A Study of Demographic Characteristics of the People Living in Slums of Hisar, Haryana

SUKH DEV

Research Scholar (Sociology)

SKD University, Hanumangarh (Rajsthan)

DR. NAZMA KHATUN

Assistant Professor (Sociology)

SKD University, Hanumangarh (Rajsthan)

Abstract

For centuries, India has been a rural-dominated country. But this characteristic started changing after independence. With the rise of urbanization in the last few decades, urban society can also be further divided into parts – slum areas and non-slum areas. Since independence (1947) the expansion of 'slums' in India has been rapid. The 2011 slum census found that a total of 1662305 people live in slums in Haryana. The present research has been done with the aim of knowing the demographic characteristics and migration pattern of slums. In this research, descriptive research design, qualitative and quantitative methods have been used. This research is based on primary data. In this research, t-test and chi square test have been used to test the hypothesis. The result of the research shows that most of the people living in slums are migrants. There is a significant association between income and period of migration, difference in income between men and women, and income and place of migration. Government, NGOs and community should work together to improve the condition of slum dwellers and raise their standard of living.

Keywords: Demographic, slums, slum population, migration, socio economic.

1. Introduction

Social division is not a new phenomenon. Division of society has been going on since ancient times. It is also true that the basis of division has been different in different times. This division has been done on the basis of work, caste, religion, language, community, culture, class, region etc. One basis of division can also be done on the basis of place of residence. On this basis, society can be divided into rural and urban society. Since the increase in urbanization in the last few decades, urban society can also be further divided into parts - slum area and non-slum area. This division is not based on any characteristic rather this division creates a difference in the characteristics of those living in slums and those living in non-slums.

For centuries, India has been a rural-dominated country. But after independence, this characteristic started changing. In the 1990s, India adopted the path of New Economic Policy (LPG). This led to an increase in the pace of development in India. Due to positive correlation, urbanization also started increasing along with development. The city is an area of the country which is different and better than the rural areas in many respects. This area is considered to be the most prosperous area in terms of education, medical care, housing, as well as other basic facilities. Most of the people here belong to the upper and middle class. Their lifestyle is better than rural areas. Due to the middle and upper class, the secondary and tertiary sectors develop rapidly in urban areas. Due to this, there has been an increase in these employment opportunities as well. On the other hand, agriculture was the main source of employment in rural India. The pressure on the agricultural sector started increasing due to the rapid increase in population in rural areas as well. On the other hand, with the beginning of the era of mechanization in the agricultural sector, new employment opportunities started decreasing. The effect of this was that people started migrating from rural areas to urban areas. This migration increased the population of people living in cities at a faster rate than the housing and other facilities available there. Due to this, there was a lack of facilities for everyone in the city, but despite this, there was no decrease in the trend of people moving towards cities. The result of this was that a class of society emerged which started living in places which completely lacked the facilities of the prosperous parts of the city. This was named slum area. These slums lack social facilities and along with this unemployment, poverty, excessive crowding is also seen in them (Kyobutungi et al., 2008).

During the decade after 2001, while the population growth in rural areas was 12.3 percent, on the other hand, the population growth in urban areas was recorded at 31.8 percent during the same period (Gill & Devgun, 2015). Due to this overpopulation and lack of proper planning of urbanization, the number of slums and the number of people living in them is increasing rapidly in the urban areas of India. As fast as the slums are growing, the living conditions in them are also deteriorating at the same pace. This (slum) is that section of the society which lives in such conditions which hardly anyone would have imagined when the city was imagined. These settlements are different from other parts of the city in many ways such as social, economic, moral, cultural etc. Facilities like electricity, water, sewerage, sanitation, education, health etc. often reach the entrance of these settlements but never enter them. As a result, these slums are a blot on the urban landscape. Slum dwellers have poor health conditions (Kyobutungi et al., 2008). This has a negative impact on their social and economic status.

