

CHAPTER - V

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND NGO's INITIATIVES FOR SLUM DEVELOPMENT

This chapter focuses on various development programmes and implementation of different schemes under the programmes introduced by the govt, for the benefit of the slums in India in general and for slums of Silchar town in particular. Besides this, the chapter also highlights the various improvement initiatives taken by the NGO for upliftment of the slum people.

Slum Development policy in India

The Government of India (GOI) has taken several efforts for improving the dismal conditions of slum inhabitants. Several programmes for the improvement of the slum dwellers are also introduced from time to time by successive governments. Some of the programmes are briefly discussed below.

The first scheme under the name of 'Slum Clearance' was announced in the Second Five Year Plan of the Government of India and consequently all the state governments were required to set up the necessary organizations and enact legislations for the same. 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 from 1972-73 with a view

to provide a minimum level of services like, water supply, sewerage, drainage, street pavements in 11 cities with a population of 8 lakhs and above. The scheme was later extended to 9 more cities. 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 HUDCO¹.

The Urban Basic Services (UBS) Programme in India was initiated during the Seventh Five Year Plan period for urban poverty alleviation. Based on the experience of implementing the UBS Programme and the recommendations of the National Commission on Urbanisation, the Government revised it as “Urban Basic Services for the Poor” (UBSP) (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 objective of UBSP is to create participatory community based structures. One of the important features is to provide social services and physical amenities through convergence of various ongoing schemes of Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment and various specialist departments like Health, Family Welfare, Women & Child Development, Education, Welfare, Labour, Small Scale Industry, Non-

¹Upinder Sawhney. (2013). Slum population in India: Extent and policy response. *International Journal of Research in Business and Social Science*, 2 (1), P 53

Conventional Energy Sources and Science and Technology. Such a convergent approach will lead to optimum utilisation of scarce resources and help in successful implementation of various sectoral programmes thereby providing social services and physical amenities to the urban poor. The urban poor residing in low income neighbourhoods are the target groups for provision of social services under the Scheme and physical amenities to be provided under the Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS) Scheme. Urban poor residing contiguous to low income neighbourhoods/slums would also be able to avail the social services provided under the Scheme. Special emphasis is given to women and child beneficiaries².

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 was identified as the haphazard growth of the cities and shortage of housing resulting in the emergence of squatters, shanties and slums³.

National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was inaugurated and launched by the Prime Minister of India in 1996. Under National Slum Development Programme, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) was released to the States/UTs for the development of urban slums. NSDP is a central

² <http://mhupa.gov.in/pdf/performance/1997-1998/english/2a.pdf> accessed on 14/5/2015

³ Sawhney, Upinder. (2013). Slum population in India: Extent and policy response. *International Journal of Research in Business and Social Science*, 2 (1), Pp 53

government initiative under the observation of Urban Affairs ministry. The objective of this programme was upgradation of urban slums by providing physical amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community bath, widening and paving of existing lanes, sewers, community latrines, street lights etc. Besides, the funds under NSDP could be used for provision of community infrastructure and social amenities like pre-school education, non formal education adult education, child health and primary health care including immunization etc. The programme also had a component of shelter upgradation or construction of new houses. Under the programme, funds in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) were allocated by the Planning Commission annually on the basis of slum population of the State/UTs. While the Ministry of Finance released the funds to the States under this Programme, the Ministry of Home Affairs released the funds to Union Territories. The States released the funds to the Implementing Agencies as per their requirements. The Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation had been nominated as the Nodal Ministry to monitor the progress of the programme in respect of States. About 4.58 crores of slum dwellers have benefited from this programme. NSDP has been discontinued from the financial year 2005-06⁴.

⁴ <http://mhupa.gov.in/programs/upa/nsdp/nsdparc.htm>nsdp/nsdparc.htm accessed on 5/3/2014

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. IHSDP is managed by state government machinery. Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme aims at combining the existing schemes of VAMBAY and NSDP under the new IHSDP Scheme for having an integrated approach in ameliorating the conditions of the urban slum dwellers who do not possess adequate shelter and reside in dilapidated conditions. The basic objective of the Scheme is to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers of the identified urban areas. The target group under the scheme is slum dwellers from all sections of the community through a cluster approach⁵.

Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) is an India government programme that attempts to help slum dwellers gain appropriate housing and address the processes by which slums are created and reproduced. It was introduced by the Ministry of Housing and urban poverty Alleviation, government of India. The programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, and will be continued from 2013 to 2022. This scheme aims to make India slum-free by 2022 by providing people with shelter or housing, free of cost. The government earmarked Rs.

⁵http://jnnurmmis.nic.in/jnnurm_hupa/jnnurm/IHSDP%20revised%20guidelines%202009.pdf
accessed on 7/7/2014

32,230 crores for implementation during India's 12th Five Year Plan. One million beneficiaries are proposed to be covered under Rajiv Awas Yojana. The objectives of Rajiv Awas Yojana are to improve and provide housing, basic civic infrastructure and social amenities in intervened slums. The scheme is launched to enable reforms by addressing some of the causes leading to the creation of slums. The scheme is launched to facilitate a supportive environment for the expansion of institutional credit linkages for the urban poor. Another aim of the scheme is to institutionalize mechanisms for the prevention of slums, including the creation of affordable housing stock. Finally it tries to strengthen institutional and human resource capacities at the municipal, city, and state levels through comprehensive capacity building and the strengthening of resource networks⁶.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched on 01.12.1997 after subsuming the earlier three schemes for urban poverty alleviation, namely Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP), and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP). The key objective of the Scheme was to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed through the

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajiv_Awas_Yojana, accessed on 15/08/2014

setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. To overcome the difficulties faced by the States/UTs and address certain drawbacks in the implementation of SJSRY, the Guidelines of the Scheme have been revised. The Revised Guidelines came into effect from 1.4.2009. The objectives of the revised Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) are:

1. Addressing urban poverty alleviation through gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor by encouraging them to set up self-employment ventures (individual or group), with support for their sustainability; or undertake wage employment;

2. Supporting skill development and training programmes to enable the urban poor have access to employment opportunities opened up by the market or undertake self-employment;

3. Empowering the community to tackle the issues of urban poverty through suitable self managed community structures like Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs), Neighbourhood

The delivery of inputs under the Scheme shall be through the medium of urban local bodies and community structures. Thus, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana seeks to strengthen these local bodies and community organizations to enable them address the issues of employment and income generation facing the urban poor. The target population under SJSRY is the urban poor – those living below the poverty line, as defined by the Planning

Commission from time to time. SJSRY will have five major components, namely-

(i). Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)

(ii). Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP)

(iii). Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP)

(iv). Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)

(v). Urban Community Development Network (UCDN)

Funding under SJSRY will be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. For Special Category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) this ratio will be 90:10 between the Centre and States. Under Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) one improvement initiative in Itkhola Ghat Slum Pocket has been taken, a brief description of UWEP is given below⁷.

Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP):

This programme seeks to provide wage employment to beneficiaries living below the poverty line within the jurisdiction of urban local bodies by

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<http://mhupa.gov.in/pdf/guidelinesscheme/urbanempovallev/Swarna%20Jayanti/ReGuidelinesSJSRY.pdf> accessed on 3/4/2015

utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. These assets may be Community Centres, Storm water Drains, Roads, Night Shelters, Kitchen Sheds in Primary Schools under Mid-day Meal Scheme and other community requirements like Parks, Solid Waste Management facilities, as decided by the community structures themselves. The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) will be applicable only to towns/cities with population upto 5 Lakhs, as per the 1991 Census. UWEP will provide opportunities for wage-employment, especially for the unskilled and semi-skilled migrants/residents by creation of community assets. Special emphasis will be on the construction of community assets in low-income neighbourhoods with a strong involvement and participation of local communities⁸.

The material: labour ratio for works under this programme shall be maintained at 60:40. However, States/UTs can relax this material: labour ratio up to 10% (either way), wherever absolutely necessary. The prevailing minimum wage rate, as notified from time to time for each area shall be paid to beneficiaries under this programme. Community Development Societies (CDSs) shall survey and draw up a list of available basic minimum services in their areas. Missing basic minimum services shall be first identified. Other requirements of physical infrastructure shall be listed thereafter. As far as possible, works are to be executed through CDSs, under the general control and supervision of the ULBs. ULBs are expected to maintain a close watch over the

⁸ <http://www.tn.gov.in/dtp/sjsry-scheme.htm> accessed on 4/4/2015

quality of construction. Work must be done departmentally and detailed guidelines as regards maintenance of muster rolls, social audit etc. will be issued in this regard by the concerned State/UT Governments. In all cases it must be ensured that the works undertaken under UWEP are brought to a safe stage and no work is left incomplete or pending half-way. In case of cost escalation, or expansion in the nature of the work, or increase in the project estimate for any other reason whatsoever, and if additional funds are not available under this programme, it shall be the basic responsibility of the sanctioning authority/implementing authority i.e. Urban Local Body /District Urban Development Agency to ensure the completion of such works by bringing in additional resources from other programmes / own resources, if so required. The SJSRY Guidelines envisage the setting up of a dedicated cadre/service of officers specializing in urban poverty alleviation /community mobilization and development for supporting the implementation of urban poverty alleviation and related programmes in States/UTs. These officers are to be appointed at ULB/District/State levels, with suitable promotion avenues, for implementation of various urban poverty alleviation schemes including SJSRY with a professional approach. Progress of SJSRY will be monitored at the National level through Quarterly Progress Reports. Poverty Alleviation, supported by select resource centres/agencies, will be undertaken on regular basis to review the actual implementation at ground level. Periodic review

meetings will also be held at National/State level for reviewing the performance of the Scheme⁹.

Integrated Development of Small AND Medium Towns (IDSMT)

The Government of India (GOI) launched a centrally sponsored scheme of “Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns” (IDSMT) in December 1979, during the 6th Five Year Plan to slow down the increasing trend of migration from small and medium towns to large cities by providing infrastructure and generating economic growth and employment in the small and medium towns¹⁰.

The main objectives of the IDSMT are

1. To provide infrastructure facilities and helping in creation of durable public assets in small and medium towns having potential to emerge as regional centre of economic growth and employment;
2. To decentralize economic growth and employment opportunities;
3. To increase the availability of service sites for housing, commercial and industrial uses and to promote the principles of planned and orderly spatial development;
4. To integrate spatial and socioeconomic planning; and

⁹ <http://www.rbi.org.in/commonman/English/scripts/Notification.aspx?Id=1240>, accessed on 1/12/2014

¹⁰(http://www.saiindia.gov.in/english/home_Our_Products/Audit_Report/Government_Wise/local_bodies/Issued_State_Govt/Himachal/2007_2008/ulb-chap3.pdf) accessed 22/11/2014

5. To promote resource generating schemes for Urban local bodies to improve their overall financial position and ability.

The guidelines for implementing the IDSMT Scheme were last revised in August, 1995. The salient features of the Revised Scheme are:-

(1) The scheme will be implemented only in towns with elected local body

(2) Scheme extended to towns having population up to 5 lakhs.

(3) Increase in the ceiling limits and change in the nature of budgetary support from soft loan to a grant.

(4) Reduction in the quantum of institutional finance loan component from 40.70% to 20-40% of the project cost.

(5)The components for assistance will include works as per civil/Town Development/Master Plans which may have city wide significance. Some of the components are: strengthening/ upgradation of Master Plans roads (including street lighting) and drains, sites and services, markets and development of bus/truck terminals and shopping Complexes, tourist amenities, parks, playgrounds, etc.

(6) At the Central level, monitoring and evaluation of IDSMT projects is carried out by the Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO).

The Central and State grants will flow to a Revolving Fund at the municipal level. However, depending on the nature of projects, only 25% of the Central and State shares could be accounted for as outright grants from the Fund in the case of non-remunerative projects. The remaining 75% of the grants would be treated as a corpus to be returned to the Revolving Fund for self-sustaining development of infrastructure¹¹.

