ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

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Venue of the study  :: House-holds of the slum localities of Kanpur.
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SLUM CULTURE AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR IN KA NPUR

(ABSTRACT)

The slums are unavoidable condition of our life which provides a different picture and gives a different way of life to the inhabitants. This life is not only distinct from the life of the broader society but it also develops a sub-culture in which the degree of deviation from the prescribed way of life is higher. A careful analysis of this sub-culture indicates that run-down and overcrowded housing, poverty, lack of education are the factors that shape the slum culture. These factors breed different sorts of vices and crime in the society and thus generate deviation. This problem has become acute in urban setting because such pythological conditions are clearly related to a distinct way of life generally prevalent among the slum dwellers. We find that almost all cities of the world have these sore spots. The nature and structure of the slum differ from country to country and region to region.

OBJECTIVES:

This empirical study aims at achieving the following objectives:

1. To assess and study the extent of the run-down housing, over-crowding, poverty, low level of education are
present in the slum areas.

2. To study the type of vices and crimes that are common among slum dwellers and generally committed by them.

3. To find out the extent and degree of deviation manifested by the behaviour of slum dwellers.

4. To find out the relation, if any, between different traits of slum culture (i.e., run-down and overcrowded housing, poverty and low level of education) and different types of crime and deviation (i.e., gambling, drinking, theft, begging and sex offences).

5. To study the basic features of slum culture distinct from the other cultures.

HYPOTHESIS:

It is proposed to test the following sets of hypothesis:

1. The slum culture is characterised by high level of run-down housing, overcrowding, poverty and low level of education.

OR

The slum dwellers reside in houses that are in very bad condition and overcrowded, the slum dwellers
extremely poor and most of them are illiterate.

(a) Most of the houses in the slums consist of single room with or without varandah and have no arrangement of ventilation and light.

(b) In each room 5-6 persons used to live in the houses of slum areas.

(c) Most of the slum dwellers earn between Re.100-200 per month.

(d) Most of the slum dwellers are either illiterate or literate to the extent that they can only sign.

2. Theft and sex offences are the crimes which are generally committed by the slum dwellers.

3. Gambling, drinking and beggary are the forms of deviation which are most common among the slum dwellers.

4. Those who live in run-down housing generally indulge in gambling and offence relating to sex. They are also habitual of drinking.

5. Those who have overcrowded accommodation generally commit gambling and offence relating to sex. They are also habitual of drinking.

6. Those who are extremely poor commit all the fine type of crimes and the forms of deviation; i.e. gambling,
drinking, begging, theft and sex offences.

7. Those who are illiterate or literate are generally habitual of gambling, drinking and sex offences.

**NATURE AND SCOPE OF STUDY:**

The present study is exploratory-cum-diagnostic. It is exploratory in the sense that some unexplored areas have been explored. It is diagnostic in the sense that an attempt has been made to find out which trait of the slum culture generates which type of crime and deviation. Certain conditions are conducive to certain types of crime. A person who lives under such condition is encouraged to commit that type of crime. Thus, casual relationships are established between various traits of slum culture, i.e., run-down and overcrowded housing, poverty, low level of education and different forms of deviant behaviour; i.e., gambling, drinking, begging, theft and sex offences. In terms of respondents, the sample comprises 500 house-holds who were selected from all the 144 slum localities ('ahatas') of Kanpur.

**SAMPLING DESIGN:**

As the present study is related with slum culture and deviant behaviour, Kanpur was selected as the universe. Kanpur being an industrial city in U.P. has innumerable
between two major Zones, B & D. It consists of 45 'ahatas'.

(e) **Railway Areas:**

This belt consists of lower caste people who have settled on the skirts of Raily Tracks. These are exclusively slum localities and consists of 3 'ahatas'.

(f) **Canal Area:**

The poor people have built their houses at the bank of the Ganges Canal. This consists 4 'ahatas'.

In the selection of the respondents a proportionate stratified sampling procedure was adopted. The selection was carried separately in each stratum- (Zones). It was a selection of the elements because the elements (respondents) were selected individually. In order to make it proportionate in sample was made to correspond to the number of elements from each stratum in the population. First, the house-holds were selected from each Zones of the city and on the second stage, the head of the family was taken from each house-hold. The total number of the house-holds in the 'ahatas' of all the 6 Zones of the city are 42800. Out of which 4180 are in A Zone, 17476 in B, 3731 in C, 1632 in D, 1800 in E and 1990 in F Zone.

Thus the number of elements in each stratum relative
relative to the population total ($N$) is devoted by the stratum weight;

$$W_h = \frac{N_h}{N}$$

In this way this procedure was adopted in order to select the sample of the house-holds and 18 from A, 204 from B, 44 from C, 175 from D, 26 from E and 33 from F were selected respectively. And later a list of the residents was prepared and on the basis of that every 85 the house-hold was selected for interview.

**SAMPLE SIZE:**

The number of house-holds was 500 and head of the family was interviewed. Out of these, 475 were males and 25 females.

**AGE:**

The age of the sample group ranges from 35 years to 96 years.

**RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION:**

The religious and caste composition of the sample was Muslims 80, Hindu 410 and Christian 10 (Table No. 2 and 3).
The slums of Kanpur have very bad houses; houses have deteriorated and are scattered in different parts of the city. They present a gloomy appearance and are by contrast more dirty. They are small in size, and have no sanitation facilities, such as water supply, toilet, light and drains etc. Table No. 1.1 reveals these facts. They are small and more over, overcrowded, being packed to capacity. Shortage of accommodation leads to this predicament. A house in a slum locality of Kanpur barely covers 8X10 sqs and may on may not have a verandah. Each house on an average contains a family of seven (Table Nos. 1.2 and 1.3).

