



Perception of Poor People Regarding Changes in Social Aspects of Life after Resettling From Slum to Colony (AWAS)

Saurabh R Parmar¹, MohhamedAnas M Patni², Abhay B Kavishvar³

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Author's Affiliation:

¹Program Officer, Maternal and Child Health, Jhpiego, Banswara; ²Assistant Professor, Community Medicine, Govt. Medical College, Surat; ³Associate Professor, Community Medicine, Govt. Medical College, Surat

Correspondence:

Dr. Saurabh R Parmar
drsaurabhparmar@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Surat Municipal Corporation has been actively involved in shifting poor people from slums to newly constructed EWS AWAS under JNNURM. This study focuses on documenting perception of current AWAS dweller regarding various socio cultural issues after resettlement from their old slums.

Aims and objectives: 1) To understand demographic indicators of population in EWS AWAS after resettlement. 2) To know their perception regarding various social issues they faced after resettling to AWAS.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted from June 2012 to March 2013. List of all beneficiaries available on website of slum upgradation cell of SMC was obtained. Using simple random sampling, 148 beneficiaries were interviewed using pretested semistructured questionnaire.

Results: It was seen that child sex ratio was higher than overall sex ratio. BPL families were lesser than APL. Number of immigrants outlines local population. All families perceived that water supply, garbage collection as well as personal health used to be better in previous slum as compared to current AWAS. Unemployment was considered to be the major social problem.

Conclusion: A little sense of separation and unsafe environment was noticed. Similarly, a good neighbourhood relationship was yet to be established even after two years of stay due to random allocation of flats. Social problems at EWS were no way different from those at original slums.

Keywords: Slum, Social Issue, poverty line, urbanization

INTRODUCTION

Urbanization and Health was the theme of the World Health Day, 2010, with the campaign focusing on "1000 cities - 1000 lives"¹. The world is rapidly urbanizing with over half the population now living in urban areas. As the urban population grows, the proportion of these persons living in slums also increases, where conditions are deplorable. This growing problem creates a unique challenge for policymakers and public health practitioners.²

With population of 44, 61,026, the textile hub of the country, Surat provides over 12 lakh jobs. 65% of

nation's total diamond export is from Surat. Such kind of units has brought rapid growth in economy, an economy dominated by labor intensive activities. A feature of Surat is its vast pool of migrant population (about 55% of the total population).³ Being a city dominated by migrant population and a higher concentration of lower income households, SMC thrust is to provide better quality living environment. The main approaches followed by SMC are Slum rehabilitation, Slum up gradation and redevelopment under SMC Housing Policy and Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission JNNURM submission for Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP).³

A desire to create heaven for all- The SMC has done extensive work in improving housing condition of the city. The slum dwellers have been shifted to better housing. They along with other economically weaker sections of the society are provided better housing on low down payment and easy installments. Also as a part of slum up gradation programme, SMC has paved roads, ensured drainage, water supply, street lights and other amenities in slum areas.⁴ Slum settlements have been a major cause for concern for urban planners of the city, which has the highest growth rate of over 13 per cent in the country⁴. Six lakh urban poor living in 1.15 lakh hutments in 406 slum settlements in the city need to be relocated by 2020 by Surat Municipal Corporation in the EWS houses⁵. This study focuses on documenting perception of current AWAS dweller regarding various socio cultural issues after resettlement from their old slums.

OBJECTIVES

The study was carried out with the objective of finding demographic indicators of population in EWS AWAS after resettlement as well as to know their perception regarding various social issues they faced after resettling to AWAS.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

It was a cross sectional study conducted from June 2012 to March 2013. Verbal consent of all participants was taken prior to study. Initially, list of all beneficiaries was procured from the website of Surat Municipal Corporation⁶. List of 14,828 beneficiaries were updated on the website as on 28th June, 2012. Five administrative zones had AWAS out of seven in Surat city in 2012. In these five administrative zones, there were 22 AWAS sites.⁶

Sample size calculation and data collection

Residential flats occupants of EWS constructed under JNNURM were our sampling units. One hundred and forty eight (148) households (1% of total beneficiaries) were randomly selected using simple random sampling technique and responsible respondent were interviewed from each flat using pretested semi structured questionnaire. Likert Scale was used to make comparison regarding perception of living condition in previous slum and current AWAS

Data management and analysis: Data entry and analysis was carried out in Microsoft Office excel 2007 and Epi Info software.

