

AVAILABILITY OF HOUSEHOLD FACILITIES AMONG BEGGARS' HOUSEHOLDS: A REGIONAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The present paper aims to analyse the spatial variations in the availability of housing and household amenities and facilities among the beggars' households in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh. The study is based on primary source of data collected through field survey in the Aligarh district carried out during 2009. Spatial analysis of the present research work reveals that the high level of household facilities is witnessed in the longitudinal central and eastern parts of the district, while, western parts recorded the low level of household facilities among beggars. Moreover, the central part of the district witnesses low level development in the district, while, the high level of development is found in the peripheral parts of the district.

Keywords: : Household, Amenities, Facilities, Beggars, Aligarh, Region.

INTRODUCTION

Beggars in India are the victim of an imbalanced socio-economic system. They are the most vulnerable people in our society. They are the example of human degradation to the lowest extent, and they are a menace to the healthy society. Most of them are the product of economic deprivation, destitution and neglect (Cama 1945). The Census of India (2001) defined beggars as vagrants, prostitutes and person having unidentified source of income and those with unspecified period called beggars, while, The Encyclopedia of Social Work in India (1968) defined the beggars as charity seeker people who could easily be noticed by the way they live and earn money essential for survival; and most of who are homeless and live in the open or in the impoverished huts. The housing is one of the three basic needs of human beings (Smith 1973), but it is still beyond the access of the disadvantaged section of the society. A house is a place of residence, usually, a place in which, an individual or a family can live and store personal property. According to North Carolina General Statute, "dwelling or housing means any building, structure, manufactured home or mobile home, or part thereof, used and occupied for human habitation or intended to be so used, and includes any outhouses and appurtenances belonging there to or usually enjoyed therewith, except that it does not include any manufactured home or mobile home, which is used solely for a seasonal vacation purpose". In simple terms, houses are the human structures which are used to live in, work in or store things in (Bryan 1933). According to Census of India "household is usually a group of persons who normally live together and take their meals from a common kitchen unless the exigencies of work prevent any of them from doing so. The persons in a household may be related or unrelated or a mix of both. However, if a group of unrelated persons live in a Census house but do not take their meals from the common kitchen, then they will not collectively constitute a household. Each such person should be treated as a separate household". In the words of Thakur Nabakumar Singh (1998) "It is obvious that better the construction of the houses, better is their general conditions." It is because this importance pucca house is taken into consideration for the present study to show the socio-economic status. Housing status which is one of the important aspects of development refers to the ownership of house. Any household may be owned, rented or other type of house. Better levels of owned houses indicate better levels of development in the particular region. The term 'basic amenities', refers to drinking water supply, sanitation, electricity and so on (Shaw 2007). It is conventionally believed that housing conditions, availability of drinking water, sanitation facilities, etc. might contribute to the health improvement of the people and determine the quality of life of the society (Nayar 1997). Besides housing, availability of modern household amenities and assets also has paramount significance in the human life. It is also being realized that key dependencies exist between water supply and sanitation and improvement in the overall human development (Dreze and Murthi 2001; Gupta and Mitra 2002). Moreover, the possession of assets, means consumers' goods like, television, telephones, scooters or motor cycles, etc. gives a rough indication of how money is spent on different commodities. It also provides some information on household decisions and tastes towards modernity (Khan, Hassan and Shamshad 2011).

The development is an outcome of the efforts made for the eradication of poverty, unemployment and regional inequalities (Seer 1989). The concept of development may be taken to imply an improvement in the material and cultural well being of the people in a region. The development of a region can be identified with an increase in the employment opportunities, availability of infrastructural facilities, amenities and services, proper distribution of resources, increase in production, and investment in consumption and so on. Thus, the development refers to an improvement of all the sectors of economic, social and cultural pursuits (Verma 1993)

