

A Study on Perceived Family Environment of Children Living In Slum in the Modern Era

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Abstract- Family is a social group in the society consists of one or two parents and their children. This is influenced by the environment in which they are living. The children in the slum are unprivileged to enjoy good family atmosphere as well as the good environment due to various causes like inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, poor structural quality housing, overcrowding, insecure residential status, the low socio – economic status of its residents, poverty in terms of culture and material, breeding ground for all social problems, lack of communication and educational facilities, lack of welfare agencies and services. So, the researcher has made an attempt to study the family environment of slum children in Tiruchirappalli. The aim of the study is to analyze the family environment of slum children, since family is the first socializing agent of the child. The researcher has used descriptive design for the study. Questionnaire was used to collect the socio- demographic data and Family Environment Scale by Moss and Moss (1986) was used in the present study. The reliability of scale is 0.835. The universe of the study is consists of slum children dwelling in Kalnayakan Street at Trichy. Census method was adopted and data was collected from 100 respondents from 1st January to 25th January 2013. It was found that more than half of the respondents (57%) had low family environment. Social work intervention is very essential for young children and their families in slums to enhance their family environment. Since family is the first socializing agent of the child.

Index Terms- Family Environment, Slum Children

I. INTRODUCTION

The most common phenomenon throughout the world is the occurrence of slums. It is found in almost all the cities of the world and it is more so in the developing countries. The rural poor are attracted by the cities which can not afford conventional housing or for whom no housing has been planned. Vacant lands are most often occupied by the slum dwellers. The population of the cities of the developing world is growing faster than the rural areas. Urbanization poses several socio-economic and environmental problems for cities in India and one among them is the rise of slums. A slum represents a habitat unit with defective physical, social, and economic living conditions.

Family Environment of Slum Children
Housing conditions in slums

In slums housing conditions are found in a very poor with no proper lighting and ventilation. Slums seldom have streets; more common are narrow, winding lanes and dark passages, some houses are permitted indoor a way that the verandah of one serves as a passage to another giving the feeling that the houses source constructed first and the passageways as an afterthought.

Family size

Family is the basic important social institution, without which no society can't survive. Usually in slums size of the family is large because family planning methods are not followed. It is the family in which most of the needs and requirements of the people are met. It is the family in which people are born and brought up and prepared for different types of positions in society. It is the family in which the ailing members are taken care of and the last rites and rituals are performed. It is the family which moulds a biological individual in to a socialized person.

Family occupation

In slums occupation very much depends on the work available at the time. According to its season, during summer people go to construction work. Most of the women are engaged in construction work at the same time rag picking is also done by the women folks.

Types of occupation in slum community

- Cobblers
- Cow dung cake makers
- Domestic servants
- Rag pickers
- Bottle collectors
- Construction workers
- Street vendors

Income of the slum dweller

Income of the slums dwellers are low because they are daily wagers. They do not permanent nature of job.

Educational facilities in slums

There is seldom any high school and higher secondary schools in slums except for Balwadis. Since the slums children have to travel and spent a lot on transport most of the slum children are illiterate.

Recreation

Slum children only recreation is watching television and playing group games with friends or roaming about in streets.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dewitt. R. (2006) “Slum dwellers, slum leaders and the Government Apparatus” attempted to probe in to the relations between the actors involved in the slum upgrading efforts in Madras, The study reveals that, inhabitants of madras slum workers had irregular job, with payment on a daily basis for men, the dominant job was coolie, often in the building sector. The main paid activity for women was house work for the richer families in near by parts of the city. In conclusion, it appears that main conformities of interest between the various actor groups exit between the slum leaders, government officials and the ruling party politicians. They are in the best position to manipulate the available resources for sum upgrading to their own benefit”.

Pothens. K.P. (2007) “A study on slum children in India reveals the various means of the entertainment for 27 % of the only source of entertainment is playing , for 18.3 % it is watching T.V., for 58 % it is gossiping with friends and the next 6 % use various means for their entertainment such as playing cards , gambling, etc.,”

Tuko Tsujita & Kumar, D. (2009) “ To explore the prevalence and nature of gender based physical violence among women in slum population of UT Chandigarh to understand factors contributing towards physical violence to explore the perceived consequences of violence on women's health to examine the coping mechanism adopted by women while facing the violence. Slum population of UT Chandigarh, India. Married women in reproductive age willing to participate in the survey. 294 respondents by complete enumeration in the selected area. Study Variables: Age, educational status, religion, age at marriage, literacy, socio-economic status, and various aspects of violence like type of violence, perceptions regarding reasons of being victim of violence, coping mechanism, perceived consequences of physical violence etc.

