18.18%).

Table 3.12: Housing Pattern

Slum Pocket	Pacca RCC	Pacca with CI Sheet	Kutchra with CI Sheet	Kutchra with polythene and Bamboo roofing	Total
Madhura Ghat	-	12(20.69%)	37(63.79%)	9(15.52%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	7(6.73%)	14(13.46%)	64(61.54%)	19(18.27%)	104
Kalibari Char	5(1.05%)	67(14.08%)	205(43.07%)	199(41.81%)	476
Total	12(1.88%)	93(14.58%)	306(47.96%)	227(35.58%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum pockets

Structure or pattern of a house is the indicator of socio- economic condition of a family in community. Slum area is also characterized by poor housing.

In Madhura Ghat, out of 58 respondents interviewed for the purpose of the study 12(20.69%) lives in pacca with CI Sheet, 37(63.79%) lives in kutchra with CI Sheet and 9(15.52%) lives in kutchra with polythene and bamboo roofing.

Out of total respondents interviewed for the purpose of the study, in Itkhola Ghat only 7(6.73%) of them lives in pacca RCC house, another 14(13.46%) lives in pacca with CI Sheet, 64(61.54%) have kutchra with CI Sheet, and 19(18.27%) lives in kutchra with polythene and bamboo roofing.

In Kalibari Char 5(1.05%) respondents lives in Pacca RCC, 67(14.08%) lives in pacca with CI Sheet, 205(43.07%) lives in kutchra with CI Sheet, and 199(41.81%) lives in kutchra with polythene and bamboo roofing.

Thus highest number of respondents lives in kutchha with CI Sheet 306(47.96%), followed by Kutchha with polythene and bamboo roofing 227(35.58%), then pacca with CI Sheet 93(14.58%) and lowest number of respondents lives in Pacca RCC 12(1.88%).

Table 3.13: Rented or Own house

Slum Pocket	Own House	Rented House	Total
Madhura Ghat	21(36.21%)	37(63.79%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	53(50.96%)	51(49.04%)	104
Kalibari Char	157(32.98%)	319(67.02%)	476
Total	231(36.21%)	407(63.79%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum Pockets

In Madhura Ghat 21(36.21%) lives in their own house and 37(63.79%) lives in rented house.

In Itkhola Ghat out of total respondents, 53(50.96%) lives in their own house and 51(49.04%) lives in the rented house.

In Kalibari Char 157(32.98%) lives in their own house and 319(67.02%) lives in the rented house.

Thus, highest number of respondents lives in rented house 407(63.79%) and 231(36.21%) have their own house. In Madhura Ghat and Kalibari Char majority lives in rented house while in Itkhola Ghat majority lives in their own house.

Table 3.14: Source of drinking water

Slum pocket	Pond	Dig well	Open well	Tank	Tube well	Supply water	River
Madhura Ghat	-	-	-	-	-	58(100%)	3(5.17%)
Itkhola Ghat	-	-	-	-	5(4.81%)	88(84.61%)	23(22.11%)
Kalibari Char	-	-	-	-	-	431(90.55%)	45(9.45%)

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum pockets

It is a well know fact that slum dwellers have to suffer for basic amenities of life every now and then, lack of proper drinking water is one of them.

In Madhura Ghat out of 58 respondents 58(100%) of them use supply water and 3(5.17%) use river water also. It means there are certain respondents who use both supply water as well as river water. However the facility of supply water was available to them in a very recent time, prior to that they use river water for drinking and that also without any purification.

Inspite of the fact that in Itkhola Ghat 88(84.61%) of the respondents use supply water for drinking purpose maximum number of respondents added that water connection is not available in their home and they have to walk few distance to fetch water. 23(22.11%) use river water for consumption which may be hazardous for health and 5(4.81%) use tube well which means that like Madhura Ghat in Itkhola Ghat also some respondents use river water for consumption along with supply water.

In Kalibari Char 431(90.55%) use supply water and 45(9.45%) use river water for drinking purpose. Some respondents also added that they need to buy

water for drinking. Unlike Madhura Ghat and Itkhola Ghat in Kalibari Char respondents uses only one source of drinking water.

Thus Maximum number of respondents use supply water for drinking but there are some respondents who use both supply water and river water.