RESULTS

Different ratios of various characteristics were calculated and then observed. It was seen that child sex ratio is higher than overall sex ratio. BPL families are lesser than APL. Number of immigrants outlines local population. Out of 1000 houses in which original owners are present 490 are sold out or rented out.

Table 1 Distribution of various demographic attributes in study population

Variable	Per 1000
Sex ratio (Female: Male)	
Overall	882
0 to 5 years age group	921
0 to 6 years age group	929
More than 7 years	809
Dependency ratio (0 – 14 year age group + > 65 years) / 15 – 64 years age group	385
Unemployed to employed ratio (≥ 18 yrs)	420
Non-nuclear to nuclear family ratio	783
BPL to APL ratio	609
Illiterate to literate (in more than 7 years)	396
Rental/resold to owner ratio	490
HHs not in use to HHs in use ratio	35
Local to immigrant ratio	842

Likert scale was used to make comparison regarding perception of living condition in previous slum and current AWAS. When they were inquired regarding perception of basic services, it was observed that all families believed that water supply, garbage collection as well as personal health used to be better in previous slum as compared to current AWAS. Same was the perception regarding social relationship indicators like, celebration of festivals and relationships with neighbor were better in previous slums. When families were asked about different security issues like, physical security, security of asset, security of women and children, they perceived that all the security concerns were better in previous slums.

Families also reported that they were more satisfied with the living condition in previous slum as compared to current AWAS. People have been asked regarding their satisfaction as well as degree of satisfaction (dissatisfaction) regarding their previous stay in slums and current stay in AWAS. Looking at the above table, respondents who told dissatisfaction at slums expressed satisfaction for AWAS. As high as 120 satisfied persons at slum reported dissatisfaction at EWS. Six persons showed satisfaction at both, slums and EWS. Whereas 15 persons showed dissatisfaction at both the places.

Table 2: Perception in relation to access to improved ambience

Variable	Residence	Very good (%)	Good (%)	No change (%)	Poor (%)	Very poor (%)
Basic services	Water supply					
	At previous slum	34(23)	77(52)	22(14.9)	11(7.4)	4(2.7)
	At current awas	17(11.5)	49(33.1)	23(15.5)	33(22.3)	26(17.6)
	Garbage collection					
	At previous slum	100(67.6)	43(29.1)	3(2)	1(0.7)	1(0.7)
	At current awas	92(62.2)	36(24.3)	15(10.1)	4(2.7)	1(0.7)
	Health					
At previous slum	6(4.1)	69(46.6)	70(47.3)	2(1.4)	1(0.7)	
At current awas	5(3.4)	33(22.3)	65(49.3)	37(25)	8(5.4)	
Social relationship	Relationship with neighbor					
	At previous slum	34(23)	85(57.4)	25(16.9)	3(2)	1(0.7)
	At current awas	22(14.9)	65(43.9)	35(23.6)	20(13.5)	6(4.1)
	Celebration of festivals					
	At previous slum	24(16.2)	91(61.5)	31(20.9)	1(0.7)	1(0.7)
At current awas	14(9.5)	62(41.9)	39(26.4)	29(19.6)	4(2.7)	
Security	Physical security					
	At previous slum	37(25)	78(52.7)	26(17.6)	5(3.4)	2(1.4)
	At current awas	33(22.3)	54(36.5)	25(16.9)	17(11.5)	19(12.8)
	Security of assets					
	At previous slum	40(27)	86(58.1)	16(10.8)	4(2.7)	2(1.4)
	At current awas	17(11.5)	37(25)	17(11.5)	21(14.2)	56(37.8)
	Security of children					
	At previous slum	35(23.6)	76(51.4)	31(20.9)	4(2.7)	2(1.4)
	At current awas	18(22.2)	51(34.5)	25(16.9)	30(20.3)	24(16.2)
	Security of women					
At previous slum	37(25.0)	76(51.4)	27(18.2)	6(4.1)	2(1.4)	
At current awas	15(10.1)	52(35.1)	24(16.2)	25(16.9)	32(21.6)	
Satisfaction	Satisfaction regarding living condition					
	At previous slum	54(36.5)	57(38.5)	27(18.2)	9(6.1)	1(0.7)
	At current awas	6(4.1)	22(14.9)	20(13.5)	41(27.7)	59(39.9)

