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A Study On Social Awareness Of Slum Dwellers About Education And Health

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Abstract:

The study explores the level of social awareness among slum dwellers about education and health in the greater Guwahati area of Kamrup district, Assam. Social awareness refers to an individual's consciousness about societal issues, including legal rights, health, hygiene, and education. The study emphasizes that a significant section of the slum population lacks basic awareness regarding free and compulsory education, health practices, and hygiene, resulting in persistent health problems and educational neglect. A sample of 100 respondents, including 60 males and 40 females, was selected through random sampling to assess their awareness levels. The findings aim to highlight the urgent need for educational interventions and health awareness programs to improve the quality of life in slum communities.

Keywords: Social Awareness, Slum Dwellers, Education, Health, Hygiene.

Introduction:

Social awareness is the social consciousness of the individual within society. Social awareness expresses the consciousness about the issues related to society. The term social awareness has been formed by two words, i.e, "social and awareness." The word social means related to society and awareness means consciousness.

In the present society, especially in slum area, most of the people are less aware about social issues. Most of the people are not aware about legal rights and duties, many people have no idea about health and hygiene.

Education is the backbone of the society. Education is the instrument of the developing the social consciousness among the people. Education is the mirror through which we can remove the darkness of

ignorance among the slum dwellers. There are still many individuals who do not know that elementary education has been made free and compulsory for all the children of 6 to 14 years. Therefore, the dimension of education is included here as a part of social awareness to determine how far people are aware of these issues. In the slum area, there is a major problem with health and hygiene. Due to a lack of awareness, the residents face numerous health issues. They have no knowledge about the importance of pure drinking water, leading to many diseases caused by contaminated water. They are also unaware of the importance of hand sanitization and do not know the proper method of washing their hands.

A healthy mind may be developed in a healthy body. So, investigator emphasized on social awareness and health and hygiene.

Significance of the problem:

Social awareness means consciousness of various issues related to the society. Social awareness is the awareness of individual about educational aspect, environmental aspect, health and hygiene.

On the other hand, the slum is the resident area that are physically and socially deteriorated and which satisfactory family life is impossible. Awareness among the slum dwellers is essential to cope up with the changing society. Due to lack of awareness of the people of the slum area, they are very backward in all aspect of the society. Their position in the society is very discouraging. On the other hand, their knowledge regarding various health issues is very poor. They follow superstitious belief, Blackmagic etc. They are not aware about the changing rules and regulation of the society. For the development of the nation, upliftment of the slum dwellers is very essential. So, social awareness among the slum dwellers is very important. To cope-up with the material and non-material changes, slum dwellers must aware about the social changes.

Our nation is developing in the field of technology and trying to introduce as digital India in global platform. So, awareness among the people regarding education, health, economics, environmental, legal, political issues is very important.

Keeping all these things in the mind, the investigator takes an attempt to study on the social awareness among the slum dwellers.

Review of related literature:

Pathok, T. (2014) studied on educational level and its influence on modernization and social awareness of women in teaching profession. The study found that there is significant difference between women teachers of rural and urban area regarding social awareness.

B. Choudhury (2000) studied on Change and continuity among women workers of slum area in Greater Guwahati Area. A study in socio – Economic Conditions and impact on literacy. The study found that there is very poor socio-economic facilities among the slum workers.

Objectives of the study:

- 1.To study the social awareness among the slum dwellers.
- 2.To find out the social awareness among male and female people.

Null hypothesis:

H2 There is no significant difference of social awareness among the male and female people.

Research Design:

The present study covers descriptive survey method. The study conducted on slum dwellers of greater Guwahati area of Kamrup district of Assam.

Population and Sample:

The population of the study comprises all the slum dwellers of greater Guwahati of kamrup district of Assam. The investigator has taken 100 respondents as sample of the study. Out of 100 Sample 60 are male and 40 are female category. The investigator used random sampling technique.

Tool:

Data collection is an important part of research work. For collecting the data, the investigator uses a standardized scale on “Social Awareness” developed by Dr. Utpal Kalita.

For secondary data collection, the investigator visits different libraries, research institutions and collect the various documents.

Statistical technique employed:

Data are analyzed with the help of the following suitable statistical techniques such as

1. Simple percentage
2. T-test
3. Graphical representation, etc.

Analysis and Interpretation:**Objective 1:**

To study the social awareness among the slum dwellers.

To study the social awareness among the slum dwellers, the investigator collected the data with the help of “Social Awareness” scale. The investigator converted the raw score into z score by consulting test manual. Based on the z score, social awareness was levelled as High, Average, and Low. The investigator used simple

percentage technique to the awareness among the slum dwellers. The description of social awareness is tabulated in the following table.