Rebecca Juhus & Yang, (2009) “Children from slums, low-income families are least likely to begin school with strong literacy skills. Although early childhood education programs exist, they are not reaching the large numbers of children who could benefit from early learning support, nor are they being implemented well by early childhood educators who have limited formal training (Further, strong evidence of effectiveness has been found for few programs: A recent review of experimental studies on the impacts of preschool curricula revealed that just 2 of 15 had significant positive effects on early literacy skills in slums”

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Aim and Objectives

- ❖ To analyze the demographic factors of the respondents
- ❖ To analyze the family conditions of the respondents
- ❖ To know about the educational qualification of the respondents as well as of their parents
- ❖ To analyze the occupation of the respondents father

- ❖ To analyze the occupation of the respondents mother
- ❖ To analyze the adjustmental problems of the respondents
- ❖ To analyze the socio – economic status of the respondents
- ❖ To analyze their relationship with the family members
- ❖ To analyze the family type of the respondents

Research design

The researcher attempted to describe the family environment of slum children in relation with cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, independence, achievement orientation, and control and Occupation. Hence it was felt to base the study on descriptive design.

Universe and Sample

The study was carried out in Kalnayakan Street at Trichy. Census method was adopted and the data was collected from 100 respondents in that slum from 1st January to 25th January 2013.

Research Instruments

The researcher used Questionnaire as the tool for collecting the data for the present study. The first part of the schedule covered the socio-demographic data of the respondents. “Family Environmental Scale by Moss and Moss (1986) has been used in the present study. There are 90 true or false items related to family with 10 domains such as cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, independence, achievement orientation, intellectual, cultural orientation, active recreational orientations, moral religious emphasis, organization and control. The reliability of the scale is found to be 0.835

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings related to socio – demographic factors

