

## SUMMARY

# THE IMPACT OF READING HABITS ON SLUM DWELLERS: A CRITICAL STUDY OF NAGPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION REGION

### Major findings, observations and Suggestions

#### Impact of Reading Habits on Slum Dwellers:

An attempt was made to collect data, about reading for Slum Dwellers through the questionnaire. For many, reading has many benefits which continuously enhance their lives. Their lives are bettered in some or the other way like mentally, spiritually and socially. Also, if they can develop reading habit, slum dwellers will become more confident and self assured in their abilities to comprehend and understand all types of information.

1 While studying reading habits of slum dwellers, 80.2% like to read Daily News Papers, some like to read more than one, multy-language news paper, in various languages only one respondent has handled Encyclopedia for reference purpose. Most of people don't know what is Encyclopedia. Only 0.4% respondents like to read biographies, 57.6% slum dwellers like to read fiction, it is a larger percentage compared to other resources, 16.8% Slum Dwellers respondents like to read magazines, 22.6% respondents like Educational material for reading, only 0.8% Slum Dwellers like to read competitive exam material.

Thus only 2 respondents like to read biographies, Researcher's assumption was that most of slum dwellers like to read biographies; 288 and 84 respondents respectively like to read fiction and magazines, 113 respondents like educational material, 4 persons like to read competitive exam material. It is also different from researcher's assumption; due to increasing impact of education assumption was, that most of slum dwellers like to read competitive study material. It may be due to the lack of higher education amongst the slum dwellers. The reason may be early age family responsibility, force to work for family, unhealthy surrounding, etc.

2 The table 7.5.2 shows survey findings that nearly half the slum dwellers 42.4% doesn't have a single book other than the study books at their home. In other hand nearly 1% respondent have more than 150 books in their collection. 18.8% Slum Dwellers have 50 or more books in their collection, 38.8% Slum Dwellers have 1 to 45 books or other type of reading material in their collection. It shows the positive attitude towards reading. Personal book collection is good

thing for the individuals but, type of collection also matter a lot. 43.2% Slum Dwellers have been general collection, 4.8% have specific collection like biographies or dalit literature, 3.6% have literary collection, 1.4% respondents have on science, and rest of 4.6% Slum Dwellers has other popular fiction. Book collection reflects the ability and status of the person.

3 The reading reflects the way of the thinking of readers 42.4% respondent said, they do not like fiction to read. 16.8% respondents' slum dwellers like to read adventure stories; it is world phenomena shown by National Literacy Survey. 10.6% likes to read poetry, 10.2% like to read Science fictions, 5.45 like to read plays and least Respondents like to read romantic and animal related literature. Almost all book readers read for fun and entertainment, as well as for adding some knowledge. Therefore fiction is important part of the reading habits, fun and entertaining books helps to develop the reading habit to serious book reader.

4 Book reading for self and to motivate others, is like to be make good friends forever. In the study survey 51.4% Slum Dwellers said, they like to read in a group as it help to motivate self as well as others, 21.2% respondents like to talk on favorite book, 4% respondents read to competitive examinations reading material. For motivating the others 33% respondents like to gift book. Only 1.6% donates the books to poorer, 2% of respondent's share their collection with others. 3.6% respondent's help to choose books for others, 0.6% respondents were ready for charity; only one respondent was a celebrity reader among the Slum Dwellers respondents. It shows the somehow the NMC Slum Dwellers help other to improve of reading habits. It might be the NMC have good number of libraries almost in all NMC ward, with good collection of books.

5 The present study shows the various impacts on NMC Slum Dwellers. 27% respondent said the reading help for perfection in their life, 60.6% Slum Dwellers said reading habits increase their knowledge, 7% respondents said reading makes them confident, 3.8% respondents said it help to earn more money, by the enhancing their work skill. 0.6% agreed that reading habit makes them socially strong, and 1% said reading makes them socially respectful.

6 For enhancing reading habits, one should be a member of a good library. In the study is observed that, 59.8% respondent's do not have membership of any library. 1.4% respondents have membership of academic library and 18.4% of NMC Slum Dwellers have membership of

NMC Libraries, 15.6% respondents are members of private library, and 4.8% respondents are member of other government's libraries. NMC has number of library near the slum or in the slum but very few libraries are in good condition. Some are closed, few libraries are used by anti social elements; some are not having reading material except newspapers, or good environment for reading. Some of NMC libraries are very appreciable like Ram Manohar Lohiya Vachnalaya, Ashok Chowk, Nagpur, Usharani Girls Library, Ashok Chowk Nagpur; Slum Dwellers need large number of such libraries nearby their residents especially for females. Slum Dwellers doesn't have good condition of houses or space for reading, thus most of them are dependent on the public or academic libraries therefore it is essential that libraries should be open for 24 hours for them.

