



# SUBSISTENCE LIVELIHOOD AND ERRATIC SUBSTANTIALLY CRAMPED RESIDENTIAL CONDITIONS PREVAILS ALONG THE SLUMS OF KHARAGPUR CITY, WEST BENGAL

**Madhumita Ghosh**

Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Kalinga University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh  
Email id: madhumitageographia3@gmail.com

**Dr. A. Rajshekhar**

Professor, Department of Geography, Kalinga University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh  
Email id: a.rajshekhar@kalingauniversity.ac.in

---

**Article History: Received:** 01.06.2023      **Revised:** 22.06.2023      **Accepted:** 14.07.2023

---

## **Abstract**

An Urbanized or Sub-Urbanized area which is agglomerated with improper dwellings, meagre infrastructure where low level of income, unemployment, poverty ridden, haphazard infrastructure prevails along the slums. The overall income goes to feed and support the household and not for any sale. The men are alcoholic, tobacco, gudakhu addicted totally unemployed, the females are only the earning member of the family. Women empowerment cropped out along this region. Women are engaged in timber related industries, broomstick making, repairing of the tyres, different types of plantation medicinal plants are the main sources of employment. The residential living is of haphazard conditions dominate by the problem of sanitization. To explore the residential conditions and the subsistence of the living are the dominant objectives of the study. The wages are directly related to the structure of the residents and the nature of livelihood in slums. For a rapid development different policy, government support including the NGO's needed to be developed of the good fortune and prosperity in the slums.

**Key words:** Residential conditions, Subsistence living, Slums, Kharagpur city.

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

An agglomerated with improper dwellings, meagre infrastructure where low level of income, unemployment, poverty ridden, haphazard conditions prevails along the slums. The total number of slums in the Kharagpur city is 11,114 in which 52,610 population inhabits. Out of a total number of 11 slums in which 396 households with a total population of 1704 lives are chosen

purposively on the basis of the sample. The city of Kharagpur has listed in terms of area as 4<sup>th</sup> rank and in terms of population as 5<sup>th</sup> rank. The weather is dry, hot and a small duration of cold weather prevails with an average amount of precipitation. The transport network interlinked with each other by railways, roadways centered around the city. NH 6 (Kolkata Bombay) roadways are

connected around the city. The maximum and the minimum range of the humidity is found along the month of August and January. The rate of literacy is more among the males as compared to the females.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Residential status of slums and the subsistence living type of the slum dwellers are the major objectives in the field of study.

### **HYPOTHESIS**

Income and unemployment are related directly with the residential conditions including the housing, types of different houses its infrastructure – walls, floor, roof, courtyard etc. Most of the earning are subsistence type, goes to feed and support the households and not earned for any sale.

### **STUDY REGION**

The city of Kharagpur has a total population of 2,99,693 according to the census 2011 including the different blocks and the total population in the municipality is 2,07,604 as per the census 2011. This city extended from 22°32'N latitudes and 87°32'E longitudes and above 127 sq.km above the sea level. The most urbanized, capitalized, densely populated, largest in terms of area found along this city. In terms of length, it is the fourth longest platform of the world of length 1072.5 metres. The South Eastern railways dissected the overall city.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The total number of slums in the Kharagpur city is 11,114 in which 52,610 population inhabits. The data collected by the process of interview and schedule are the primary data type from different types of field observations like the participant's type. On the basis of the structure of income the slum dwellers families are classified. Above 15000/- monthly income is of a medium level, (10000-15000)/- monthly income is within a range of low

medium level and within a range of (5000-10000)/- monthly income comes within the range of low level and below a range of 5000/- comes under the category of very low level. It has been yet to know that after the keen observations that sluggish level of housing the nuclear family level is found more, maximum slum dwellers have their own houses with degraded mud build, congested atmosphere, void of space, thatched and asbestos houses build. The overall income goes to feed and support the household and not for any sale. The men are alcoholic, tobacco, gudakhu addicted totally unemployed, the females are only the earning member of the family. Women empowerment cropped out along this region. Women are engaged in timber related industries, broomstick making, repairing of the tyres, different types of plantation medicinal plants are the main sources of employment.

### **PROCESSING OF DATA**

The information and raw data are interpreted with various types of techniques related to statistical measures and different types of methods which are Analysis of the Variance (ANOVA), Analysis of the Co Variance (ANCOVA), Scatter Graphs and to analyzed the data used the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

### **SAMPLE SLUMS**

The sample slums are taken purposively of a total number of 11 slums along the 5 wards namely ward no 2, 14, 15, 27, 34 of a total number of households 396 in which 1704 population inhabits. Indigence and Ignorance instantly affect the residential level of the slums. The people

### **ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

A household survey is being conducted and it is been observed that based on the sluggish housing conditions maximum owners have their own house which is outnumbered by 338 and on the other side the rented house is only 39. On the basis of

the housing conditions the houses are divided into huts, kaccha, semi pucca and the kaccha house types which are divided on the basis of the income levels. The percentage of huts are more in a very low-income group like wise in case of kaccha house type percentage are more in low-income group, semi pucca house type percentage are more in low medium income group, pucca house type percentage are more in medium level income group. In the very low income group the number of rooms of the slum families are very meagre as compared to the low, low-medium and medium level of income. The roofs of the house's maximum are made of asbestos as compared to the cemented type. The house floor is of mud based or cemented. In maximum slum families the house courtyard is been there. The sunlight does not reach the houses as the houses are closely packed, agglomerated among one another. The overall income goes to feed and support the household and not for any sale. The men are alcoholic, tobacco, gudakhu addicted totally unemployed, the females are only the earning member of the family. Women empowerment cropped out along this region. Women are engaged in timber related industries, broomstick making, repairing of the tyres, different types of plantation medicinal plants are the main sources of employment. The residential living is of haphazard conditions dominate by the problem of sanitization.

### CONCLUSION

In the last part it can be estimated that different policy, government support including the NGO's needed to be developed for the good fortune and prosperity in the slums. Poverty, Illiteracy, Unemployment are the main causes for the degradation of such a suffocating atmosphere. A SPSS study been conducted between the income and the suffocating residential which shows a positive correlation of 0.63. Anganwadi, proper

recreational facilities are needed. Different types of Mahila Samiti Yojna support needed for the growth of women empowerment here.

### REFERENCES

1. Birdi, H.D., Residential condition and Urbanization in slums, New Delhi, Vidhi Publications, 1995.
2. Chandrakar, A.R., Subsistence living in the slums: A Case Study of Raigarh District Madhya Pradesh, Raipur, Vaibhav Prakashan, 1981.
3. Desai A.R. and S.D. Pillai, Slums and Urbanization, Mumbai, Popular Prakashan, 1972.
4. Dewan, A.P., Lack of infrastructure and residential conditions in the slums, Delhi, A.C. Specialist Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 1996.
5. Ford, James, Slums and Housing History Conditions and Policy, Cambridge, Harward University Press, 1936.