Figure: 1
Distribution of the Respondents by their Age

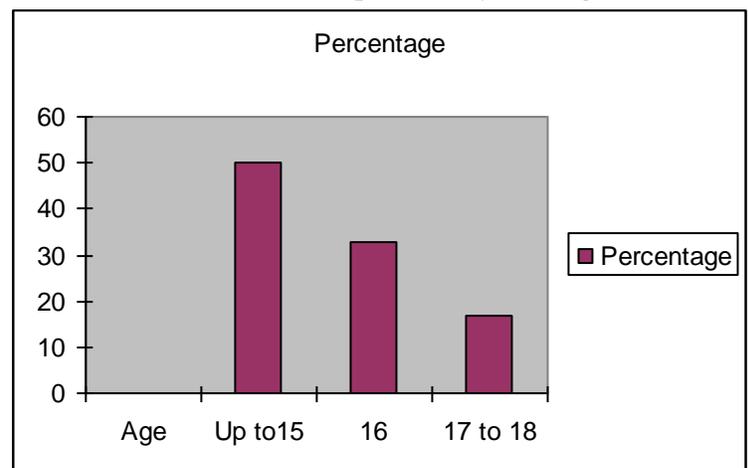


Figure: 2

Distribution of the Respondents by their Gender

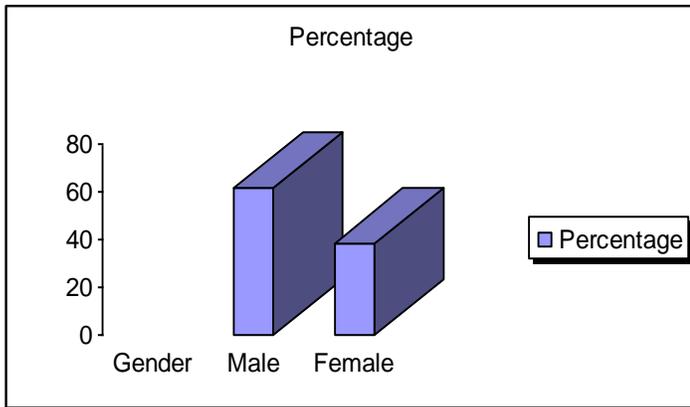


Figure: 5

Distribution of the Respondents by their Order of Birth

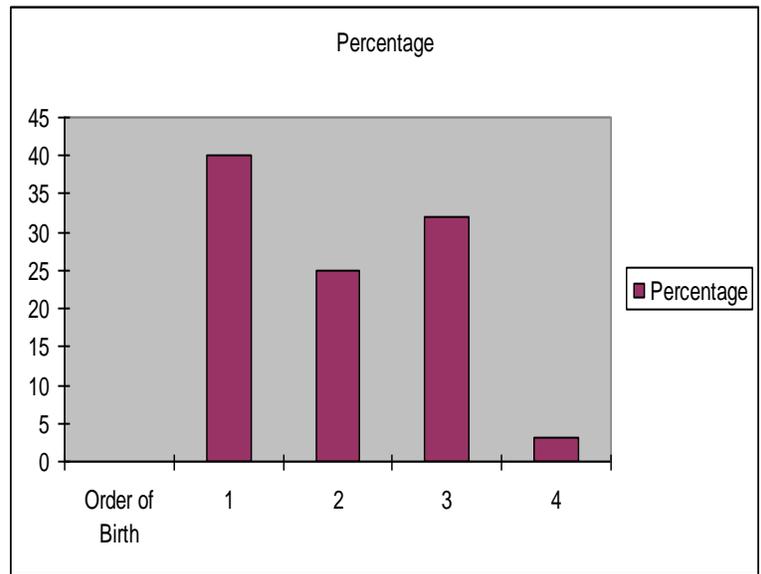


Figure: 3

Distribution of the Respondents by their religions

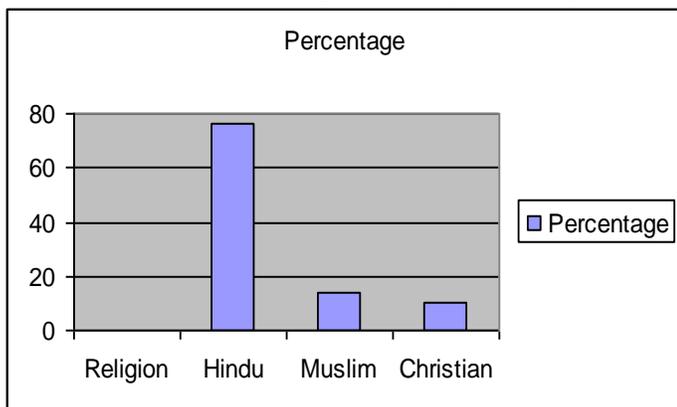


Figure: 6

Distribution of the Respondents by their Educational status

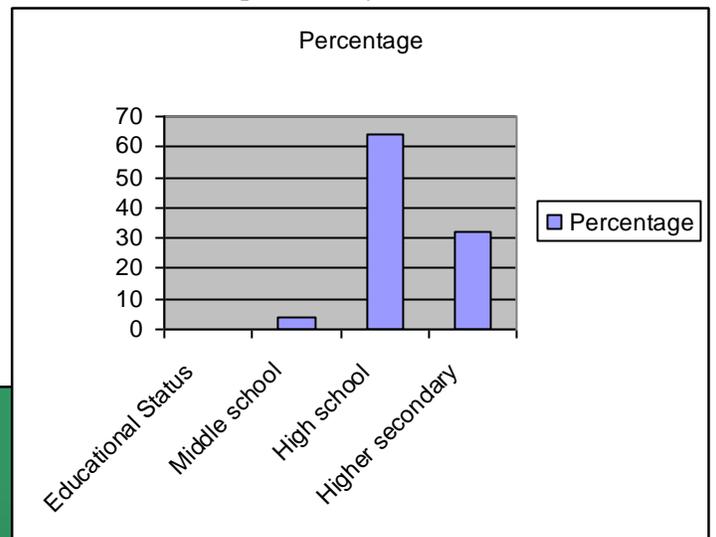


Figure: 4

Distribution of the Respondents by the number of family members

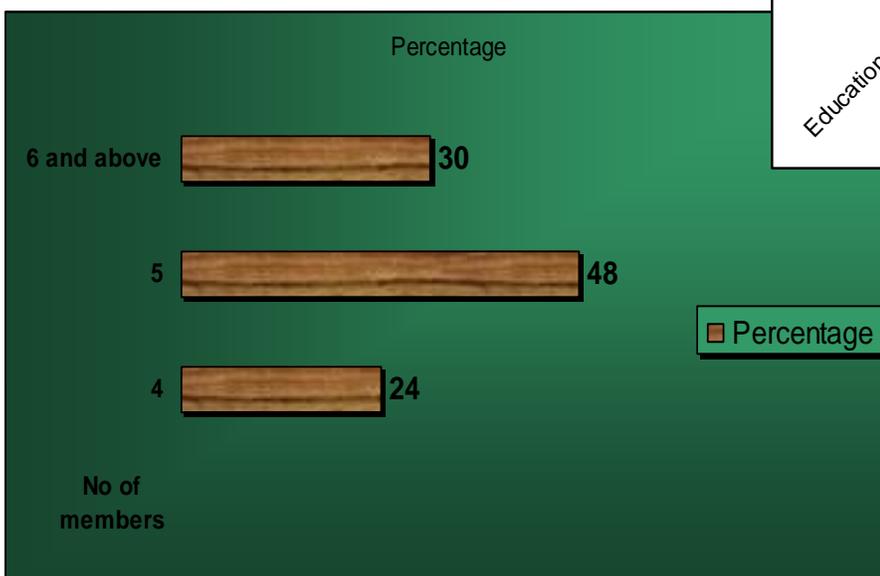


Figure:7

Distribution of the Respondents by the types of house

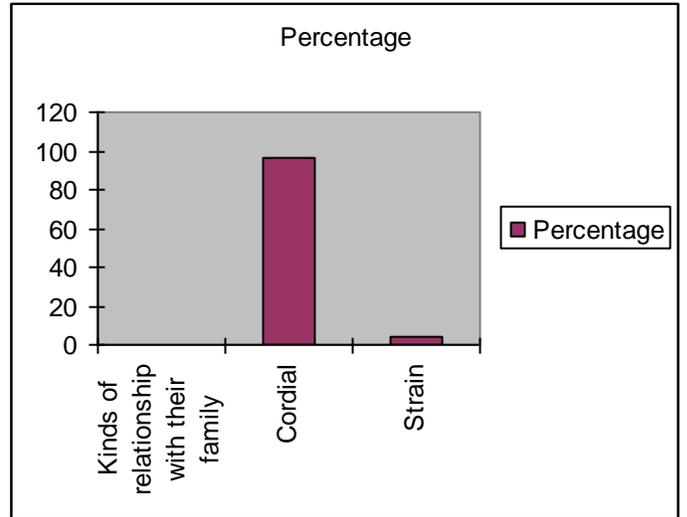
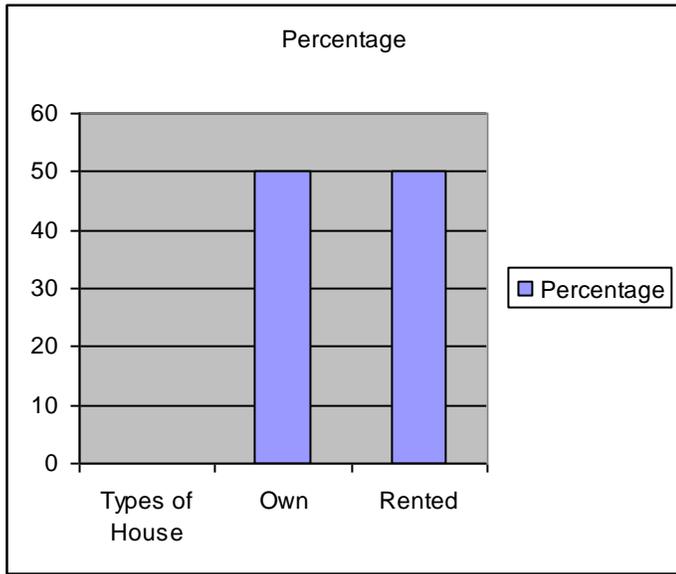


Figure: 8

Distribution of the Respondents by their Kinds of relationship with family

Table 1
Distribution of the Respondents by their level of Family Environment

S. No	Level of Family Environment	No. of Respondents (n :100)	Percentage
1	Cohesion		
	Low	76	76
	High	24	24
2	Expressiveness		
	Low	66	66
	High	34	34
3	Conflict		
	Low	23	23
	High	77	77
4	Independence		
	Low	61	61
	High	39	39
5	Achievement		
	Low	88	88
	High	12	12
6	Intellectual Orientation		
	Low	58	58
	High	42	42

S.No	Level of Family Environment	No. of of Respondents (n :100)	Percentage
7	Active Recreation		
	Low	42	42
8	High	58	58
	Moral Religious Orientation		65
9	Low	65	65
	High	35	35
10	Organization		19
	Low	51	51
11	High	49	49
	Control		
12	Low	19	19
	High	81	81
13	Over all		
	Low	57	57
	High	43	43