7 Although very few NMC Slum Dwellers afford to purchase the books, but NMC slum dwellers spend good amount on purchasing the reading material. 41.2% Slum Dwellers don't purchase any reading material. 9% respondents purchase from Book Exhibitions mostly from a holy place of Boudha Religion 'Diksha Bhumi' at the time of 'Dasra', 36.4% from Bookshops, 12.6% respondents from Used Book Market. It shows that some particular communities are developing their reading habits and due to that they are improving their educational standards, getting government jobs as well as high level of private sectors job and through all this their standard of living is going higher and higher thus the first hypothesis proved that "There may be some association between specific Slum Dwellers cast category and impact of education, reading habits and media awareness".

8 Among the entire respondents 0.2% Slum Dweller spends above 10000 Rupees per year. 41.2% do not spend any noticeable amount on reading material. 19.96% spend fifty to two hundred rupees on reading material, 24.6% spend 250 to 500 Rupees on reading habits, 12.4% spends 600 to 1000 rupees on reading habits, and 2% Slum Dwellers spend 1200 to 2000 rupees on reading habits.

9 58.8% Slum Dwellers agreed that TV is the major factor which has affected their reading habit. 0.4% said movies are responsible, 26.4% said book cost, 0.2% said unavailability of good books, 0.2% said electronic devices like video game mobile etc., 0.2% said Libraries are not near, 3.4% said Library staff is not helpful, and 1.2% respondents said strict library rules avoid them to enter the Library building for reading. Only 0.4% respondents said less availability of

libraries is the cause that affects on their reading habits. In the study of NMC Slum Dwellers, 48.2% are good readers, but 41.4% respondents are having poor reading habits, 10.4% are average readers. The nature of poor readers are very high compared with non slum dwellers, but looking in totality of non slum dwellers of Nagpur city and other part of the country, book reading habit is declining.

10 Library visits by the NMC Slum Dwellers is not satisfactory rather in NMC has good number of libraries in the slum areas, study shows 59.8% respondents never visit library for reading purpose, 24% respondents visit sometime and 16.2% respondents visit regularly. Large number of Slum Dwellers never visits the library. Most of regular users are students; they use their academic library regularly. As we discussed previously the poor condition is the major factor to affect the reading habits, in the concern of NMC Slum Dwellers most are labour class people therefore most of the time they are caring their bread and butter. When they have free time to go to the library, libraries are closed.

11 Research study shows that 15.65% respondents use Internet for entertainment purpose, 4.8% respondents for collecting information, 16.2% respondents use for educational purpose, 1.8% respondents use for chatting, 2.8% respondents use for transferring the information or e-mails etc...As we see the most of Internet users search the pornographic sites in the entire world, as per one survey Indians more use it rather than rest of the world. Therefore it is essential to know the purpose of internet use. In the present survey study observed, Slum Dwellers use internet for educational purpose. Therefore to increase the internet users for educational purpose Governments and ngos role is very important, because there is big gap between the slum dwellers and non slum dwellers distribution of internet use.

12 In the present study, it has been observed that, 2% respondents do not like TV, 1.4% said they don't have enough time to watch TV, Most of the respondents 38.8% like to watch News, and 33.8% respondents like to watch daily soaps, 12.6% like to watch sports and 11.4% like to watch sports as well as news. Most of Slum Dwellers like to watch News Channels than the non slum dwellers which help to gain knowledge and information that has a positive impact for self and family development. It shows media awareness and awareness about self developments amongst them thus the hypothesis is proved that, "There may be an association between Slum dwellers living standard Education and Reading Habits".

## **Recommendations:**

The findings from this survey can inform and shape the improvement of NMC slum. Though the general principles might be the same this should not be used as a panacea with regards to the improvement of all slums and illegal settlements in slum. Slums and informal settlements residents are group of heterogeneous people and therefore have different needs and priorities. This section provides recommendations for the improvement of slums and informal settlements in Freetown.

