ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken with a view to understand the socioeconomic background of the resettlers in Madras Metropolitan Area (MMA) and their problems in the resettlement colonies. The level of community participation, the role of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) and the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the process of resettlement of the slum dwellers are also analyzed. The universe of the study covers 5428 slum families who were shifted by the TNSCB from various uninhabitable locations to the four newly developed resettlement colonies during the years 1990 – 1993. A sample of 10 per cent from each resettlement colony has been selected for analysis. The sample size was arrived at 543. The researcher administered a carefully prepared and pre tested interview schedule, which covered the socioeconomic background, the problems faced by the resettlers, the role of TNSCB, NGOs and the community. To measure the socioeconomic conditions of the resettlers Kuppysamy’s “Socioeconomic scale – urban” was used. The researcher used the indicators identified by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements-Habitat. This was applied to measure the attitude of the resettlers towards new housing facilities and their community participation in the process of resettlement. Eleven specific hypotheses formulated by the researcher were tested. The results of the present study reveal that, there have been no significant changes with regard to education and occupation after resettlement. The male members are forced to hang on to their old jobs and their original work spots while majority of the women folk had lost their jobs due to dislocations. This has resulted in the reduction of family income. It was also found that the new infrastructures and services provided to them were not adequate. People remain dissatisfied in all the resettlement colonies except in Ennore resettlement colony. The researcher’s suggestions include the introduction of adequate transport facilities from
the resettled areas to reach their work spots to raise their income levels at the resettled areas. As the plot sizes are inadequate for living conditions, the researcher suggested the provision of a minimum of 400 square feet of land for house construction, on the Ennore model. Adequate budgetary provisions, enhanced housing construction estimates, creations of sufficient infrastructure facilities are other remedial measures suggested. The Researcher pointed out the need for a high level steering committee with representatives from the government (policy makers), from the slum community (beneficiaries), NGOs, TNSCB and Municipal Administration (implementors) which would meet at regular intervals, discuss grievances and offer quick solutions. Finally the study commended on the facilitator role played by the TNSCB through the involvement of the NGOs. In spite of certain limitations, the study proved to be a fruitful experience as it has opened up new avenues for further research and development strategies.