



## GENDER RELATIONSHIP IN URBAN SLUMS: A STUDY OF JAIPUR CITY

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### ABSTRACT:

Gender inequality is one of the major constraints for social and economic development of any country. Still in this modern era gender discrimination between both sexes is well practiced everywhere in this country. Jaipur city is not an exception. The status of women in Rajasthan is far below the expectation level but it really seems to be worsening among the slum dwellers. According to Prof. Amartya Sen (2001). "the afflicted world in which we live is characterized by deeply unequal sharing of the burden of adversities between women and men. Gender inequalities are not homogeneous phenomena, but a collection of disparate and interlinked problems." Sen identifies seven types of inequality— natality, mortality, basic facilities, special opportunity, professional, ownership and household. (Raju, S, 2006). The status of gender relationship, living in the city slums has been analyzed through examining the degree of inequalities. Three major issues have been highlighted. Firstly it analyses the current status of women in the city. Secondly, it investigates the reasons of gender backwardness and bias against women in urban life. Thirdly it deals with some suggestions and remedies for wiping out discrimination against women. A country cannot be developed unless and until the existing discrimination between two gender groups is not completely wiped out. An attempt has been made through studying the status of women among the slum dwellers to focus on file establishment of human rights of women in both the economic and social sphere. Inequality between man and women exists among every sector in third world society. In both the economic and social sphere, women possess different status from the man. Almost in all social classes women suffer from various problems due to deep seated gender bias. Women's status can be well judged by Gender Development Index (GDI) - as proposed by the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). Each individual indicator has its own significance in measuring gender development or backwardness when a set of indicators is used to measure

### KEYWORDS:

**GENDER DISCRIMINATION, GENDER DEVELOPMENT INDEX, SLUMS.**

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### INTRODUCTION

*"Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people - centered sustainable development" (Beijing platform for Action BPA, Expert from Mission Statement).*

In the last decade of the twentieth century, there was a greater prevalence of gender in the academic community and in society at large as a means of differentiating between gender identity and biological sex. According to Money and Hampson 1955 gender takes the form of anything said or done by the individual to indicate that he or she is either a boy or a girl man or woman: masculinity or femininity of a person. Gender is a multifaceted concept that includes not only clothing, movement, and speech patterns, but also biological sex.

It is universally accepted that gender shapes each and everybody's daily life, gender interactions being a primary

feature in all human interactions. Gender is a sociologically adapted phenomenon in the course of numerous interactions of gender relations with other social structures as caste and class. Gender analysis helps to understand the obstacles in women inequality, especially in economic and employment realization, education and skill gaps, place/ participation in the family and society, and violence against women.

The idea of gender relations enables one to assertively comprehend the way society is structured by the relations of the two sexes, where one enters the social processes already conditioned by a built in relationship of dominance, which socially defines how women will fare and how men will fare. The form of gender relations is not a uniform one; it assumes different forms depending on social structures throughout history (Walby, 2005).

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEX AND GENDER:

Rubin (1975), who coined the phrase "Sex/Gender " and

defined it as, a set of arrangements upon which society transforms bodily difference in human activity. Women bodies are seen as a rack upon which behavior patterns and personality traits are superimposed. In the different parts of society, one can see the cultural meaning imposed on sex bodies, the norms and behavioural patterns that creates the commonalities and differences among women.

### DEFINING GENDER

Gender is a socially constructed expectation of males and females behavior found in every known human society. It is a variable that helps to understand the division of work, different rights and obligations, responsibilities, and entitlement. It deliberately creates inequalities between sexes, power relations, autonomy, and well-being leads to disadvantaged positions for women.

Bhasin has stated that nature has given more similarities between men and women; there are very few bodily differences which are only for reproduction. The system of patriarchy creates a hierarchy among men and women resulted in greater inequalities among them. Gender is variable it changes from time to time, culture to culture, even family to family, that is why it is important to understand gender as a concept in a particular context.

### DEFINITION OF GENDER RELATIONSHIP:

Agarwal (1997) defines the nature of gender relations as the power between men and women, embodied in material and ideological representation. They are reflected in the division of work between men and women and ideas, ownership of resources, and representation in various spheres of life such as men and women ability, desire, personality trait, and behavior pattern.