Table: 1.1
Social awareness among the slum dwellers

Level of social awareness	No.	Percentage
High	10	10%
Average	22	22%
Low	68	68%

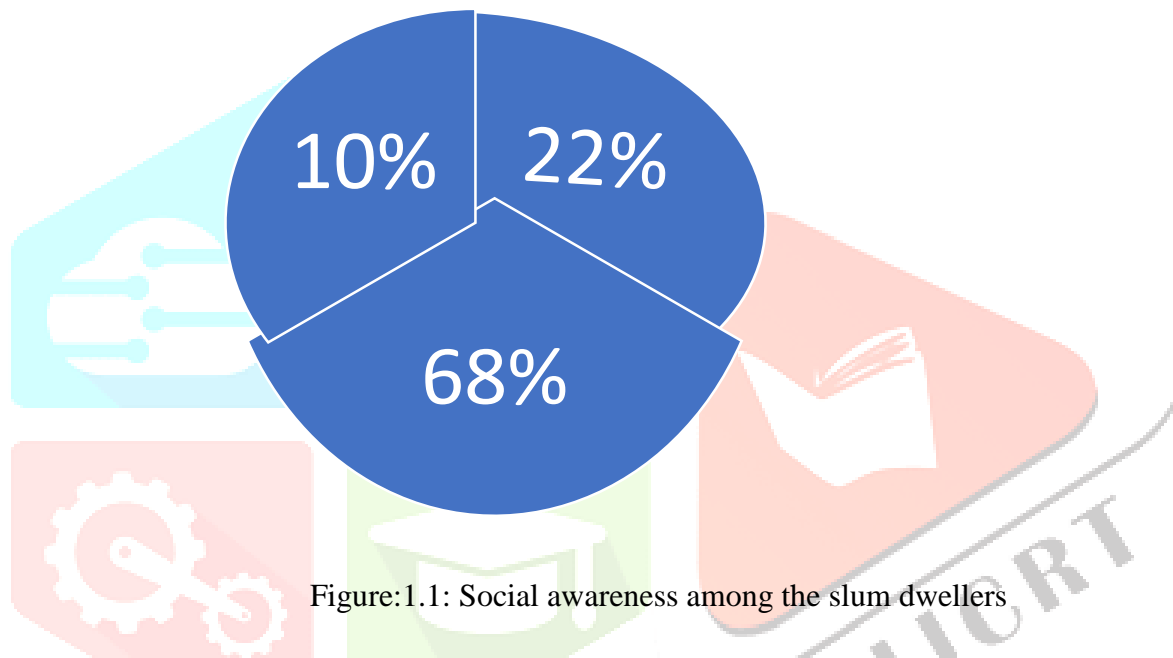


Figure:1.1: Social awareness among the slum dwellers

As per analysis from the Table 1.1 it is found that only 10 % of slum people have high awareness regarding social awareness. It means they have knowledge about social rules, regulations. 22% of people have average awareness about social awareness. But 68% of people do not know social rules, regulations, and educational provisions. They are not socially conscious.

Objective no 2:

To find out the social awareness among male and female people.

Null hypothesis:

Ho2: There is no significant difference of social awareness among the male and female people.

To study, the social awareness among male and female people, the investigator used t test. These are given in the table 1.2.

Table: 1.2
Mean, and t value of slum dwellers

Gender	N	Mean value	df	t value	status
Male	60	68.96	98		
Female	40	60.6		2.88	

From the above table 1.2 it is found that mean value of male slum dwellers is 68.96 and female slum dwellers is 60.6. The investigator found that computed value of t with 98 degree of freedom at .05 and .01 level of significance is 2.88 and hence it is significant. So, null hypothesis can be rejected. Hence, there is a significant difference of social awareness among the male and female slum dwellers.

Findings of the study:

1. The study revealed that social awareness of slum dwellers regarding various issues (social rules, educational provisions, health, and hygiene) are not satisfactory.
2. Only 10% people are socially aware about the various issues. They are aware about the rules and regulation of the society.
3. 22% slum dwellers have average level awareness.
4. 68% people have low social awareness. They do not have idea about various social information regarding the consciousness of slum dwellers.
5. The study found that there is significant difference of social awareness regarding male and female people. Male people are little aware than female people. A few groups of male people know the social rules regulations, educational provisions etc.

Conclusion:

Changes is the low of nature. It is a universal phenomenon. So, awareness among the slum is very essential. Educational awareness among slum dwellers is very important for national development of the country. Education is the major weapon for social awareness. The study will help to analyze the social awareness of slum dwellers regarding various issues. The study will also help to take various step for development of the slum dwellers.

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