Slum Development in Assam

District Development Plan (DDP): Govt. of Assam has decided to introduce the concept of District Development Plan from the year 2006-07. This Development Plan would provide freedom to the district administration to take up development schemes according to the needs and priority of each district and would also cater to the needs of women and weaker sections of the society. The plan addresses problem of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and fill the critical gaps in physical and social structures in the districts. The District Planning and Monitoring Committee (DPMC) prepare detailed District Development plan every year on annual basis based on a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat) Analysis, review ongoing schemes and identify a few lead sectors where in fresh intervention would help the district to overcome major bottlenecks in development. The additionality of fund to be provided through this plan (District Development Plan) is to be used to meet local needs and aspiration of people that would make a dent on the poverty and unemployment of the district in a time bound manner. In order to prepare the

¹¹ <http://mhupa.gov.in/pdf/performance/2002-2003/3.pdf> accessed on 9/3/2015

District Development Plan the Planning & Development Department has framed the guidelines. In the District Development Plan, emphasis is given on improving agricultural productivity, infrastructure development, development of women and weaker sections, increasing employment opportunities and reduction of poverty. Every year fund will be released from Planning and Development Department to districts on lump sum basis that would be worked out through a composite index based on population, geographical area and backwardness of district. The fund will be released in instalments. However, at the very beginning of the financial year, the districts will be intimated about the quantum of fund that would be available to them for the next financial year. The fund released during the financial year shall be utilized invariably during that financial year. The release of fund would also depend upon satisfactory progress of the implementation of District Development Plan. The District Planning and Monitoring Committee (DPMC) will prepare the District Development Plan through the officials of development sectors in the district. The plan has to be approved by the DPMC in its meeting convened for the purpose before the same is sent to the Head Quarter of Planning and Development Department at Dispur for its approval. The planning and Development Department scrutinises the District Development Plan in its entirety. After appraisal of the plan of districts, approval of the same will be intimated to district concerned. Release of fund will take place after the approval is intimated. The Planning and Development Department will be at liberty to effect change in the District Development Plan. The Planning and Development Department will be the nodal department for implementation,

monitoring and evaluation of the scheme. While preparing District Development Plan, the flow of funds from all sources namely State Plan, Centrally sponsored schemes, externally aided projects etc. are to be kept in mind along with specific schemes for the additionality under the District Development Plan. Care should be taken to allocate funds under the District Development Plan only to the few schemes conceived and that no duplication of allocation of funds to same scheme is ensured. However, the fund could also be used as an additionality only for expanded coverage of schemes for which funding from other sources including normal state plan, centrally sponsored schemes, central sector schemes, externally aided project etc. are available on being satisfied about the level of utilization of already available resources. The Schemes to be selected under District Development Plan are to be from decentralized sectors (34 sectors) of development. Further the schemes should be based on schemes already approved by the planning commission for the year concerned under Annual Plan. The target under 20 point and 15-point programme of the Government of India should be achieved through the implementation of schemes under the District Development Plan in consonance with other state plan schemes. Adequate attention should be given on Gender Equality in selecting and implementing schemes under District Development Plan and expenditure made for women development programme should be separately shown in the progress report. A chapter on programme taken for women development should be included in the plan. The benefits from the fund made available to districts under the Plan should be maximized through inter sectoral linkages. The fund to be released under the plan should also be used to

leverage a larger plan size through correlation with banking sector and beneficiary contribution. 5% of the total fund shall be earmarked for bankable schemes in any sector. The cost effectiveness of all schemes should be carefully considered so that returns from the funds under the schemes are maximized. People's participation and involvement of NGOs and Self-Help Groups should be ensured at every stage of plan formulation, implementation and monitoring. NGOs and Self Help Groups may also be involved in awareness building. At least 10% of the total fund under the plan should be earmarked for development of agriculture while emphasis should be given for development of women and weaker sections of the society. Employment related schemes and vocational training need special attention, especially in the districts where unemployment is more. However, schemes for self-employment may be based on credit rather than subsidy. Therefore, each project should be made a bankable enterprise and subject to appraisal and banking discipline. Funds should not be used to prop up ailing Government funded cooperative enterprise. The aim is to encourage self-employment generating activities through assistance to self-help groups. The District Development Plan fund should not be used for construction or renovation of administrative building, Establishment costs/ salary of officials and other such schemes. The sustainability of the assets created out of the fund released under District Development Plan should be ensured. In case of community assets the procedure for maintenance through the community should be well laid down in the schemes. The public Committee that will run the assets

should charge fee to the individuals using the assets to create a corpus fund for maintenance of the assets¹².

Assam Public Health Engineering Department (APHED) Assam Public Health Engineering Department (APHED) is the nodal State Government's department for the water supply and sanitation programmes of Assam. APHED has been serving the people of the state since 1956. The Dept. is responsible for ensuring safe hygiene through Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) as well as providing safe drinking water. APHED has provided drinking water facility in Itkhola Ghat Slum Pocket in Silchar. Thus these programmes introduced by the govt, for the benefit of the people of Itkhola Ghat. Unlike Government, the NGO has no separate implementing machineries for the execution of improvement programmes¹³.

So far the researcher has highlighted various policies and programmes initiated by government towards upliftment of slums living in town and cities. Government policies are formulated properly but its implementation are done very slowly or improperly for which slum condition is still worst in India.

The researcher has highlighted government policies and programmes for slums of the area under study. The researcher has also highlighted role of some local NGOs which work for betterment of slum in this town.

¹² Planning and Development Department: Govt. of Assam, 2006

¹³ <http://www.assam.gov.in/public-health-engineering> accessed on 15/8/2014

Slum Improvement Programmes in Silchar Town: Like other cities and towns of India slum improvement programmes are also started in Silchar town for improvement slum pockets. The study reveals that government has released funds to improve the conditions of slum under study but the progress of the implementation is not smooth everywhere. The funds are released for development schemes under various programmes initiated by government like Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Urban Wage Employment Programme(UWEP) of SJSRY, 3rd State Finance Commission (2010-2011), 12th Finance Commission (TFC) 2008-2009 & 2009- 2010, District Development Plan of Assam (DDP), Assam Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Assam Entry Tax .

The following table highlights the slum improvement programmes of Silchar town funded by government of India and Assam.