Since independence (1947), the expansion of slums in India has been rapid. Before independence, most slums were located near mills and factories (Bandyopadhyay &

Agrawal, 2013). But now these slums can be seen in every part of the city. The reason for this is rapid urbanization and migration to cities. In 2001, India had a slum population of 6.18 crore and it was estimated to be 10.47 crore by 2017 (Sen, 2010). In 2001, the estimated slum population in Haryana was 23.50 lakh and it was 38.43 percent of Haryana's urban population. At that time, Haryana had about 3 percent of India's total slum population. By 2017, the slum population in Haryana was estimated to have increased to 39.24 lakhs (Sen, 2010). The 2011 slum census found that a total of 1662305 people live in slums in Haryana. Just as Dharavi is the largest slum in not only India but also Asia, Faridabad ranks first in terms of slum population in Haryana, followed by Hisar district (Census, 2011). A total of 170462 people live in slums here. Hisar city in Hisar district, which is the research area, has a total slum population of 101962 people. Many studies show that the socio-economic condition of people living in slums is very poor. There is a difference in demographic characteristics based on the socio-economic status of all people. Therefore, the study of demographic characteristics of slum dwellers is important.

1.1 Meaning of Slum

The term 'slum' was first used in the early decades of the 19th century in London, England, for a settlement in which the houses were in a very dilapidated condition and uncleanliness was spread everywhere (Khanal & Khanal, 2022). But over time, many synonyms of the word 'slum' have come up. In its place, the words 'informal settlements', 'ghetto', 'squatter', 'shanty town,' etc. have started being used (Singh, 2016). Then even in a country, they are known by different names in different cities. In India, they are known by the names 'Gandi Basti', Katara, Jhuggi, Cheri, Ahata, Chawals etc. These are such narrow settlements that it is not easy to even pass through them. The condition of basic amenities like sewerage, electricity, education, roads, health, water etc. is very poor (Goswami & Kedia, 2010). Due to this, these people live a very poor life or are just breathing in the name of living. According to UN-HABITAT, 2024, people living in slums are facing very complex challenges. Every aspect of their life is filled with negativity. If there is any positive thing in their life, then it is that they are alive.

1.2 Definitions of Slum

"Where households lack at least one of the following: durable housing, sufficient living space, secure tenure, and access to safe water or adequate sanitation." UN-HABITAT.

"A compact area with a high population density, characterized by poorly constructed, congested dwellings, often lacking basic amenities like sanitation and drinking water, and situated in unsanitary conditions." Haryana state Government.

2. Review of Literature

In 'demographic' analysis, the caste, religion, literacy, age group, marital status and income etc. of the population of a particular place are studied and scientific methods are used in this study. Many researchers have done demographic studies of slums. Panday (2019) found that the number of people of Hindu religion in Mumbai is the highest (80%) compared to all other religions in the slums. People of other religions like Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, etc. also live in slums. Due to lack of space, large size of family and other social, economic reasons, most of the families living in slums live as 'nuclear families'. A study done in Ahmedabad by Goswami & Kedia (2010) shows that 80.7% of the families living in slums are 'nuclear families'. A special thing about these slums is that the number of members in these families is high. More than half of the families have 4 to 6 members (Rokanuzzaman et al., 2013, Parmar et al., 2013). On one hand, the income is low and on the other hand, the expenses of maintaining a large family are high. This situation is not at all good for the education of their children. Kaur et al. (2024) found in their study that less than 20 percent of the people living in slums are literate. Most of the adults living in slums are married (Sharma et al. 2024). This large size of the family negatively affects their social and economic status. This is the reason why these settlements often become settlements of the poor. These settlements are the shelter of those people whose income is low. More than half of the people living in these slums fall in the low income group (Rokanuzzaman et al., 2013). Due to low income, their performance is not found to be satisfactory in every level and every aspect of their life. Therefore, the number of people from those castes is more in these slums which are backward. Most of the people living in slums are migrants and most of them have come from other states (Kaur, et al., 2024).

The above research studies show that demographic studies related to slums have been done but no demographic study of slums has been done in Hisar. Therefore, it seems logical and appropriate to study this subject.