### SLUMS:

Slums are a reality of urban life and society. This has become a universally accepted reality and inevitable by product of the process of urbanization. In this sense, slums are an inseparable and integral part of urban life. Dictionary of Sociology by William P. Scott (1970), "a residential area inhabited primarily by the poor, often demoralized families and characterized by substandard, unsanitary conditions, overcrowding and usually social disorganization"

In the Census of India 2011, Slums have been identified based on the following formula. Areas which satisfy the conditions such as the following have been counted as Slums. Towns and cities with a population of 50,000 and above as per 1991 Census; 2. Areas notified as slums by the State or local Body; 3. A compact area of at least 300 persons or 60-70 households living in poorly built congested tenements in an unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities.

### RATIONALE OF THE STUDY:

The researcher has observed that in larger debates related to slums but slums women have a marginal representation; there are efforts by various scholars who

talk about or describe the issues of women among urban communities.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Women in urban slums are an important part of their economy they are in constant contact with the urban society where they have to be strong and articulate to survive. However, the economic burden and workload on women, their lack of access to education, food, nutrition, and lack of access to modern occupations and political participation are not recognized. Women in urban slums suffer various forms of oppression, the subordinating situation within the community, and in a larger societal context. It is important to understand the power relations among men and women within and outside society/community.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study gender relations in urban slums with reference to social institutions and economic behavior (Social Institution - family, marriage practices, customs, traditions, Economic Behavior- Livelihood, nature of work, earnings, expenditure, and savings.
2. To study the decision making pattern in Jaipur city slum dwellers Household in respect of the development and welfare of their family.
3. To Study the interacting pattern and gender relations in slums society.
4. To examine whether the economic independence lead to the empowerment of women.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

For the present study, purposive sampling method has been used to choose the respondents, which is a type of non-sampling. The purpose of present study is to analyze the gender relationship in Jaipur city slums. The study is carried out in the context of three slums Susheel Pura, Sanjay Nagar, Jawahar nagar kachi Basti in the areas of Jaipur city.

A sample of 100 respondents is taken from each slum area through purposive simple sampling method. The sample would be divided into categories, to make the sample representative of universe. The data is processed and analysed with the help of key variables such as gender, age, caste, literacy, family size and others to study the general profile of the respondents. Statistical tools like percentages and averages were used wherever necessary.

### RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION:

*Social and Gender Relations Specifically, improvement of gender equity in private as well as family spheres is a prerequisite for even these other crucial areas with regard to women being empowered. At the same time the household and the family are the spaces where discriminatory social norms and traditional roles are most of the time the words which are said to be the most difficult to question.*

*In jaipur's slum areas, child marriage is still a serious challenge. In the geographical location which is the place of*

*this work the problem of child marriage is there and its concern focuses mostly on girl children. In the area in question researcher has found out that there were 35% of the respondents who were married off before they were eighteen years old. We can state that it is predominant Issue of Child Marriage in Jaipur: Based on Interviews of respondents it affected female because of 90% of all child marriages are girls child marriage.*

*Dowry may act as a potential indirect incentive for girl child marriage. Dowry is a social institution in Indian society that goes hand in hand with marriage. On average 9 out of 10 women or girls have been married with dowry.*

*Girl child marriage is perpetuated by social acceptance of the practice –*

On average 20% of the respondent holds such views, with 15% of the population believes that a girl should be married before her 18th birthday. In contrast, only 5 % of the population considers it appropriate for a boy to marry before the age of 18 years.

**Intra-Household Dynamics, Roles And Responsibilities:**

Unequal distributions of unpaid care and domestic work as well as asymmetric power relationships within the household have serious implications for women and girls throughout their lifetimes. Gendered divisions of labour defining unpaid care and domestic work as the responsibility of women and girls constrain the time they are able to dedicate to education, training and paid employment.

Women undertake significantly more unpaid care and domestic work than men. On average, women spend 4.5 hours per day on unpaid care and domestic work, compared to 1.4 hours daily for men.

In addition to their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, women face a double burden as they also undertake a large amount of paid work, resulting in a larger total workload. On average, at, women in the labour force work 7 hours per day compared to 8 hours for men. As a result, women bear a significantly larger share of the total workload, spending, on average, a total of 11.5 hours a day on paid and unpaid work compared to 9.4 hours for men.