Table 5.1
Government schemes for Slum Improvement in Kalibari Char

Name of the work (scheme)	Programme / Fund	Status
Construction of drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir, Kalibarichar	Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)	completed
Improvement of drain cum slab at Kalibarichar	Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)	completed
Improvement of Shanti Colony at Kalibarichar	Urban Wage Employment Programme(UWEP) of SJSRY	completed
Improvement of Dacai patty at Kalibarichar	3 rd State Finance Commission (2010-2011)	completed
Improvement of Ghata Colony Road, Kalibarichar	12 th Finance Commission (TFC) 2008-2009 & 2009-2010	completed
Construction of drain at Kalibarichar	3 rd State Finance Commission 2010-2011	on going

Source: Data Collected from Kalibari Char slum pocket

Slum improvement programmes in *Kalibari Char* is described in the above table. It is observed that several schemes are formulated under various programmes initiated for slum improvement at *Kalibari Char*. Construction of drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir of Kalibari Char is a scheme formulated under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) followed by Improvement of drain cum slab at Kalibarichar formulated under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Improvement of Shanti Colony at Kalibarichar under Urban Wage Employment Programme(UWEP) of SJSRY, Improvement of Dacaipatty at Kalibarichar is under 3rd State Finance Commission (2010-2011), Improvement of Ghata Colony Road, Kalibarichar is under 12th Finance Commission (TFC) 2008-2009 & 2009- 2010, Construction of drain at Kalibarichar under 3rd State Finance Commission 2010-2011. It is reported by the government officials that all the schemes initiated for improvement of slum pocket of Kalibari Char are completed on time except one scheme which is currently being implemented and within few months the scheme will be completed.

TABLE-5.2
Improvement Programmes in Itkhola Ghat Slum pocket

Name of work (scheme)	Programme / Fund	Status
Improvement of Netaji Nagar Road	Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)	Completed
Improvement of Kalicharan Road	District Development Plan (DDP)	Completed
Concrete Casting Drain at Kalicharan Road	District Development Plan (DDP)	Completed
Improvement of Netaji Nagar, Bishari(Manasha) Bari Bylane	District Development Plan (DDP)	Ongoing
Water Supply	Public Health Engineering (PHE)	Ongoing

Source: Data collected from Itkhola Ghat slum pocket

It is observed from the above table that for improvement of *Itkhola Ghat* slum pocket also government has sanctioned money. Various schemes formulated under different programmes are as follows. Improvement of Netaji Nagar Road is done under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Improvement of Kalicharan Road is done under District Development Plan (DDP) Assam, Concrete Casting Drain at Kalicharan Road is done under District Development Plan (DDP) Assam, Improvement of Netaji Nagar, Bishari (Manasha) Bari Bylane is done under District Development Plan (DDP) and Water Supply in Itkhola Ghat is provided under Public Health Engineering department government of Assam. All the schemes are completed on time except two schemes viz Itkholaghat, Netaji Nagar, Bishari Bari Bylane and water supply in Itkhola Ghat which are under construction as per information provided by government officials.

Table 5.3
Improvement programme in Madhura Ghat Slum Pocket

Name of the work (scheme)	Programme / Fund	Status
Water Supply	Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)	Ongoing
Earthfilling at Madhura Ghat	District Development Plan (DDP)	Completed
Improvement of Road	12 th Finance Commission	Completed
Construction of Drain	12 th Finance Commission	Completed
Improvement of drain and road	Assam Entry Tax	proposed

Source: Data collected from Madhura Ghat slum pocket

It is observed from the above table that for improvement of *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket also government has sanctioned money. Various schemes formulated under different programmes are as follows. Water supply in Madhura Ghat is done under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), earth filling at Madhura Ghat slum pocket is done under District Development Plan (DDP) Assam, road improvement at Madhura Ghat is done under 12th finance commission, construction

of drain at Madhura Ghat is done under 12th Finance Commission, improvement of drain is done under Assam entry tax. All the schemes are completed on time except water supply scheme. The scheme improvement of drain and road is proposed and yet to be sanctioned.

Awareness on Government Schemes: It is observed from the study that various improvement programmes are initiated in three slum pockets under study with a view to improve the condition of slum pockets. It is important to know whether respondents are aware of the schemes implemented in their locality. The following table highlights the awareness of respondents of *Itkhola Ghat* slum pocket.

Table No 5.4
Respondents' awareness on various schemes at Itkhola Ghat

Schemes	No. of respondents
Only Improvement of Netaji Nagar Road	7 (6.73%)
Improvement of Kalicharan Road & Netaji Nagar Road	13 (12.5%)
Improvement of Manasha Bari Bylane, Kalicharan Road & Netaji Nagar Road	10 (9.62%)
Water supply, Manasha Bari Bylane, Kalicharan Road & Netaji Nagar Road	22 (21.15%)
Aware of all the schemes	32 (30.77%)
Not Aware at all	20 (19.23%)
Total	104 (100%)

Source: Data collected from Itkhola Ghat slum pocket

The figures in the table narrate the awareness of respondents about various schemes under different programmes that are introduced for the benefit of the people of the area. 7(6.73%) of the respondents only know about Improvement of Netaji Nagar Road, 13 (12.5%) respondents are aware about Improvement of both Kalicharan Road and Netaji Nagar road, 10 (9.62%)

respondents know about improvement of Manasha Bari Bylane, Kalicharan Road & Netaji Nagar Road, 22(21.15%) respondents are aware about water supply, Manasha Bari Bylane, Kalicharan Road & Netaji Nagar Road, 32(30.77%) are aware of all the schemes mentioned above. It is observed that 20(19.23%) respondents do not know any of the schemes for the improvement of their locality.

It is observed from the study that respondents of Itkhola Ghat are aware about schemes only. Most of the respondents are unaware of the programmes under which the schemes are implemented.

Table 5.5
Respondents' awareness of government programmes in Itkhola Ghat

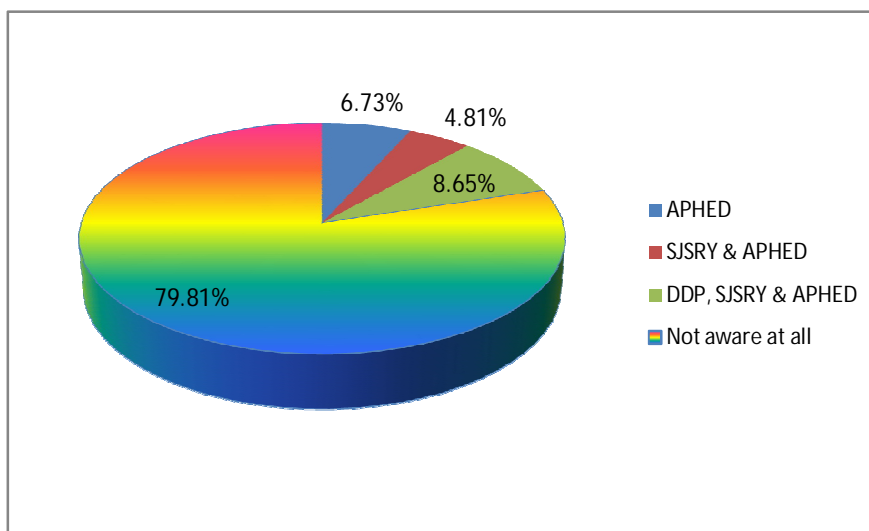
Programmes	No. of respondents
APHED	7(6.73%)
SJSRY & APHED	5 (4.81%)
DDP, SJSRY & APHED	9 (8.65%)
Not aware at all	83(79.81%)
Total	104(100%)

