

ABSTRACT

.In India, the influx of rural poor to urban slums in search of livelihoods is changing demographic, social, and economic profiles of the country. It is also creating a need for specifically targeted programmes for the survival of the migrant population.

To disclose the conditions of migrant women and to analyze their problems, the present study entitled “**Social Environment, Health and Economic Problems of Migrant Women in Slums of Delhi Metropolitan: an Exploratory Study**” was undertaken.

Delhi was purposively selected for the study as it being a capital attracts large number of migrants from different states. Five slum clusters from five municipal wards were purposively selected. A total of 200 women who were migrant since 5-10 years, were selected following systematic random sampling method.

The researcher personally visited the selected slum area, collected the data and statistically analyzed it. Two-third of the slum dwelling families were nuclear. Families of all religions were staying in slums.

About half of the women respondents (47.5%) had rented house while less than half (45%) had their own house. Few respondents (7.5%) had the thatched house on encroached land. Most of the houses were Kutcha with plastic roof while only one-fourth were Pucca or Semi- Pucca.

Working social environment of migrant women in slums was reported to be tense, uncongenial and socio-politically polluted by 84% respondents. Being a single room houses in slums, about 90% respondent women reported that they lack privacy in their living..

Chronic illness among migrant women was reported by 35.5% which is very high. Medical facilities are available to only half of the respondents. About 10% of the newly born babies die during delivery. Family planning advice was not available to 82.5% migrant women. Their diets are very poor in nutrition. Lack of safe drinking

water, sewage, garbage, unhygienic surroundings, adulterated food, overcrowding and polluted air were also reported.

Major economic problems as reported by the respondents were high cost of living, land and house, high cost of medicines and children's education. Most of the respondents (84.5%) were aware of children immunization programme followed by pulse polio programme (66.0%). Women are being neglected in slum areas though located in urban areas.

Detailed cluster-wise intensive studies must be taken up for drawing need based and problem oriented development programmes for each cluster.

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