Table 3.15: Fuel used in cooking

Slum pocket	LPG	Kerosene stove	Fire wood	Cow dung	Other	Total
Madhura Ghat	23(39.66%)	1(1.72%)	34(58.62%)	-	-	58
Itkhola Ghat	45(43.27%)	31(29.81%)	23(22.12%)	5(4.81%)	-	104
Kalibari Char	255(53.57%)	33(6.93%)	188(39.50%)	-	-	476
Total	323(50.63%)	65(10.19%)	245(38.40%)	5(0.78%)		638

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* 23(39.66%) use LPG for cooking, 1(1.72%) use Kerosene stove, and 34(58.62%) use fire wood.

In *Itkhola Ghat* 45(43.27%) of the respondents use LPG for cooking, 31(29.81%) use kerosene stove, 23(22.12%) use firewood and 5(4.81%) use cowdung.

In *Kalibari Char* 255(53.57%) use LPG for cooking, 33(6.93%) use Kerosene stove, and 188(39.50%) use firewood.

Thus above table reveals that majority respondents are using LPG for cooking 323(50.63%), followed by firewood 245(38.40%) and kerosene stove 65(10.19%). Only 5(0.78%) use cow dung for cooking. In *Madhura Ghat*

majority use firewood in cooking but in *Itkhola Ghat* and *Kalibari Char* majority use LPG for the said purpose.

Table 3.16: Sanitation facilities

Slum pocket	Sanitary	Katcha	No Latrine	Total
Madhura Ghat	15(25.86%)	42(72.41%)	1(1.72%)	58
Itkhola Ghat	15((14.42)	88(84.62%)	1(0.96%)	104
Kalibari Char	44(9.24%)	403(84.66%)	29(6.09%)	476
Total	74(11.60%)	533(83.54%)	31(4.86%)	638

Source: Field Data Collected from Slum pockets

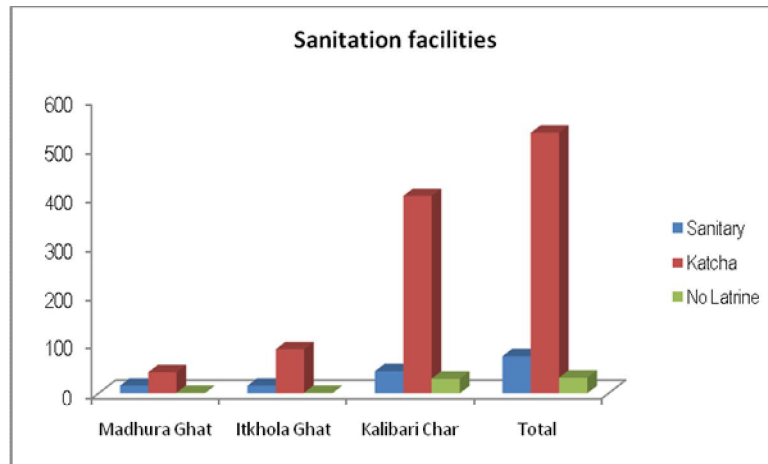
In *Madhura Ghat* 15(25.86%) are using sanitary latrines, 42(72.41%) are having *kutch*a latrine and 1(1.72%) have no latrine.

In *Itkhola Ghat* only 15(14.42%) are using sanitary latrines and 88(84.62%) are using *kutch*a latrine and 1(0.96%) have no latrine.

In *Kalibari Char* only 44(9.24%) are using sanitary latrines 403(84.66%) are using *kutch*a latrine and 29(6.09%) have no latrine.

Majority of the respondents use *Kutch*a latrine 533(83.54%), 74(11.60%) use sanitary latrine and 31(4.86%) have no latrine. Thus lack of adequate sanitation facilities is one of the serious area of concern that seeks proper attention of the government and NGOs.

Fig. 3.1 : Sanitation facilities



Conclusion: It can be concluded that the overall socio-economic condition of the slum inhabitants of Silchar town is not sound. Their housing condition is not up to the mark, as maximum numbers of respondents live in *Kutcha* house with tin roof and *kutcha* house with polythene and bamboo roofing. As regards the facility of drinking water large number of respondents use supply water for consumption but drinking water facility is not available in the house and they have to walk a few kilometres to fetch drinking water and some of them also need to buy drinking water. The slum populace are in a better position as regarding the use of fuel for cooking because majority of the slum dwellers use LPG gas for cooking. The sanitation facility of the slum residents is not healthy as only a small proportion of them use sanitary latrine. Moreover there are also some slum dwellers that don't have latrine at all. Education of slum dwellers of Silchar town is low and most of them are employed as domestic servants or house-wives. Thus government and NGOs must take adequate steps to ameliorate the pitiable condition of the slum dwellers.