Source: Data Collected from Itkhola Ghat slum pocket

The above table displays the awareness level of respondents about the various slum development programmes introduced by the Government. Out of 104 respondents 7 (6.73%) of them have heard about Assam Public Health Engineering (APHED), 5 (4.81%) of them have heard about Swarna Jayanti shehari Rozgar Yojana(SJSRY) and Assam Public Health Engineering (APHED), 9 (8.65%) respondents know about District Development Plan

(DDP), Swarna Jayanti Shehari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Assam Public Health Engineering (APHED). Majority of the respondents 83 (79.81%) do not know about programmes under which improvement schemes are started in their locality.

Fig. 5.1 : Respondents' awareness of government programmes in Itkhola Ghat



**Table 5.6
Respondents' Awareness on various schemes in Madhura Ghat**

Schemes	No. of respondents
Water supply and Construction of drain	6 (10.34%)
Water supply and Improvement of Road	8 (13.79%)
Water supply, Earth filling at Madhura Ghat, Improvement of road	7 (12.07%)
Above all programmes	30(51.72%)
Completely Ignorant	7(12.07%)
Total	58 (100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from Madhura Ghat slum pocket

The above table displays the picture that respondents are aware about the improvement initiatives under different programmes in Madhura Ghat. 6

(10.34%) respondents are aware about Water supply and construction of drain, 8 (13.79%) said that they know about water supply and improvement of road, 7(12.07%) respondents know about Water supply, Earth filling at Madhura Ghat and improvement of road, 30 (51.72%) respondents know about above all schemes, 7 (12.07%) said that they are completely ignorant about any scheme.

Fig. 5.2 : Respondents' Awareness on various schemes in Madhura Ghat

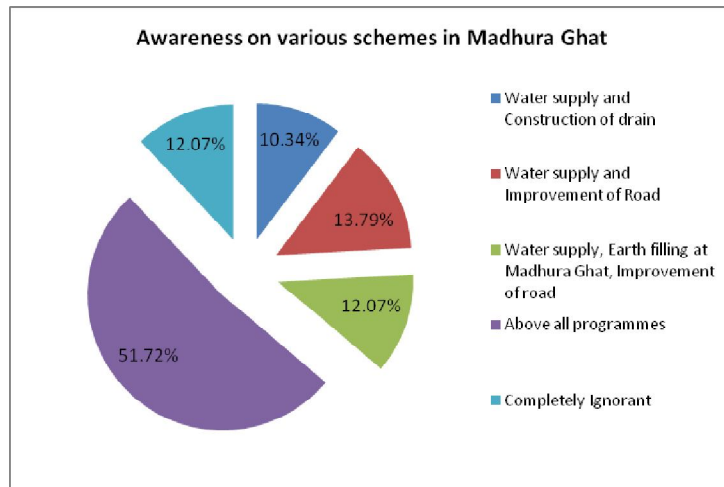


Table 5.7
Respondents' awareness on various govt. programmes in Madhura Ghat Slum Pocket

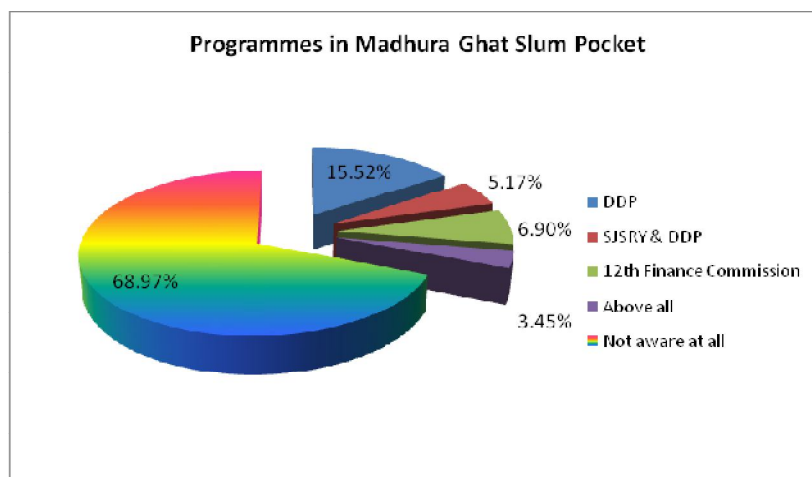
Programmes	No of respondents
DDP	9 (15.52%)
SJSRY & DDP	3 (5.17%)
12 th Finance Commission	4 (6.90%)
Above all	2 (3.45%)
Not aware at all	40 (68.97%)
Total	58 (100%)

Source: Data Collected from Madhura Ghat slum pocket

In Madhura Ghat out of 58 respondents 9(15.52%) of them have heard about (DDP), 3(5.17%) of them have heard about Swarna Jayanti Shehari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and DDP 4(6.90%) respondents know about 12th

Finance Commission. Only 2(3.45%) respondents know about all above programmes. Majority of the respondents 40(68.97%) do not know about programmes under which improvement schemes are started in their locality.

Fig. 5.3 : Respondents' awareness on various govt. programmes in Madhura Ghat Slum Pocket



It is observed from the study that respondents of Madhura Ghat are also aware about schemes only. Most of the respondents are unaware of the programmes under which the schemes are implemented.