Table 3: Magnitude of social problems at current AWAS reported by study population

Social Problem	Major problem	Minor problem	No problem
Unemployment in general	82	36	30
Youth unemployment	80	38	30
Alcohol use	34	40	74
Conflict between groups	17	63	68
Drug abuse	9	20	119
Drug dealing	9	19	120
Eve-teasing	8	13	127

As per insight of AWAS occupants unemployment is the major social problem in current context, be it youth unemployment or unemployment in general. The other major problems are alcohol use and conflict between different groups.

The new resettlement site was dissatisfying among more than 65% for both, small families as well as large families. Occupants living in nuclear families were more satisfied with living condition at awas as compared to those living in joint family. Members of the APL families were in general awas were more satisfied as compared to members of BPL families. As much as 40% of both, Hindu and Muslim families were dissatisfied with AWAS. About 12% more satisfaction was noted among immigrant as compared to local families.

DISCUSSION

Currently SMC has 7 administrative zones and 5 of them have EWS colonies. Occupants in these EWS colonies have been resettled from different zones by SMC for purpose of infrastructure development like roads and flyovers, city beautification and safe relocation from flood prone areas.

The composition of family members of studied population differs to some extent from composition of that of general population of the region.⁷ The proportion of senior citizens was lower (3.2% in this study as compared to 8.6% by census 2011).⁸ Age group wise distribution of the sampled population had almost 61% persons belonging to 15 to 45 years age group, which is 49.8% as per census 2011. Little more than half of the resettled families in this sample are immigrants. In Cities and slums-A study of squatters' settlement in the city of Vijaywada K Ranga Rao have stated that migration is usually done for the employment.⁹ Present study calculated local to immigrant ratio as 842:1000. When people immigrate for employment, which is the case of Surat also, usually working age group arrives to an urban area, leaving behind young adolescents and older people in their native villages.¹⁰

Table 4: Distribution of degree of satisfaction among different groups of EWS AWAS occupants

Variable	EWS Satisfaction					Total
	Very much satisfied	Satisfied	No change	Not satisfied	Not at all satisfied	
Family size						
Up to four	3	13	8	21	32	77
More than 4	3	9	12	20	27	71
Total	6	22	20	41	59	148
Type of Family						
Three generation	3	7	4	1	8	23
Joint	5	8	6	12	4	35
Nuclear	9	31	11	20	12	83
Single male migrants	0	3	2	0	2	7
Total	17	49	23	33	26	148
Economic Status						
APL	11	33	13	24	11	91
BPL	6	16	10	9	15	55
Total	17	49	23	33	26	148
Religion						
Hindu	10	33	10	17	20	90
Muslim	7	16	13	16	6	58
Total	17	49	23	33	26	148
Native						
Immigrants	12	28	11	13	16	80
Local	5	21	12	20	10	68
Total	17	49	23	33	26	148

The overall Sex ratio in studied population was 882 females per 1000 males. The same for 7+ age group population was 809 female per 1000 males and child (0 to 6 years age group) sex ratio was 921 girls per 1000 boys. Overall sex ratio of Gujarat state (918/1000) is higher than female to male ratio obtained in this study (882/1000).¹¹ Sex ratio is still lower for Surat city (754/1000).^{12,13} It means that more men were registered in house to house survey for this study as compared to women (383 males against 315 females). In comparison with national statistics, present study recorded more girls than boys (921 versus 1000) as EWS occupants.

