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Prolonged deprivation among slum youth in Azad Nagar Slum, Margao, Goa, India

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Rapid urbanization is the hallmark of 21st century. Coupled with globalization and industrialization, it has initiated unprecedented waves of migration from the underdeveloped rural areas to the fast developing urban centres. However, there is a huge mismatch between the assimilation capacity of urban centres and the in migration. This phenomenon has many negative fallouts, of which slum formation is the major one. Slums are the areas of physical, infrastructural, socio-cultural deprivation. The youth who are the potential human capital face myriads of challenges in such culturally heterogeneous and deprived settlements. This paper attempts to study the prolonged deprivation among the slum youth in Azad Nagar slum of Margao town of India. Using a standard questionnaire on prolonged deprivation, sixty male and female youths were surveyed. The data collected was statistically analysed using correlation and chi-square tests. The analysis revealed that there is a high degree of deprivation in Socio-cultural experiences, motivational, economic and emotional experiences. As a result of this the aspiration levels among the youth especially the female youth is very low and it is manifested not only in overall high illiteracy rate and dropout rate among female youth but also in being indolent. These deprivations go a long way in shaping the personality of these youths who subsequently will be the human resources of the urban economy. Thus, there is urgent need for governmental as well as non-governmental interventions in the form of slum infrastructure up gradation, awareness among parents, youth counselling, career guidance and incentives for collective entrepreneurial assistance.

Keywords: slum, youth, deprivation, motivational experience

Urban populations have skyrocketed globally, (Marks et. al 2013). The urban growth has induced migration. However there is an imbalance in the inflow of migrants and the absorption capacity of urban centres. This imbalance has given rise to many negative fallout such as slums, inadequacy of housing and unplanned growth of cities.

Slums are physically dilapidated and overcrowded settlements. Depending upon the local conditions, local authorities recognize derivatives of slums such as informal settlements on vacant urban lots or on precarious urban sites along canals, on road reserves or adjacent to landfill areas (The Challenge Of Slums, 2003). According to UNHABITAT (2013), it is estimated that there are currently around one billion people living in slums, largely in developing countries. The 2011 census indicates that 65.49 million Indians live in slums. It has increased from 42.57 million in 2001 to 65.49 million that is an increase by 65 percent in a decade. The youth who are the potential human capital face myriads of challenges in such culturally heterogeneous and deprived settlements They are at the threshold of childhood and adulthood. The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines the "Youth" as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24. The Asian region has the largest number of young people i.e. 754 million. This number has nearly tripled since 1950. Youth Demographics Worldwide, United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2011. In 2012, India and China had the youngest population (Euromonitor International, 2012).

The infrastructural, socio-cultural deficiencies of slum

settlements have resulted in prolonged deprivations among the youth. Deprivation denotes to certain deficiencies in the environment which are not only there but also felt as such by the individuals. It relates to certain features of the environment that are absent or inadequate in certain degree which cause an impact on the functioning of the individuals. Social scientists are greatly concerned about the impact of socio-cultural and economic deprivation on the overall development of an individual. Evidently, poverty is one of the components of deprivation. The essence of poverty is inequality. The poor are deprived in comparison with the rich and affluent. Limited opportunities are provided for their growth and development. This makes them dissatisfied and frustrated (Behera, Dhar, & Adak, 2015). Slums with their most heterogeneous population have their unique socio-economic and cultural setup and as such throws up myriads of challenges of all the age groups in such settlements. Youth are at the cross roads of socio-cultural change and at the threshold of childhood and adulthood living in slums, face problems due to such negative physical, social conditions. They are often indulged in crimes, theft, minor fraud, prostitution or illegal trafficking. Therefore, there is an urgent need to study the deprivations of youths living in slums. The study will be on slum youths and their deprivations and the problems they face.

Goa has three towns that have slums, viz., Mormugao, Margao and Ponda. According to the Census 2011, out of the total 26,247 slum populations, there is an identified slum population of 20,140 and a notified 6,107 slum population Despite its supposed affluence, Goa has 'an absolute number' of 5,497 slum households. Slums in the State are very visible in settlements such as Moti Dongor, Zuari, Mongor Hill. These have come under the spotlight after they have emerged as game changers in electoral politics, especially to neutralize the local vote (www.goacom.com, 2013). According to the Economic Survey 2014-15, there are 5,497 households with a

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