**Table No 5.8
Respondents' awareness on various schemes at Kalibari Char**

Schemes	No. of respondents
Construction of drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir only	20 (4.20%)
Improvement of drain cum slab at Kalibarichar & drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir	26 (5.46%)
Improvement of Shanti Colony, drain cum slab at Kalibarichar & drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir	27 (5.67%)
Improvement of Dacaiipatty, Shanti Colony, drain cum slab at Kalibarichar & drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir	39 (8.19%)
Improvement of Ghata Colony Road, Dacaiipatty, Shanti Colony, drain cum slab at Kalibarichar & drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir	78 (16.39%)
Construction of drain at Kalibarichar and Above all	266 (55.88%)
Not aware at all	20 (4.20%)
Total	476 (100%)

Source: Data collected from Kalibari Char slum pocket.

The figures in the table narrate the awareness of respondents about various schemes under different programmes that are introduced for the benefit of the people of their area. 20 (4.20%) of the respondents only know about Construction of drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir, 26(5.46%) respondents are aware about Improvement of drain cum slab at Kalibarichar & drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir, 27 (5.67%) respondents know about Improvement of Shanti Colony, drain cum slab at Kalibarichar & drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir , 39 (8.19%) respondents are aware about Improvement of Daccaipatty, Shanti Colony, drain cum slab at Kalibarichar & drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir, 78 (16.39%) know about Improvement of Ghata Colony Road, Daccaipatty, Shanti Colony, drain cum slab at Kalibarichar & drain cum road near Lokenath Mandir, 266(55.88%) respondents know about Construction of drain at Kalibari char and Above all. It is observed that 20 (4.20%) respondent are not at all aware about any schemes.

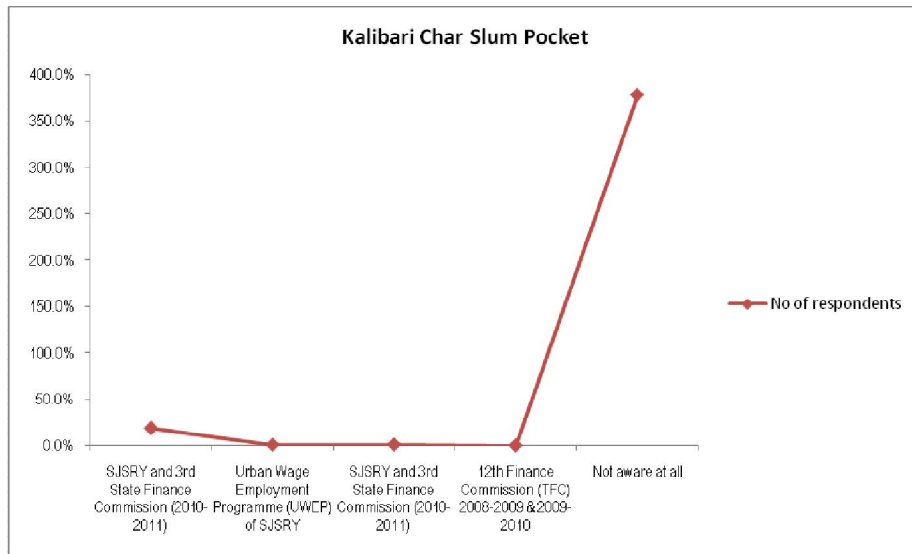
Table 5.9
Respondents' awareness on various govt. programmes in Kalibari Char Slum Pocket

Programmes	No of respondents
SJSRY	89 (18.70%)
Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) of SJSRY	4 (0.84%)
SJSRY and 3rd State Finance Commission (2010-2011)	5 (1.05%)
12th Finance Commission (TFC) 2008-2009 & 2009- 2010	-
Not aware at all	378 (79.41%)
Total	476 (100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from Kalibari Char slum pocket

In Kalibari Char out of 476 respondents 89 (18.70%) of them have heard SJSRY, 4(0.84%) of them have heard about Urban Wage Employment programme of Swarna Jayanti shehari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), 5(1.05%) know about SJSRY and 3rd State Finance Commission and 378 are completely unaware about all the programmes.

Fig. : 5.4 : Respondents' awareness on various govt. programmes in Kalibari Char Slum Pocket



It is observed from the study that like Madhura Ghat and Itkhola Ghat the respondents of Kalibari Char are also aware about schemes only. Most of the respondents of Kalibari Char are unaware of the programmes under which the schemes are implemented.

Role of NGO for slum improvement: Non Government Organisations based at Silchar town of Cachar district are also working in slum areas. As reported by NGO officials NGOs are working in different segments like education, health, land disputes, electrification, flood and many other problems

to solve the problem of slums of Silchar town. There are four NGOs in Silchar town which are working in the sample slums pockets. These are Swamiji Welfare Society, Cachar Mohila Samiti, Red Cross Society and Rotary Club. It is observed from the study that two NGOs viz. Red Cross Society and Rotary Club are known to majority of the respondents under study. Swamiji Welfare Society and Cachar Mahila Samiti are mainly known by the respondents of Itkhola Ghat only, other respondents are not much aware of these two NGOs because they are not providing any service to other slum pockets.

Table 5.10
Respondents' Membership of any NGO

Slum pocket	Yes	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	1(1.72%)	57(98.28%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	2(1.92%)	102(98.08%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	-	476(100%)	476(100%)
Total	3(0.47%)	635(99.53%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

The above table displays that in *Madhura Ghat* slum pocket out of 58 respondents only 1(1.72%) respondents are member of NGO and 57(98.28%) respondents are not members of any NGO. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 104 respondents 2(1.92%) respondents are member of NGO and 102(98.08%) are not the member of any NGO. In *Kalibari Char* none of the respondents are member of NGO. Thus out of total 638 respondents 3(0.47%) respondents are members of NGO and 635(99.53%) are not members of NGO.