Surat city having huge number of immigrants is successful in providing reasonably good job opportunity.⁴ This study calculated 420 unemployed adults per 1000 employed adult population and 385 economically dependent persons per 1000 earning members. Projected population data estimated dependency ratio for this country as 596 dependents per 1000 working individuals. Socio-demographic profile of EWS occupants reported BPL to APL ratio as 609:1000, illiterate to literate persons as 396:1000 and sizable number of families other than nuclear type. Tamanna Kabir in her study stated that most of the families were 'nuclear' families.¹⁴ Proportion of literate male and female in study population (male 80.1% and female 63.4%) were comparable with figures from state government (male 87.23% and female 70.73%) and national government (male 82.14% and female 63.4%). This study observed statistically significant

difference between the genders in relation to education.

A large number of occupants reported good relationship between the neighbours in relation to medical and financial needs. Thirty to forty five per cent had relationship in matters related to child care and food sharing. In context of searching the job neighbourhood relationship hardly worked here. Residents of this AWAS consider unemployment especially among youth and alcohol abuse as major social problems at AWAS. In the resettled community at Velachery Women complain that alcoholism has increased after resettlement.¹⁵ Twenty percent of the people do not consider unemployment as an issue here and around half of the respondents do not think that alcohol use is a problem here. Little less than half of the respondents believed that conflict between different groups of occupants was a minor drawback here.

As most of the study population was living in their original hutments for more than twenty years, they had established a very good interpersonal relationship within the community. In slums they shared same pool of culture, religion, language and had a sense of unity and social security. Because of use of lottery system for allotment of new awas, old neighbours or community groups were separated which negatively affected their relationship with new neighbours or community in apartment and also their enthusiasm in celebration of various festivals. Tamanna Kabir in her study found that

since the resettled community came from different places just one or two years ago, that much intimate relationship was not developed among the residences yet. Self dependant individual life was very common in that lifestyle.¹⁴

All respondents were asked about sense of security at AWAS. According to the perception of EWS owners, all type of securities, including physical security and security of assets has been reduced in AWAS as compared to slum. There is a slight reduction in physical security, but security of asset has reduced by 50%. More than half of the respondents admitted that security of women and children also has compromise in AWAS as compared to slums. The above reasons and increase in financial burden in AWAS may be the reason for dissatisfaction regarding living conditions among 66% of respondents. Thus, except for the garbage disposal, most aspects of living conditions were perceived better at slum as compared to AWAS. Ten times more respondents were dissatisfied with regards to living condition at AWAS as compared to their previous stay at slum. Change over from hutment culture to adoption of apartment, no gain in income, displacement from the familiar and central area of the city, relatively increased travelling time and cost and separation from habitual neighbours and neighbourhood might be responsible for higher number of responses for *poor* and *very poor* category of perception towards previous and current living condition.

EWS AWAS could not satisfy large, joint and BPL families of both Hindu and Muslim and mainly native people. It is probably related to expectations for a new accommodation and perception towards previous stay at slum. Fixed monthly income, increased travel time and cost, newer neighbourhood and newer physical environment and a sense of displacement as discussed earlier might have contributed to such dissatisfaction

CONCLUSION

Shifting to AWAS from slum of origin did not result into financial gain but an improved and dignified living for the whole family. A little sense of separation and unsafe environment has been noticed. Similarly, a good neighbourhood relationship is yet to be established even after two years of stay due to random allocation of flats. Social problems at EWS are no way different from those at original slums. Unemployment, alcohol and drug

abuse, eve-teasing, theft, anti social activity and conflict between different have been considered by many respondents as major or minor problems. A few respondents did not consider any of these problems as an issue.

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