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Work done outside India- Gillin (1929) examined that how socio-economic conditions result the beggary and vagrancy. He also highlighted the main causes which give rise to begging, including economic and social disorganization due to changes in the economic order or political instability, breakdown of agriculture, religious ideals and practices, the crusades, migrations decay of feudalism, a plague of famine. Bromley (1981) explained the beggar-donor relationship which raises a wide range of social and moral issues and the study of begging can provide an interesting perspective on social structure and the impact of the social welfare policies. Norberg's (1985) analyzes the relationship between the rich and poor at their closest point of contact: poor relief. This study provides a revealing account of one society's response to poverty. Lu (1999) analyzed of mendicancy as a competitive urban profession in modern Shanghai, a city that had one of the nation's largest armies of street beggars and was in many aspects the best case to reveal mendicancy in urban China. He provides a glimpse of the rich variety of public views on mendicancy that, taken together, formed a culture on poverty. Jowett, et al. (2001) presented a report about begging in relation to drugs and alcohol and homelessness based on research

carried out in Manchester, Bristol, London and Brighton, involving people who beg, the public, police officers, hostel and day centre staff. This report investigates what money from begging is spent on, the reasons why people beg and public perspectives on begging. Fitzpatrick and Kennedy (2001) made qualitative study in Glasgow and Edinburgh city centers which demonstrated a close relationship between begging and rough sleeping, and the complex needs and desperate circumstances of the people engaged in these activities. Banks et al. (2003) investigates the links among homelessness, begging, and substance misuse in five major U.K. towns and cities. The book of Maxwell (2003), providing expository comment, is fundamentally designed as a source of practical application for our daily Christian walk. Moens et al. (2004) pointed out that trafficking in persons occurs within Senegalese borders and internationally to, through, and from Senegal. Kim (2004) examines beggars, gypsies, rogues, and vagrants presented in early modern English drama, with the discussion of how these peripatetic characters represent the discourses of vagrancy of the period. Lynch (2005) gave an overview of the problem of begging and the public interest and value in responding to that problem. He also discusses a range of legal and public policy initiatives, both domestic and international, designed to respond to begging. Demewozu (2005) examined the picture the life of the urban poor on the streets and churchyards of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Smith (2005) examined 71 U.S. cities to determine what factors influence a city's propensity to enact anti-begging regulations. Adriaenssens and Cle (2006) give an account of the extensive sociography of begging and beggars conducted in Brussels. UNIAP (2006) examined that the Cambodian child beggar networks in Thailand, with the specific aim of contributing to strategic responses to the problem. Carter (2007) provides valuable insights into who panhandles and why they are on the streets of North American cities. Wardhaugh (2007) explores the nature and quality of begging interaction in two south Asian capital cities, Delhi (India), Kathmandu (Nepal). The major theme is the social and spatial nature of begging, and the ways in which it is subject to both formal and informal means of regulation. The article of Henry (2009) examines begging in the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang as a form of street theater rather than as simply a sign of poverty. Onoyase (2010) studied effective methods of combating street begging as perceived by the Panhandlers. Stef and Jef (2011) developed and applied a method to estimate the revenues of beggars in Brussels. Saeed (2011) provides an audio-visual dissertation which investigates why there are so many beggars in Lahore (Pakistan).

Work done in India- Kumarappa (1945) dealt with different aspects of the question in order to give a synthetic view of the beggar and the beggar problem. The problem is studied from different angles by writers who are specialist in their respective fields. Each chapter has unity and individuality of its own-which accounts for slight overlapping in some places it is linked up to the others in a series of comprehensive progressiveness. Gore, et al. (1959) analyzed the nature of the problem of beggar in metropolitan Delhi and suggested the ways for its solution. The problem is tied up with the inadequacies of our socio-economic structure; it cannot be wholly solved at the local level. Moorthy (1959) has done a pilot survey in the typology of beggars in Greater Bombay with a view to finding out the causes of beggary, types of beggars, the extent of the beggar problem and the possible methods of rehabilitating the beggars. The problem of the beggars and some remedial measures were suggested in the study on the beggars of Meerut (Prasad: 1960) and Kanpur (Ratan, 1961). Rao and Bogaert (1970) studied the socio-economic background and present condition of the beggars of Ranchi. Ramana and Rao (1973) mentioned that industrialisation and urbanisation have always entailed a heavy social cost (the slums, prostitution, and beggary). The author has done a socio-psychological study of beggars in the city moving from rural areas. Jha (1979) attempted to study the beggars and lepers of Puri town with a view to find out their social stratification, cultural identity, and above all, to know their problems empirically. The author had also given few case studies of the beggars' life histories. Pandian et al. (1979) gave more emphasis on social legislation and said that social legislation in India is intended to enforce desired social values and protect citizens' health and civil rights. DWCWAP (1980) studied a descriptive and objective study of beggar problem in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The objective of this study was twofold: to understand the intricacies of begging in all its facets and to find out and suggest effective measures to tackle this problem. Das (1983) evaluated the beggar problem in Tirupati and suggested the ways for its solution. Chaudhuri (1987) has described the social situation of the beggars of Kalighat, a famous Hindu pilgrimage of Calcutta. The study enquired the background of the beggars and the social, cultural and the behavioral strategies of the begging community through which they manage to survive in their miserable socio-economic situation. Goyal (2005) study brings forth the nature of erosion of social norms and cultural patterns among different groups of beggars who lived precariously at the margin of urban society. It also focuses on specific social, cultural and behavioural strategies by which the beggars managed to survive in their miserable socio-economic situation. Thakker et al. (2007) conducted study socio-demographic variables and assessed the psychiatric morbidity and distress