Fig. 5.5 : Respondents' Membership of any NGO

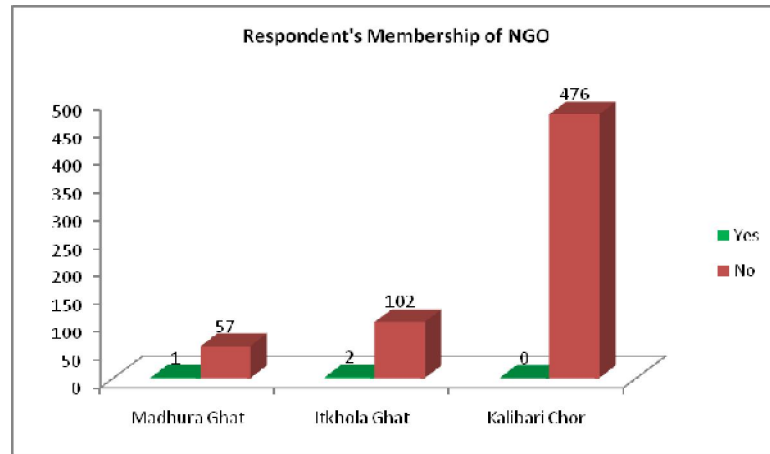


Table 5.11

Respondents aware of the various improvement initiative by Swamiji Welfare Society

Slum Pockets	Electrification	Sanitation	Education	Water supply	Flood Relief	Prohibiting alcohol and drug addiction	Settle land disputes	All benefits	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17
Itkhola Ghat	6 (12.77 %)	7 (14.89 %)	4 (8.51 %)	5 (10.64%)	6 (12.77 %)	9 (19.15%)	3 (6.38%)	7 (14.89%)		47 (100 %)
Kalibari Char	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	--

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

The above table displays the awareness of respondents about Swamiji Welfare Society. In Madhura Ghat only 17 respondents out of 58 know about Swamiji Welfare Society but none of the respondents are aware of any improvement taken by the NGO. In Kalibari char none of the respondents have heard about Swamiji Welfare Society.

The respondents who are aware of Swamiji welfare society are asked to specify the improvement initiatives taken by the NGO in their locality. In Itkhola Ghat out of 104 respondents only 47 respondents are aware of Swamiji Welfare Society. Those 47 respondents were asked about the improvement initiative taken by Swamiji Welfare Society. Out of 47 respondents 6(12.77%) of them are aware of the electrification provided to them, 7(14.89%) know about activities of this NGO on sanitation, 4(8.51%) said that this NGO is working on education, 5(10.64%) said that this NGO is working for water supply, 6(12.77%) know about flood relief provided by it, 9(19.15%) know about its role on prohibiting alcohol and drug addiction, 3(6.38%) are aware of land dispute settlement by the NGO and 7(14.89%) know of all the benefits given by the NGO.

Table 5.12
Red Cross Society

Slum pocket	Eye testing	Eye operation	Providing medicines	All benefits	No	Total
Madhura Ghat				47(81.03%)	11(18.97%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	25(30.12%)	8(9.64%)	12(14.46%)	21(25.30%)	17(20.48%)	83(100%)
Kalibari Char	33(16.42%)		45(22.39%)	107(53.23%)	16(7.96%)	201(100%)
Total	58(16.96%)	8(2.34%)	57(16.67%)	175(51.17%)	44(12.87%)	342(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* all the 58 respondents are aware of Redcross Society which is working actively in their locality. Out of 58 respondents 47(81.03%) respondents are aware of all the benefits like Eye treatment, Eye operation and Providing medicines and 11(18.97%) are not aware of any of the programmes of this NGO. In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 104 respondents 83 respondents are aware

of *Redcross Society*. Out of 83 respondents 25(30.12%) are aware of eye treatment initiative taken by this NGO, 8(9.64%) respondents know about the eye operation programmes, 12(14.46%) respondents know that Red Cross society to provide medicines, 21(25.30%) know about all the benefits given by Redcross Society and 17(20.48%) respondents are unaware of any improvement initiatives taken by Redcross Society. In *Kalibari Char* out of 476 respondents 201 respondents know about Redcross Society. Those 201 respondents were further ask about the improvement programmes taken in their slum pocket. Out of 201 respondents 33(16.42%) respondents know about eye testing initiatives taken by Red Cross society, 45(22.39%) respondents know that medicines are provided by this NGO, 107(53.23%) respondents say that they are aware off all the benefits given by Red Cross Society and 16(7.96%) are completely unaware of any improvement initiatives taken by Red Cross society.

Thus out of total 342 respondents who are aware of the Redcross Society, 58(16.96%) are aware of eye testing programmes, 8(2.34%) are aware of eye operation programme 57(16.67%) respondents say that Red cross Society also provide medicines, 175(51.17%) are aware of all the benefits given by the NGO and 44(12.87%) are completely unaware of any benefits taken by Red cross Society.

Table 5.13
Rotary Club

Slum pocket	Immunization camp	Child health care camp	Vaccination	Mother care	Heart care	Rotary Functional Literary school	All benefits	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	4 (11.76%)	-	8 (23.53%)				5 (14.71 %)	17 (50%)	34 (100%)
Itkhola Ghat	11 (16.67%)		14 (21.21 %)	12 (18.18%)	7 (10.61 %)	9 (13.64 %)	-	13 (19.70%)	66 (100.01%)
Kalibari Char	50 (15.82%)	38 (12.03%)	46 (14.56%)				81 (25.63 %)	101 (31.96%)	316 (100%)
Total	65 (15.53%)	38 (16.35%)	68 (16.35%)	12 (2.88 %)	7 (1.68 %)	9 (2.16%)	86 (20.67)	131 (31.49%)	416 (100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

The above table displays the awareness of the respondents about the initiatives of the Rotary club. In *Madhura Ghat* out of total 58 respondents, 34 respondents know about Rotary Club. The 34 respondents were further asked to spell out the initiative taken by Rotary club. Out of 34 respondents 4(11.76%) respondents are aware of Immunization Camp, 8(23.53%) respondents are aware of vaccination, 5(14.71%) respondents are aware of all the benefits and 17(50%) respondents are unaware of any improvement initiatives.

In *Itkhola Ghat* out of 104 respondents 66 respondents know about Rotary Club. The 66 respondents were further asked to mention about the improvement programmes taken by Rotary club. Out of 66 respondents 11(16.67%) are aware of immunization camp held by this NGO, 14(21.21%) respondents are aware of vaccination programmes taken by Rotary Club, 12(18.18%) are aware of mother care initiative taken by Rotary Club,

7(10.61%) are familiar with the heart care programmes taken by Rotary Club, 9(13.64%) are familiar with Rotary Functional Literary School and 13(19.70%) are completely unaware of any improvement initiative taken by Rotary Club.