While analyzing the level of cohesion, it was found that (76%) of the respondents level of cohesion is low. It was found that (66%) of the respondents level of expressiveness is low. It was found that the level of conflict of the respondents (77%) is high. It was found that (61%) of the respondents level of independence is low. While analyzing the level of achievement, it was found that a (88%) of the respondents level of achievement is low. It was found that (58%) of the respondents level of intellectual orientation is low. It was found that a (58%) of the respondents level of active reaction is high. Regarding the level of moral religious orientation, it was found that (65%) of the respondents level of moral religious orientation is low. It was found that (51%) of the respondents level of organization is low. Regarding the level of control, it was found that a (82%) of the respondents level control is high. It was found that (57%) of the respondents had low level of family environment..

V. SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION

Role of a social worker is very essential to redress the problems faced the slum children.

1. Case work is an essential method to intervene with psychological problems of the slum children. Individual counseling should be given to redress their psychological problems.
2. Group work should be used for recreational purpose and educating them
3. Through community organization problems awareness can be created about the precautionary measures they have take at the time of disaster. Disaster management can also be another ingredient.
4. Social workers should be appointed on full time basis to mould the personality of the slum children.
5. A wide publicity of Government schemes for the welfare of children in particular should be made through mass media.

6. Suitable remedial measures should be taken to rehabilitate them and motivate them to study. The intellectual development of children is much essential for future development of the Nation.

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