

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON STEPS AND POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE SLUM DWELLERS OF SRI LANKA: A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BOSEWANA DIVISION OF COLOMBO DISTRICT

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Introduction

The main goal of every country is the sustainable development. The main challenge and main problem faced by the development goals of countries became as a Slum problem. According to the United Nations, the percentage of urban dwellers living in slums decreased from 47 percent to 37 percent in the developing world between 1990 and 2005. One billion people worldwide live in slums and the figure will likely grow to 2 billion by 2030. A recent UN report states that, the total number of slum dwellers in the world, stood at about 924 million in 2001, distributed over 200,000 slums (UN-Habitat 2003). The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that respond to the world's main development challenges were to be achieved by 2015. In target seven the UN hopes to achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

This is the main problem in the countries economically, sociologically & culturally. According to the Universality, individuals become as a universal family. In applying this framework to slums, these discourses reinstate stereotypes that further marginalize and segregate individuals and communities (<http://asiasociety.org/policy/social-issues/human-rights/slums-asia>). Like wise, health problems, deceases rights, Crimes, drug abuses and violence have occurred in based this community. January 19, 2012 cabinet meeting that, there were up to 66000 families living in a 'haphazard manner' in some of Colombo's choicest land. The government will spend over Rs 950 million to build 500 housing units for slum dwellers in Colombo city.

According to the "Mahinda Chinthanaya", the final development goal of Sri Lanka, wants to be the wonder of Asia. In 1979, as much as 50 percent of the total population in Colombo, the trade city of Sri Lanka, lived in slums and shanty communities defined according to their housing and neighborhood characteristics (Upgrading Steps – Ministry of Local Government Housing and Construction, 1984). The 2001 survey identified a total of 77,612 families living in 1,614 low-income settlements in the city (Municipal budget report 2002). According to the Housing Property Law No. 01 of 1973, Government has established lot of organization such as Urban Development Authority, National Housing Development Authority, Urban Basic Services Program, 1978 – 1986, Common Amenities Board and programs like Urban Renewal Program, Urban Settlements Improvement Program and World Bank Funded Projects etc. Municipal Councilors' Rs.1.5 Millions Program implemented by the Colombo Municipal Council. By this, although Sri Lankan developmental programs has addressed the poverty reduction and slum improvement efforts and welfare facilities and urban planning in the country, Slums is become a crucial problem.

Basically, in India has an act for protect their rights such as land ownership right and other countries have upgrading system.

Objectives are as follows:

- To examine the steps and programs taken by the government to improve the living condition and protect rights of Slums.
- To examine the success of government's programs taken for slums.
- To examine the attitudes and ideas of slum dwellers on resettlement.

Methodology

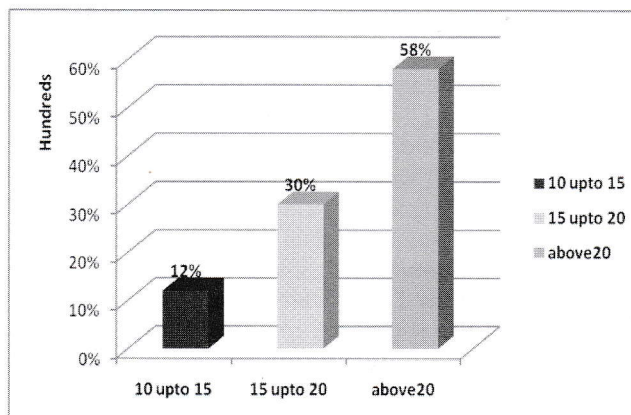
The study has been conducted in *Bosevana* area in Colombo district. This is a one place which is high rate of slums in the Colombo district. *Bosevena* division is also included in to the resettlement program of the Colombo municipality. Research was used both primary and secondary data for qualitative and quantitative data. The 150 sample was selected using simple random sampling techniques. Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect data in *Bosevena* area. Like wise 10 responsible officers were used as key informant from the Colombo municipality for qualitative data.

Discussion and Conclusion

There are lots of governmental and non-governmental programs for slums in Sri Lanka. Under Housing Property Law No. 01 of 1973, there are over nine Programs implemented by the Colombo Municipality. Under NGO interventions, six Slum upgrading projects and other programs are there. Under International interventions, four programs are in there. Although, Sri Lanka has implemented lot of programs, mostly they are addressed the only housing problem. Other matters like Upgrading and improvement have addressed by the international programs and non -Governmental Organization's programs.

When we consider about their living condition, women headed families (56%) more than male headed families (44%) due to death, abandonment or permanent disability of husband, divorced. Married females only 32%, but divorced females reprecent is 50% because of abundantment, drug abuses and another affires and domestic violence. 65 per cent of their educational level is up to 8. There were 52% joint families. 62% haven't shelter ownership right. Sixty per cent of families have 5 to 7 members. When we consider about their latrine facilities and water sources, Majority have private latrines and hand pipes. Under health facilities 61% respondents aren't received PHI services. 27 per cent of children don't go to the school, and they have tended to earn money as additional source of incomes and all of them are children.

Figure 01. Age categories of earners of an additional means of incomes



Although Sri Lankan government has established lots of institutions for improve slums, there are only three program implemented in this area. Special thing is female participation are higher than male participation in this programmes. Women empowerment, lone systems women leadership are focused by them and they were succesfull and these all are of NGO. They enjoy several enough living condition in there. But Governmet hadn't got any upgrading procedure to upgrade them. Government have eshtablish the lots of institutions and programmes spending lot of moneys, basically based on a housing, there is no enough land ownership for them. But In India , under property rights to slum dwellers act 2011, they have ensure property rights of them. There isn't national policy on Slums and no regular methods to improve slums in Sri Lanka. When we consider the attitudes and ideas of slum dwellers on resettlement program, no anyone likes to resettle in other place. Their idea is, although government tries to replace them, they haven't sufficient policy or method to rebuild their means of income. Like wise there aren't any programs to change slum's attitudes and ideas.

Although Lot of government's programs and projects are introduced to the Slum problem in Sri Lanka, There aren't addressed the improvement of slum's living conditions and solutions for social problems, family problems, rights and upgrading process. They are focused only the housing problem and it is also unsuccessful because, no any programs to change their attitudes and ideas on resettling. International organization's programs are successful and they have focused only women empowerment. Government has not a regular national policy and regular methodology to resettle the slums. Therefore, Government should implement a good regular program to improve their living condition and solve their social problems and upgrading them, and they should be successful and result oriented. Government should active to protect their rights such as child rights and provide good public service to them. Government should implement regular mechanism to change their attitudes on resetting procedure and to get their contribution to urban development planning management.

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