In *Kalibari Char* out of 476 respondents 316 respondents know about Rotary club. The 316 respondents who are aware of the functioning of Rotary club are asked mention the improvement activities of Rotary Club. Out of 316 respondents 50(15.82%) are aware of Immunization Camp, 38(12.03%) are of aware of Child health Care Camp, 46(14.56%) know about vaccination programmes taken by *Rotary Club* and 81(25.63%) respondents are aware of all the benefits taken by the *Rotary Club* and 101(31.96%) respondents are unaware of any improvement initiatives taken by the *Rotary Club*.

Thus out of total 416 respondents who are aware of Rotary club, 65(15.63%) are aware of Immunization Camp, 38(9.13%) are aware of child health care camp, 68(16.35%) respondents know about Vaccination initiative, 12(2.88%) respondents know about mother care, 7(1.68%) know about heart care, 9(2.16%) know about Rotary Functional Literary School, 86(20.67%) respondents are aware of all the benefits given by Rotary Club and 131(31.49%) respondents unaware of any improvement initiatives taken by Rotary Club.

Table 5.14
Cachar Mohila Samiti

Slum pocket	Child Development programme	Women empowerment programme	Relief camp for flood victims	Health programmes	All benefits	No	Total
Madhura Ghat	1 (16.67%)	1(16.67%)				4 (66.67%)	6 (100.01%)
Itkhola Ghat	6(11.54%)	2(3.85%)	5 (9.62%)	4 (7.69%)	1 (1.92%)	34 (65.38%)	52 (100%)
Kalibari Char	-	--	--	-	-	-	-
Total	7(12.07%)	3(5.17%)	5(8.62%)	4(6.90%)	1(1.72%)	38(65.52%)	58(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

In *Madhura Ghat* out of 58 respondents 6 respondents are aware of Cachar Mohila Samiti. Out of 6 respondents 1(16.67%) respondent is aware of Child Development Programme, 1(16.67%) is aware of Women empowerment programme and 4(66.67%) are completely unaware of any improvement programme taken by the NGO.

In *Itkhola Ghat* Out of 104 respondents, 52 respondents are aware of Cachar Mohila Samiti. Out of 52 respondents 6(11.54%) respondents are aware of Child Development programme, 2(3.85%) respondents know about Women empowerment Programme, 5(9.62%) know about the flood relief camp organised by Cachar Mohila Samiti, 4(7.69%) know about the health programmes organized by this NGO, 1(1.92%) respondent is aware of all the benefits of *Cachar Mohila Samiti* and 34(65.38%) respondents are completely unaware of any improvement initiatives taken by *Cachar Mohila Samiti*.

Respondents in Kalibari char are completely unaware about Cachar Mohila Samiti.

Thus out of total 58 respondents, 7(12.07%) know about Child Development programme, 3(5.17%) are aware of women empowerment programme, 5(8.62%) know about the relief camp for flood victims, 4(6.90%) are aware of the health programme and 1(1.72%) are aware of all the programmes and 38(65.52%) are completely unaware of any programmes.

Thus the aware of the respondents about the NGO programme is quite low.

Table 5.15(a)
Do the government officials/ ward commissioner/ NGOs arouse your interest in the slum development activities?

Slum pocket	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Madhura Ghat	13(22.41%)	30(51.72%)	15(25.86%)	58(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	18(17.31%)	71(68.27%)	15(14.42%)	104(100%)
Kalibari Char	225(47.27%)	251(52.73%)	-	476(100%)
Total	256(40.13%)	352(55.17%)	30(4.70%)	638(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

It is learnt from the above table that 13(22.41%) respondents of Madhura Ghat, 18(17.31%) respondents of Itkhola Ghat and 225(47.27%) respondents of Kalibari Char have given positive reply on this issue while 30(51.72%) of Madhura Ghat, 71(68.27%) of Itkhola Ghat and 251(52.73%) of Kalibari Char have given Negative reply. Besides 15(25.86%) in Madhura Ghat and 15(14.42%) in Itkhola Ghat are totally ignorant about the whole issue. Thus it reveals that the government officials/ ward commissioner/ NGOs have taken up fewer initiatives to arouse slum women's interest in slum developmental activities. Out of total respondents, 256(40.13%) respondents replied in positive

while 352(55.17%) of them replied in negative and 30(4.70%) are totally ignorant.

Table 5.15(b)
If yes then how do they arouse your interest?

Slum pocket	Holding public meeting	Informal discussion visiting the people	Informal consultation	Total
Madhura Ghat	7(53.85%)	6(46.15%)	-	13(100%)
Itkhola Ghat	8(44.44%)	10(55.56%)	-	18(100%)
Kalibari Char	49(21.78%)	176(78.22%)	-	225(100%)
Total	64	192		256(100%)

Source: Field Data Collected from slum pockets

The respondents who have given affirmative answers are further asked to spell out the measures adopted by slum development authorities in arousing people's interest in slum development activities. But the answers are very discouraging. Out of 13 respondents of Madhura Ghat who replied in affirmative, 7(53.85%) of them expressed that public meeting was convened to obtain opinion of the people and 6(46.15%) uttered that informal discussion was made by the authority by visiting the people. In Itkhola Ghat out of 18 respondents who gave positive reply, 8(44.44%) of them expressed that public meeting was convened to obtain opinion of the people while 10(55.56%) respondents answered that informal discussion was made by the authority. In Kalibari Char out of 225 respondents, 49(21.78%) answered that women's interest was aroused by holding public meeting and 176(78.22%) held that informal discussion was made by visiting the people.

Thus out of 256 respondents who have given positive reply, 64(25%) of them expressed that public meeting was convened to obtain opinion of the people while 192(75%) respondents answered that informal discussion was made by the authority. It is also expressed by the respondents that it is generally the male members of the family who participates in public meeting or informal discussion. However it is important to note that all such initiatives are taken in Case of government programmes but it does not happen in the programmes introduced by the NGOs. No NGO has taken any step to arouse people's interest, though empowerment of women is the most important objective of every NGO of the locality.

Conclusion: It is observed from the study that government of India and Assam are providing funds to eradicate the problems of slums of Silchar town. But it is the government officials in Cachar district who are responsible for implementing these programmes. It is observed that some development schemes are formulated and subsequently implemented in slum pockets of Silchar town. The policy makers should put much attention to the specific needs of slums before implementing any scheme so that it meets the desire of the slum community of Silchar town