2.1 Research Problem

What is the demographic status of slum dwellers in Hisar in terms of their literacy, gender, caste, religion, marital status, income, family, migration status?

2.2 Hypothesis

1. H0: There is no significant association between income and period of migration.
2. H0: There is no significat difference between income of male and female.
3. H0: There is no significant association between income and migration place.

2.3 Objectives of the Study

This research 'A Study of Demographic Characteristics of the People Living in Slums of Hisar, Haryana' has been done with some specific objectives in mind in the context

of slums of Hisar which are as follows:

1.To study the structure of slum population (on the basis of literacy, gender, caste, religion, marital status, income, family size and type).

2.To study the migration pattern of slum dwellers.

3. To give useful suggestions to guide the policy makers for improving the condition of slum dwellers.

3. Methodology

3.1. Research Design: Descriptive research design has been used in this research.

3.2. Method: Qualitative and quantitative methods have been used in this research.

3.3 Data and data collection: In this research, questionnaire has been used to collect primary data. Before collecting final data from the questionnaire, it was tested and then necessary and useful improvements were made in it. Secondary data has also been used as per requirement to give validity to the primary data and to give scientific basis to the study. For this, help has been taken from previous studies, government reports, internet etc.

3.4 Sample and Sampling: In the present research, multi-stage and convenience sampling method has been used. Out of 22 districts of Haryana, Hisar district was selected for the study, out of which 160 adult (above 18 years) respondents were selected from Sector 14 and 33 for the research, the complete process of which is shown in Table 1.

Table - 1: Sample and Sampling Process

Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV	Stage V		
				Male	Female	Total
			Sector 14	50	50	100
Haryana (22 District)	Hisar District	Hisar City	Sector 33	33	27	60
			Total	83	77	160

3.5 Data Analysis: Tables, percentages, Chi squire test and t-test have been used for presentation and analysis of data. Excel has been used to apply Chi squire test and t-test.

4. Data Analysis and Result

160 respondents were selected in Hisar district for the research. Out of these, 83 (51.87%) are men and 77 (48.13%) are women. Their demographic analysis is shown in the table below.

Table-2: Demographic Characteristics of People Living in Slum

Variable	Category	Frequency (Percentage)
Age (Years)	18-20	19 (11.87)
	20-30	60 (37.50)
	30-40	52 (32.50)
	40-50	15 (9.37)
	50-60	9 (5.63)
	60>	5 (3.13)
	Total	**160 (100)**
Caste/Class	SC	150 (93.75)
	ST	1 (0.63)
	BC/OBC	6 (3.74)
	General	1 (0.63)
	Minority	2 (1.25)
	Total	**160 (100)**
Marital Status	Unmarried	17 (10.62)
	Married	133 (83.13)
	Widower/Widow	10 (6.25)
	Divorced	0 (00)
	Total	**160 (100)**
Family Type	Joint Family	12 (7.50)
	Nuclear Family	148 (92.50)
	Total	160 (100)
Family Size	2 ≤	10 (6.25)
	2-5	51 (31.88)
	5-7	65 (40.62)
	7>	34 (21.25)
	Total	**160 (100)**
Religion	Hindu	158 (98.75)
	Muslim	2 (1.25)
	Sikh	0 (00)
	Christian	0 (00)
	Buddhist	0 (00)
	Other	0 (00
	Total	**160 (100)**
Migration	Haryana	22 (13.75)
	Bihar	35 (21.88)
	Madhya Pradesh	9 (5.63)
	Rajasthan	18 (11.25)
	Utter Pradesh	51 (31.86)
	Punjab	13 (8.13)
	Other	12 (7.0)
	Total	**160 (100)**