among the inmates of 'Beggar Home'. The Subjects were 49 inmates of Beggar Home situated in Vadodara (Gujarat), India. The study also revealed the high scores on GHQ among the beggars suffering from the psychiatric illness. Mukherjee (2008) deals with the historical study of the beggars as for the last few centuries India has suffered acute poverty. Rafiuddin (2008) asked to the person that is there a town in India where there are no beggars? Is there a place of worship in India where you do not find people asking for alms? In the Indian sub-continent, with its rich religious heritage, alms giving in various forms have been overtly and covertly nurtured. Joshi and Singh (2010) explained the Beggars Homes conditions in Uttar Pradesh and resulted that an immediate repair work needed to be done at the Beggars Home Lucknow. However, the matter of begging is not the ignorable issue of the society; but in fact, the begging has become one of the most problematic social issues of India. On the other hand, beggars are most deprived population of a region or a country having unidentified source of income depending upon the sympathy of the people and are lagging behind in the accessibility of housing and household amenities and assets. Therefore, it is necessary that empirical studies have to be undertaken aimed at collecting relevant data on this subject.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The present study has been undertaken with the following specific objectives:

- i to examine the spatial variations of household facilities of the beggars in Aligarh district.
- ii to inspect the inter-block disparities in the levels of socio-economic development in the Aligarh district.
- iii to find out the relationship of household facilities of beggars with their socio-economic development status in the study area.

STUDY AREA:

Aligarh district, a medium sized district, is spreading over an area of 3700.4 square kilometers in the Western part of Uttar Pradesh. It occupies the north-western part of the Uttar Pradesh which is fertile region of Ganga and Yamuna Doab. In the world map, the geographical location of this district is in North-Eastern Hemisphere and lying between the parallels of 27°29' and 28°11' north latitudes and meridians of 77°29' and 78°38' east longitudes. Its boundary touches the boundaries of five other districts (Bulandshahr, Badaun, Mathura, Hathras and Etah) of the Uttar Pradesh and one state (Haryana) of India. At present, the district is divided into five Tahsils namely, Koil, Khair, Gabhana, Atrauli and Iglas for the purpose of land record keeping, land revenue collection, judicial administration, etc. These tahsils are further sub-divided into 12 development blocks namely: Atrauli, Gangiri, Bijauli, Jawan, Chandus, Khair, Tappal, Dhanipur, Lodha, Akraabad, Iglas and Gonda. According to 2001 Census, the district accommodates a residential population of 29, 92, 286 of which 29 per cent was classified as urban and 71 per cent as rural. The general density of population in the district was 820 persons per sq. km. However, it was 607 persons per sq. km. in the rural sector and 5,949 persons per sq. km. in the urban sector. The general sex ratio that is the number of females per thousand males was 862 in the district, whereas, the figures for the rural and urban areas were 856 and 876 respectively. The literacy rate in the district is 58.5 per cent and the male literacy rate is 71.7 per cent and females are 43.0 per cent literate while, the percentage of literacy in rural and urban population was 56.5 and 63.2 respectively. According to the Census of India there were 7,50,307 beggars and vagrants in India in 1981, which declined to 5,42,875 in 1991, though it further increased to 6,27,688 in 2001. Out of the total beggars, about two third beggars were in rural areas while one-third in urban areas. The matter of begging is not the ignorable issue of the society, but in fact, the begging has become one of the most problematic social issues of India. It is, therefore, necessary that empirical studies have to be undertaken based on the data collected through field surveys.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The study is based on primary source of data that has been collected the through field survey in the Aligarh district, carried out during 2009. The villages have been selected on the basis of stratified random sampling technique. According to 2001 Census, the district had 1210 revenue villages of which 1180 were inhabited. The inhabited villages were stratified into three categories based on the size of population, so that, all types of population and villages may get reasonable representation in the samples randomly drawn for the survey. Keeping in view the constraints of time and cost, it was decided to collect data for this enquiry from 6 per cent villages of each category. Therefore, 6 per cent villages (i.e. 70) of the total inhabited villages (1,180) of the district have been selected for rural survey from the stratified random sampling technique and the 6 per cent wards from the all 13 towns of the district were selected for urban survey. Further, the 25 per cent beggars'