Overcrowding and lack of peace and privacy in these quarters makes inhabitants emotionally disturbed and sexually errant. They do not enjoy the necessary facilities and so they are not satisfied with their houses. (Table Nos. 1.4 and 1.5). Respondents level of satisfaction was measured and the test was applied. They were found dissatisfied with their houses, and the value of $\chi^2$ was significant. (Table No. 1.6).

The run-down and overcrowded housing system directly or indirectly incalculated the habits of drinking, gambling, pre or, extra marital sex (Table Nos. 1.7, 1.8, and 1.10). Beggary and theiving did not show signs of any relation with the run-down and overcrowded housing (Table Nos. 1.9 and 1.11). The $\chi^2$ test also proved that drinking, gambling and sex
offences were associated with the rundown and overcrowded housing system (Table Nos. 1.13, 1.14 and 1.16), but the same test when applied to theiving and beggary showed that these two vices were hardly the result of the unhealthy housing system in these slum areas (Table Nos. 1.15 and 1.17). Thus this rundown and overcrowded housing system, in general breeds deviation (Table No. 1.18).

The slum dwellers are economically depressed because of the low level of their skill. Their average income is Rs. 85.1 per month which is probably the lowest in the country. The major part of this income was spent on food, and the other necessities were left unattended (Table no. 2.1). With such a meagre income, they supported generally, a family of 7 and also tried to meet other liabilities. Their poverty induced them to take up extra work, and also forced their children and women folk to do odd jobs (Table Nos. 2.3, 2.4).

A bad economic condition encourages the slumdwellers to indulge in anti-social acts, for poverty is associated with drinking, gambling, thieving, beggary and sex offences (Table nos. 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8 and 2.9). However, poverty itself breeds deviation because these two are correlated with each other (Table nos. 2.10 and 2.11).

The slum localities did not have adequate educational facilities. Schools and Colleges were quite far from these localities. And in any case, because of poverty most of the
resident could avail this facility. School going children were very few and those that did attend school did not fair well in their studies. Hence they left school early to contribute their small share to the small family income, earned as it was from different sources. Forced by the unfortunate circumstances under which they lived, they were found caring very little for education, as a value in life.

That illiteracy bred all sorts of vices. It often blurred the distinction between right and wrong, and tended to make one gravitate towards the anti-social. Environment further accelerated this movement. Bad habits were easily picked-up and because of pressure of circumstance long retained. Just anything could happen in the process, which may include drinking, gambling, thieving, begging and illegitimate sex relations. Of course, there was no direct relation between illiteracy and these forms of deviation and crimes (Table nos. 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13 and 3.14). But, given the conditions it could have its impact on deviation.

That slum culture leads to deviation and crime. The majority of the slum dwellers of Kanpur indulge in anti-social activities, including drinking, gambling, thieving, begging and sex offences. They commit either one, or more, of these anti-social activities. In any case slum culture bred vice and crime (Table No. 4.13a).

That all these factors in general make slum life
unhealthy, socially speaking and bred and sub-culture
singly peculiar to a slum area. This was found more
specifically applicable to slum localities in Kanpur.

Circumstances forced slum dwellers to live a sub-
standard way of life, which ultimately becomes a part and
parcel of their world view. And what is worse is that this way
of life is transmitted from generation to generation. This
perforce has to perpetuate vice and crime in society.

SUGGESTIONS:

After having closely studied the different aspects
of the life of slum dwellers the following are made to effect some
possible improvements in the way only circumstances force them
to live:

1. The housing problem of the slum dwellers may be
solved by either the government, or municipal corporations by
constructing, on a priority basis housing colonies, suitably
provided with sanitation, electricity, and also easily
available medical, educational recreational facility.

Infact, industrialists should themselves be asked
by the government to provide appropriate and healthy
accommodation to their labourers. Failure to do so, should not
be looked upon with approval, and should as a matter of policy
invite displeasure, made manifest in the form of mild sanctions.

2. Some steps should also be taken to better their economic conditions which may form part of a whole national or provincial programme to at least minimize, if not eradicate poverty. This may also mean a fresh look at wage policies, both of the Public and Private Sectors. It may also include a family planning programme and even a review of the price structure of essential commodities. Community welfare programmes should be started by the government, inviting these people to participate, so that they could be helped in so many different ways.

3. A housing cooperative society should be formed and government should provide loans and plots.

4. The government should provide more educational facility, making education compulsory for all up to the age of 14 years.

5. Deterrent punishment should be awarded to those who employ children below the age of 14 years.

6. The people should have a right to work and in case of no work, unemployment allowances should be paid.

7. Government and social agencies should educate the people about the way of life that they lead. They should also be made aware, through community centres, of the ills of drinking
gambling and beggary.

8. Sex offences should be punished by their neighbours by awarding them the social punishments such as severing the social relations with such type of offenders. They should also be taught through different agencies regarding the consequences of V.D.

9. Thieving may also be avoided by giving deterrent punishments as well as they should be rehabilitated by the Courts.

In this way this culture may be uprooted from the society and there may be lesser pressure of crime and deviation on these localities.