Migration Period (Year)	5<	38 (23.75)
	5-10	40 (25)
	10-15	22 (13.75)
	15-20	20 (12.50)
	20>	40 (25)
	Total	**160 (100)**
Education	Illiterate	104 (65)
	Primary	21 (13.13)
	Middle	22 (13.75)
	High School	9 (5.62)
	Above High	4 (2.50)
	Total	**160 (100)**
Income (Rupee)	0-5000	20 (12.50)
	5001-10000	63 (39.37)
	10001-15000	65 (40.63)
	Above 15000	12 (7.50)
	Total	**160 (100)**

(Source: Researcher's own calculation based on primary data collected during survey, 2025)

Table 2 shows the demographic characteristics of slum dwellers in Hisar. The presentation of the data shows that the highest number of slum dwellers (37.50%) are in the age group of 20 to 30 followed by those in the age group of 30 to 40 (32.50%). More than 91% of the people living in these slums are below the age of 50 years. Most of these slums are nuclear families and the working age group is more in number due to the necessity of working. SC category people constitute the highest number (93.75%) of slum dwellers. After SC category, BC/OBC category people live in slums. ST and General category people have the lowest number (00.63%) of slum dwellers. Minority category people (01.25%) live in slums. This shows that people belonging to the upper class live less in these slums and mostly people from the lower class live in these slums. 10.62 percent of the people living in slums are unmarried and about 89 percent are married. Out of those who are married, 6.25 percent are widows. Nuclear family system is very prevalent in slums. Only 7.5 percent of the families living in slums live as joint families and most of the rest live as nuclear families. Family size is generally found to have a negative correlation with the standard of living of the people of that family. Most of the families living in slums are of large size on average. More than 60 percent of the families in these slums have an average size of more than 5 members. One in every five families has a family size of more than 7 members. Most slum families live as nuclear families and hence a large family simply means that the number of children in these families is more. In the research area, people of only two religions live in slums. In this, 98.75 percent of the families are Hindu and only 1.25 percent of the families are from the Muslim

religion. Residents of any other religion do not live here. Only migrant people live in slums. People from different states have come and settled in these settlements. Among them, 13.75 percent people live in these settlements from Haryana, which is the original place of research. The maximum number of people living here are from UP. After this, 21.88 percent people from Bihar live in these settlements. People have also come and settled here from MP, Punjab, Rajasthan and other states. Thus slums are multi-state settlements. The migrant people living in slums have been living here for a long time. In a way, these settlements have become permanent settlements. One fourth of the families are those who have been living here for more than 20 years. The percentage of families living for less than five years is 23.75. More than half of the families who have been living in these slums for more than five but less than 20 years are living here. The literacy level of the slum dwellers is very bad. 65 percent of the population here is completely illiterate. There is a lack of higher education among these slum dwellers. Here only 2.5 percent of the population has received education above high school. Among those who are educated, most have received education up to middle school. 12.50% of the people living in slums are not able to earn even Rs 5000 per month. The average monthly income of more than half (51.87%) of the people is less than Rs 10,000. This is indicative of their weak economic condition. The highest numbers of people (40.63%) are in the income group of Rs 10,000-15,000. Only 7.50 percent people have an income of more than 15 thousand. There is no person living in the slum whose monthly income is more than 20 thousand. In the high income group (above 15000) created here, the number of women is less than that of men. The average monthly income of women is Rs 10038 while that of men is Rs 11132.

4.1. Testing of Hypothesis

1. H0: There is no significant association between income and period of migration.

In this research paper, the first hypothesis is made regarding the relationship between income and duration of migration. Chi square test was used to test it.

Table-3: Income and Period of Migration

Migration duration/income	**0-5000**	**5001-10000**	**10001-15000**	**15000>**	**Total**
0-5 Years	5 (25.0)	7 (11.1)	22 (33.8)	4 (33.3)	38 (23.8)
05-10 Years	2 (10.0)	11 (17.5)	21 (32.3)	6 (50.0)	40 (25.0)
10-15 years	3 (15.0)	11 (17.5)	7 (10.8)	1 (8.3)	22 (13.7)
15-20 Years	3 (15.0)	13 (20.6)	4 (6.2)	0 (00)	20 (12.5)
20> Years	7 (35.0)	21 (33.3)	11 (16.9)	1 (8.3)	40 (25.0)
Total	**20 (100)**	**63 (100)**	**65 (100)**	**12 (100)**	**160 (100)**

(Source: Researcher's own calculation based on primary data collected during survey, 2025)

In table 3, income and period of migration has been shown of the respondent. Chi square test was used on the above data and got p value 0.003 significant at 95% level of confidence which is less than 0.05 which rejects the null hypothesis and shows that there is significant association between income and place of migration.