### **General Recommendations:**

- An overwhelming majority of the residents are tenants. Tenure schemes, that addresses renting as an option should therefore be offered.
- The quality of roads and availability of clean water, access to decent toilet facilities, less polluted form of lighting and adequate recreational facilities should all be included as part of the improvement programme.
- Roads should be paved to reduce the current high level of dust pollution. This should also be done in relation to any other open air facilities e.g. playground, done as part of the improvement programme.
- The construction of proper drainage systems and toilet facilities are essential in dealing with the problems of pollution and disease.
- A more organized system of solid waste disposal should be set up and residents should be educated and encouraged to use more acceptable methods of waste disposal. This might be an opportunity to get unemployed youths engaged in an income-generating activity that also improves their surrounding at the same time.

### **Recommendations for Reading Habits**

- The findings from this survey confirm the need of good Libraries to create a culture in which all slum dwellers are encouraged to be enthusiastic readers. To support this goal, governing and non governing authority should take effective approaches to consult with slum dwellers interests and to ensure that the range of reading materials available in the NMC libraries. They recognize that a diverse range of reading materials will encourage slum dwellers to read and consider how to engage them with reading.

- In addition to the encouragement of reading around their personal interests, particular attention needs to be given to the involvement of library staff, community role models and other members of the family.
- Consider how they can support in encouraging reading in the home. The role of the home is important for all readers. Home-school practices that successfully involve all in ways they value for strengthening involvement in reading habits home.
- Promoting reading with the aim of inspiring all people to read for pleasure is a responsibility of local governance, to develop the reading culture among the citizens to become good citizens. There is an inadequate supply of libraries and good reading material by local authorities and considerable demand for libraries among Slum dwellers in our sample slum area. However, the parameters measuring the quality of reading habits in this area and focus group discussions with Slum Dwellers and other slum reveal that there remains a yawning gap between the slum dwellers and non slum dwellers.
- The quality book reading habit is not seen amongst the slum dwellers. The benefits for literacy skills, wider learning and personal development are supported by substantial research evidences. The findings from this survey confirm the need of good Libraries to create a culture, in which all slum dwellers are encouraged to be enthusiastic readers. To support this goal, governing and non governing authority should take effective approaches to consult with slum dwellers interests and to ensure that the range of reading materials available in the NMC libraries. They recognize that a diverse range of reading materials will encourage local habitat to read, they engage slum dwellers in the planning and delivery of reading and library activities, offering them the opportunity to select and purchase reading materials for their use.
- Reading connects will continue to support schools in developing a reading culture by disseminating practical ideas, such as online reading, e-book reading, and reading on electronic gadgets etc., funding advices, case studies and resources aimed at helping schools with the practices that can create school communities that read. It is clear that there is a strong will to build a reading culture in Nagpur City.

- It is often said that there is no reading culture in India, but given the right opportunities and right resources, readers all over the world enjoy and love reading. Good libraries are an enjoyable voyage and journey of discovery – provide one of these opportunities. A reading culture can be developed, but it needs nourishing. It is always difficult to secure sufficient resources in Nagpur city to keep things going, but by forming a successful network of partnerships for literacy both within and outside together with friends like Book Aid International, NBT, UGC, State Government policies will ensure that advantages of reading habits among Slum dwellers.

### **Hypothesis Testing:**

- I. There may be some association between specific Slum Dwellers cast category and impact of education and reading habits. The table 7.3.2 of caste category shows the majority of slum dwellers belongs scheduled caste (SC) category and literacy rate of NMC slum dwellers is highest in the country. As per the standards of living scale, education is one major point to measure the development. Thus the first hypothesis is proved.
- II. There may be an association between Slum dwellers living standard, Education and Reading Habits. The chapter 6 table 6.6.1 shows the 48.2% slum dwellers with good reading habits are comparatively more educated than other slum dwellers and more education help to increase income. Income is related to household amenities, thus its shows standard of living. 7.9.2 Part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter explains the living standard of people is directly related to the media. Thus the second hypothesis is valid.
- III. There may be association between variables of Government policies and reading habits impact on slum dwellers. Part of 7.7 in the chapter 7<sup>th</sup> explains about third hypothesis and table 8.6.14 shows most of slum dwellers have positive attitude towards reading habits but they are unaware about government policies of slum dwellers welfare. Where the media failed to spread or advertise it properly. Thus the third hypothesis proved its statements.