Men are the primary decision makers within the household

Decision-making power over household consumption in respondent is largely in the hands of men. Men are often the exclusive decision makers within slums households in regard to basic spending on food and clothing as well as large and/or productive purchases such as a house, land, equipment or other inputs. Specifically, 37% respondents identify the male household head as the sole decision maker over basic consumption spending. Furthermore, for productive assets, more than 40% of the respondent identifies the male household head as the individual who has the last word on important decisions such as choosing school for children, buying or renting a house, or buying transportation vehicles, this highlighting women's lower

agency within respondent households.

*Unequal dynamics within the household emerge from norms establishing the traditional roles of men and women within the household.*

Respondent attitudes consider women to be primarily responsible for most unpaid care and domestic work tasks. This is particularly true for tasks perceived as basic and routine unpaid care and domestic work. More than 60% of the respondent believes that tasks such as cooking for the household, cleaning the household, cleaning the bathroom/toilet and washing clothes are the exclusive responsibilities of women within the household. By contrast, less than 1% of the respondent considers these tasks to be the sole responsibility of men.

In cross-gender social interactions, men are normatively expected to guard women and take care of them while women are supposed to obey men in the household structure. Specifically, it is expected that sitting in the house is for women until they are given permission by husbands to go outside. In slums 92% of the population is of the opinion that other than in the domicile, the wife has to obtain permission from the husband and 86% believe that she should get permission from the husband before visiting her family. In general, the norms are more stringent in the sense that proxy and what lines of the husband periphery will ensure that the woman does not go to a public place without his consent when the woman is seeking employment, going to the cinema, or even meeting relatives and friends.

These deeply entrenched discriminatory attitudes are equally strong in all three slums (Jawahar Naganar kachhi basti, Sushil Pura, Sanajay Nagar) and reveal a fundamental characteristic of restrictive masculinities in studied area – to be a “real” man, a man should protect and exercise guardianship over women in the household. In order to do so, social norms confer on men the ability to control women's movements and their ability to take important decisions.

*Women in the Area of study have less access to the labour market than men, remain confined to informal sectors of the economy and occupy positions of lower status.*

Women's access to the labour market is high, but still lower than that of men. Controlling for various socio-demographic factors, men are significantly more likely than women to be employed. In the sample size, 70% of working-age women are in the labour force and 50 % are employed. In comparison, 85 % of working-age men are in the labour force and 78 % are employed. In the sample, 63% of working-age women are in the labour force and 58% are employed, compared to 75% and 69% of men, respectively. Differences in gender gap in labour force participation 15 percentage points and the employment gap stands at 28 percentage points.

Certain jobs are highly gendered

The consequences of these stereotypes and opinions are far reaching, as jobs deemed more appropriate for women

also have lower levels of income than those traditionally held by men. During discussion with respondent, many female respondents stated that only a few women currently hold professional positions (e.g. medical doctors, engineers, lecturers, teachers, etc.) or are engaged in types of work that in the past used to be perceived as masculine (e.g. construction and mining).

As a result, stereotypes regarding the sector or type of jobs deemed appropriate for women tend to naturally orient women towards low productivity sectors characterized by lower wages, perpetuating women's economic disempowerment.

#### *Violence against Women.*

The "Violence against women" analysis discrimination against slums of women in terms of their vulnerability and exposure to gender-based violence. Research question looks at the share of ever-partnered women who have experienced intimate partner violence over the last 12 months as well as the proportion of women who have survived any kind of violence perpetrated by someone other than their partner during their lifetime. Research questions also looks into the respondent opinion regarding whether a husband may be justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances – namely, burning the food, going out without telling him, neglecting the children or arguing with him. The results suggest that violence against women is a more acute problem in Jaipur city slums,.

Overall, more than half of all respondent women have survived some form of violence at some point in their lives.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Research analysis also shows that discrimination persists in the family sphere and also affects women's civil and economic liberties. Deeply entrenched barriers to gender equality manifest in the form of girl child marriage and dowry, unequal intra-household dynamics, violence against women, and lack of reproductive autonomy, access to financial services and product, land, freedom of movement and access to justice.

Jaipur Slums still have a long road ahead to achieve Gender Equality and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"). The issues identified by researcher are at the root of the restrictions that women and girls face, and underpin unequal outcomes across all spheres of life including employment, Civil liberties, health and education. A holistic approach is therefore critical in addressing them.

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