2. H0: There is no significant difference between income of male and female.

Table-4: Result of one tailed t-test

	Female	*Male*
Mean	10038.96104	11132.53
Variance	15037935.75	17140758
Observations	77	83
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
Df	158	
t Stat	-1.725179216	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.043225236	

(Source: Researcher's own calculation based on primary data collected during survey, 2025) The table 4 shows that the average monthly income of females is Rs. 10038.96 and the average monthly income of males is Rs. 11132.53. The variance of monthly income of female and male respondents is 15037935.75 and 17140758 respectively. The above result shows that the p value is 0.043 which is less than 0.05. This rejects the null hypothesis. It can be concluded that there is a significant difference in the income of females and males.

3. H0: There is no significant association between income and migration place.

Table - 5: Income and Migration Place

State/Monthly Income	0-5000	5000-10000	10000-15000	15000>	Total
Haryana	3 (15.0)	13 (20.6)	5 (7.7)	1 (8.3)	22 (13.8)
Bihar	3 (15.0)	15 (23.8)	16 (24.6)	1 (8.3)	35 (21.9)
M.P	0 (00)	2 (3.1)	7 (10.8)	0 (00)	9 (5.6)
Rajasthan	1 (5.0)	14 (22.2)	3 (4.6)	0 (00)	18 (11.2)
U.P.	9 (45.0)	11 (17.5)	25 (38.5)	6 (50.0)	51 (31.9)
Punjab	1 (5.0)	5 (7.9)	5 (7.7)	2 (16.7)	13 (8.1)
Other	3 (15.0)	3 (4.8)	4 (6.2)	2 (16.7)	12 (7.5)
Total	20 (100)	63 (100)	65 (100)	12 (100)	160 (100)

(Source: Researcher's own calculation based on primary data collected during survey, 2025)

In table 5, data of income and migration place has been given. Chi square test

was used on the above data and got p value 0.027 significant at 95% level of confidence which is less than 0.05 which rejects the null hypothesis and shows that there is significant association between income and place of migration.

5. Conclusion

The demographic analysis of slums shows that most of the people living in them are between 18 and 50 years of age. Most of the people living in these slums are from backward castes like SC/ST and BC/OBC. The number of people from general category is negligible in these slums. These slums are not multi-religious either. Only people of two religions, Hindu and Muslim, live in these and even in that, 98.75 percent people are from Hindu religion. Most of the people living in slums are married and they live as nuclear families. Joint family system is found very less in these slums. The main reason behind this is the small size of the house/slum. Secondly, they want to occupy more space in the beginning itself so that there is no shortage of living space in future. That is why they live separately so that they can occupy more space. The large size of the families in slums also becomes the reason for nuclear families. About 2/3 of the families of people living in slums have more than 5 members in their families. Due to this large size, they are unable to fulfill the education and other basic needs of their children either quantitatively or qualitatively. The level of literacy in these slums is very low. Their literacy rate is 65 percent. The literacy situation of women is even more frightening. Most of those who fall in the category of literacy have a literacy level of only up to high school. The ill effects of low literacy can be seen in every aspect of their lives. Slums are nowhere settled by the original residents of that place. They either come from the same state or from other nearby states. More than 87 percent of the people here are from outside Haryana. Apart from Haryana, most of the people have come from Punjab, MP, UP, Rajasthan, Bihar. Apart from these states, 7.5 percent of the people have come from other states. The people who come to slums start living here as permanent residents. ¾ of the people living in slums have been living there for more than 5 years and ¼ of the total families have been living there for more than 20 years. The economic condition of the people living in slums is very poor. Their economic condition is determined by their monthly income. More than 50 percent of the people living in slums have an average monthly income of less than 10 thousand rupees. Significant association has been found between their income and period of migration, difference in income of men and women and income and place of migration.