households were surveyed from the each selected village as well as ward of the study area. Altogether, 892 households were selected for the present study, in which the rural survey consisted of 496 households and the urban survey comprised 396 households. However, a block has been considered as the smallest unit of study. For the present analysis, seventeen indicators of development have been taken into account to find out the levels of socio-economic development. Firstly, the raw data for each variable which determines the spatial variations of household facilities and levels of socio-economic development have been computed into standard score (Z value or Z-score). This score quantify the departure of individual observations, expressed in a comparable form. This means it becomes a linear transformation of the original data (Smith, 1973). It may be expressed as:

$$Z_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij} - \bar{X}_i}{\sigma_i}$$

Where, Z_{ij} indicates standardised value of the variable i in block j , X_{ij} refers to actual value of variable i in block j , \bar{X}_i stands for Mean value of variable i in all blocks, and σ_i refers standard deviation of variable i in all blocks. In the second step, the Z-scores of all variables have been added block wise and the average has taken out for these variables which may be called as composite score (CS) for each block and may be algebraically expressed as:

$$CS = \frac{\sum Z_{ij}}{N}$$

Where, CS stands composite score, $\sum Z_{ij}$ indicates Z-scores of all variables i in district j and N refers to the number of variables. The positive values relating to the districts' Z-score explain high level, while, negative values indicate the low level of household facilities and socio-economic development. The correlation co-efficient is worked out among dependent variable (household facilities) and independent variables (selected variables of socio-economic development) and student t-test technique is applied to find out the determinants which are significant at 1 per cent and 5 per cent levels.

The correlation co-efficient has been computed on the basis of the Karl Pearson's correlation co-efficient (r) method which is as follows:

$$r = \frac{\sum xy - \frac{\sum x \sum y}{n}}{\sqrt{\sum x^2 - \frac{(\sum x)^2}{n}} \sqrt{\sum y^2 - \frac{(\sum y)^2}{n}}}$$

Where, r is the co-efficient of correlation, X , y are the two given variables, n is the number of observation. To find out the computed 't' value, student t-test technique is used which is given below:

$$t = r \sqrt{\frac{(n-2)}{1-r^2}}$$

Where, t is the calculated value of 't' in the test of significance, r is the computed value of co-efficient of correlation, n is the number of observation. Besides, advanced statistical techniques, GIS-Arc view programme (Version 3.2a) has been applied to show the spatial variations of household facilities in beggar population and their levels of socio-economic development among the blocks of the Aligarh district through maps.

RESULT & ANALYSIS:

REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLD INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES:

To measure the level of household infrastructural facilities, six variables have been chosen in the study area. They are own house, pucca house, drinking water facility available within their premises, bathroom facility available within their premises, latrine facility available within their premises and electricity facility available within their premises. The level of household infrastructural facilities varies from -0.63 score in Tappal block to 1.17 score in Chandaus block of the district (Table 1). It can be revealed from the Figure 2 that four blocks of the district fall under high level (above 0.24 score) of infrastructural facilities and three of them constitute a linear prominent region running from north to south, comprising the blocks of Chandaus, Lodha and Iglas and remaining one block does not form any region. About 40 per cent (5) blocks of the district possessed the medium level (0.24 to -0.24 score) of infrastructural facilities in which, three blocks (Jawan, Lodha and Akrabad) form a distinct region propelling from the north to south direction and remaining two blocks (Khair and Bijauli) do not form any region in the district. Three blocks (Tappal, Gonda and Atrali) of the district have the low level (below -0.24 score) of infrastructural facilities and they are widely scattered in the district..

REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The level of socio-economic development is the aggregate output of the attainment of the various selected socio-economic indicators. Socio-economic development of an area can be measured with the help of several indicators but beggars are the persons who are considered as poorest of the poor and do not have so much facilities available within their households that is why, only a few indicators has been chosen to measure the levels of socio-economic development like demographic, literacy, employment, per capita income and household facilities. Table 1 shows that the z-score varies from lowest -0.61 in Lodha block to highest 0.52 in Akrabad block. Figure 3 exhibits that the five blocks of the district namely, Akrabad, Chandaus, Iglas, Gangiri and Gonda have high score (above 0.16 score) of socio-economic development and four blocks of them constitute two identifiable regions in the district. First region lies in the south-western part including the blocks Iglas and Gonda and second region locates in the south-eastern part comprising the two blocks i.e. Atrauli and Gangiri. Four blocks of the district have the medium level (0.16 to -0.16 score) of socio-economic development in the district and out of which three blocks namely, Jawan, Bijauli and Atrauli form a region, located in the north-eastern part of district and remaining one block (Khair) in the western part of the district, does not form any region. There are three blocks in the district which come under the low grade (below -0.16 score) of socio-economic development and two blocks of them (Lodha and Dhanipur), form a region in the central part of the district and remaining one block (Tappal) does not form any region.

Relationship between Household Facilities and Socio-Economic Development The Figure 4 illustrates the spatial distribution of general household infrastructural facilities and socio-economic development in the district. Figure 4 depicts that three blocks i.e. Tappal, Gonda and Atrauli of the district fall under the low grade (below -0.24 z-scores) of the infrastructural facilities, while, Tappal, Atrauli and Gonda have low, medium and high level of socio-economic development in Aligarh district respectively. There are five blocks in the medium level (-0.24 to 0.24 z-score) of infrastructural facilities, out of which, three blocks (Khair, Jawan and Bijauli) have medium level of socio-economic development, one block (Akrabad) experienced the high level of socio-economic development and the remaining one block (Dhanipur) has the low level of socio-economic development. The high level (above 0.24 z-scores) of infrastructural facilities is observed in the four blocks of the district, wherein, Chandaus, Iglas and Gangiri blocks also have high level of socio-economic development and Lodha block experienced in the low level of socio-economic development.

CORRELATION OF HOUSEHOLD FACILITIES WITH THE SELECTED VARIABLES OF THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The analysis of correlation of household facilities (own house, pucca house, drinking water, bathroom, latrine and electricity) among beggars (dependent variables) with selected the indicators of development (independent variables) has been listed in Table 4. The correlation between own house and selected indicators of development exhibits that among the seventeen independent indicators, the coefficient of correlation of only one indicator (X_{11} = per capita income) has a higher level of significant relationship with the own house significant at the confidence level of 95 per cent. The correlation between pucca house and selected indicators of development exhibits that only one indicator (X_{17} = bathroom facility) has a higher level of significant relationship with the pucca house at 99 per cent significant level, one indicator (X_{13} = pucca house) has a higher level of significant relationship with bathroom facility at the confidence level of 99 per cent and one indicator (X_{10} = female employment rate) is significantly correlated with sanitation facility at the confidence level of 95 per, while, no indicator is significantly correlated with the drinking water and electricity facilities in the study area. Instead of one star and double star indicators, other indicators of socio-economic development are also correlated with the household facilities but not up to a significant level.

CONCLUSION:

The regional analysis of household facilities and levels of development among the beggar population and their relationship clearly depict that there is large variations among the blocks of the study area. The analysis of the household facilities among beggars of the study area reveals that the longitudinally central blocks of the district witnessed the high level of household facilities among beggars, while, western parts experienced comparatively low level of household facilities. As far as, the levels of socio-economic development among beggar population in the district is concerned, it is observed that the majority of the peripheral parts of the district witnessed high level of development among beggars, while, low level of development is experienced in the central and western parts of the district. The association between household facilities and levels of socio-economic development

among the beggars depicts that medium level of relationship is found between household facilities and level of socio-economic development in the district. The analysis of t-test indicates that the per capita income, bathroom facility, pucca house and female employment are the major positive determinants bringing the regional variations in household facilities among the beggars in the study area. The owned house is significantly correlated with per capita income, pucca house with bathroom facility, bathroom with pucca house and sanitation with female employment rate.

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