6. Suggestions/recommendations

1. Government, NGO and community need to make joint efforts to bring education to the doorsteps of slum dwellers.
2. To raise the level of education, both enrollment and retention of children of these

slums need to be raised.

3. Most of the schemes of assistance for education are available only to the native residents of the state, whereas most of the people in slums are migrants, due to which they are not getting the benefit of education related schemes. For this, the model of 'One Nation, One Policy' should be implemented.

4. To raise the standard of living of slum dwellers, there is a need to improve the skills of the people in these slums to increase their income level.

5. To improve skills, the people living in these slums need to be connected to 'Skill Development Mission'.

Research Contribution:

The 'Introduction' and 'Review of Literature' section of the paper has been written by the main author of the paper and data collected by the main author and interpretation and conclusion along with the all other parts have been written jointly by both the main and co-author.

References

1. Bandyopadhyay, A., & Agrawal, V. (2013). Slums In India: From Past To Present. *International Refereed Journal of Engineering and Science (IRJES) , 2* (4), 55-59.

2. Gill, K. P., & Devgun, P. (2015). Impact of Socio-Demographic Factors on Age Appropriate Immunization of Infants in Slums of Amritsar City (Punjab), India. *National Journal of Community Medicine , 6* (1), 11-15.

3. Goswami, M., & Kedia, G. (2010). Socio-Demographic and Morbidity Profile of Slum Area in Ahmedabad, India. *National Journal of Community Medicine , 1* (2), 106-110.

4. Kaur, M., Sharma, A., Vijin, P., Kaur, R., Kaur, R., Anupama, G., et al. (2024). Exploring the complexities of slum vulnerability in Haryana, India: a qualitative research journey intoeconomic, social, physical, and health dimensions. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-Being , 20* , 1-11.

5. Khanal, K., & Khanal, S. P. (2022). The Study of Slum Definitions, its Demographic

Characteristic and Distribution Patterns in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. *Nepal Journal of Methametical Sciences (NJMS) , 3* (1), 59-74.

6. Kyobutungi, C., Ziraba, A. K., Ezeh, A., & Ye, Y. (2008). The burden of disease profile of residents of Nairobi's slums: Results from a Demographic Surveillance System. *Population Health Metrics* , 1-8.

7. Panday, S. R. (2019). "Economic and Demographic Analysis of Urban Slum - A Case Study of Mumbai slums". *Journal of The Gujrat Rsearch Society , 22* (9), 336-343.

8. Parmar, K. B., Kantharia, S. L., Godara, N. R., Shah, H. M., & Patni, M. M. (2013). A Cross-Sectional Study to Understand Socio Demographic Profile of Couples Who Adoptedpermanent Sterilization in Urban Slums of Surat City. *National Journal of Community Medicine , 4* (3), 443-447.

9. Rokanuzzaman, M., Ali, M. A., Hossain, M. N., & Miah, M. A. (2013). Study on Livelihood Status of Slum Dwellers in the North Dhaka City Corporation. *Journal of Environmental Science and Natural Resources , 6* (2), 89-95.

10. Indian Census, 2001.

11. Indian Census, 2011.

12. Sen, P. (2010). *The Committee on Slum Statistics/Census.* New Delhi: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation .

13. Sharma, C., Kumar, P., & Ali, A. (2024). Social Determinants and Predictors of Mental Health among Urban Slum Dwellers of Haryana: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Indian Journal of Psychiatric Social Work , 15* (1), 11-16.

14. Singh, B. N. (2016). Socio-Economic Conditions of Slums Dwellers: A Theoretical Study. *Kaav International Journal of Arts,Humanities & Social Sciences , 3* (3), 5-20.