

QUALITY LIFE OF URBAN SLUM WORKING WOMEN

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Abstract

Quality of life is a comprehensive and holistic concept. Psychologists generally consider it as individual's satisfaction, wellbeing and happiness. The term 'slum' signifies a host of negatives – squalor, poor human living conditions.^{10,4} Working women in slums face a number of vulnerabilities, including inadequate housing, poverty, economic crisis, health problems and suffering from different types of illness². Keeping in view of the above a study was conducted in Urban slum area of Berhampur, Odisha, among slum working women to assess the Quality life. A descriptive research design with cross sectional survey approach was used. The sample comprised of 200 working women selected by purposive sampling technique. A Five point rating scale was used, the findings of the study reveals that the working women had average quality of life overall. No significant association was found between quality of life of urban slum working women with their selected demographic variables except related to their occupation.

Need for study

Quality of life is defined as individual's perceptions of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns^{5,11}. The term 'slum' signifies a host of negatives – squalor, poor human living conditions, neglect, unhealthy, dirty, criminal, illegal and encroachers and the area characterized by overcrowded, deterioration, unsanitary conditions or absence of facilities or amenities which, endanger the health.¹⁰ It is estimated that around 3.49 billion people - more than half the world's population now live in urban areas, out of which 827.6 million are slum-dwellers¹³. It is also estimated that total urban slum population of Odisha is 15, 60,

303, recognised slums are 8, 12, 737 and identified slums are 7, 47, 566³. Estimated population of Berhampur city is over 378, 000, of which 126, 541 population (33.41%) are in slum⁸. It is clear that the quality life of female slum dwellers are poor as they lack the foundation for healthy and fulfilling lives and at the same time carry immense responsibilities for maintaining their homes and families¹¹ by engaging in the work like papad making, masala making, maid, vegetable vendors etc due to financial problems and they are suffering more frequently with different types of specific illness⁸. These women are also at risk for gender-based violence in the forms of either physical or sexual violence².

Objectives

1. To Assess the quality of life of the working women in urban slums
2. To Find out association between the quality of life of the slum working women with their selected demographic variables.

Hypothesis

H_{01} : There is no significant difference between the quality of life of slum working women with their selected demographic variables.

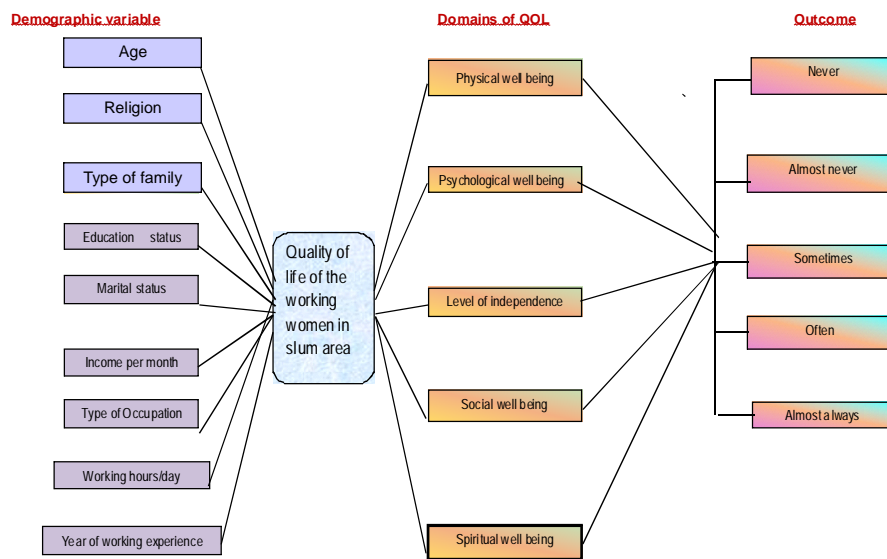


Fig.1. Conceptual frame work to assess the quality of life of slum working women

Methodology

The study was conducted in Urban slum of Berhampur city, Ganjam District, Odisha, by using purposive sampling technique. A descriptive research design with cross sectional survey approach was used to assess the quality of life of working women. All the working women, who were residing in urban slum area of Berhampur, Ganjam District, Odisha, were the Population for the present study and the working women of Goodshed Road and Dhobabandha sahi, were selected as sample for the present study as that area is more vulnerable. The sample comprised of 200

slum working women. A five point rating scale was used to assess the quality of life of working women.

The scale has five areas like physical well-being, psychological well-being, and level of independence, social wellbeing and spiritual wellbeing. Over all it consists of 30 items regarding quality of life of slum working women with 120 maximum score. The data were collected by the investigator herself after taking permission from the Mayor of Berhampur city from 01.04.14 to 15.05.14 by door to door visit.

Findings of the study

The finding reveals that highest percentage (25.5%) of working women was in the age group of 26-34 years. All belonged to Hindu families. All most all (94%) were from nuclear family. Majority (71.5%) had no formal education, highest (55%) percentage

of the working women were married. Majority (74.5%) of the working women belonged to the income group of Rs.<3000. Majority (71%) of them working as labourers. Highest (52%) were working in day times and highest (55%) percentage of them working for above 10 years.

Table No.1 : Area wise distribution of slum working women.

Area wise	Very poor		Poor		Average		Good		Excellent		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Physical well being	121	60.5	44	22	32	16	3	1.5	-	-	200	100
Psychological well being	1	.5	77	38.5	87	43.5	33	16.5	2	1	200	100
Level Of independence	-	-	29	14.5	71	35.5	70	35	30	15	200	100
Social well being	-	-	4	2	29	14.5	114	57	53	26.5	200	100
Spiritual well being	17	8.5	118	59	58	29	7	3.5	-	-	200	100

Area wise distribution of the slum working women reveals that in physical well being 60.5% had very poor quality of life whereas, only 1.5% had good quality of life.

According to psychological well being of slum working women, it reveals that highest (43.5%) percentage had average quality of life whereas, only 0.5% had very poor quality of life.

Further in the area of level of independence highest (35.5%) had average quality of life which is more or less similar to (35%) good quality of life, whereas, 14.5% had poor quality of life which is also less or more similar to (15%) excellent quality of life and none of them had very

poor quality of life.

According to social well being of slum working women, it reveals that highest percentage (57%) of them had good quality of life whereas lowest (2%) had poor quality of life. However, 26% of them had excellent quality of life and 14.5% had average quality of life.

According to spiritual well being of slum working women it reveals that highest (59%) percentage had poor quality of life whereas, lowest (3.5%) had good quality of life. However, 8.5% had very poor, 29% had average quality

of life and none of them had excellent quality of life.

It seems that majority of them had average quality of life with regard to psychological well being, levels of independence, good quality of life related to social well being and poor quality of life related to spiritual well being, except physical well being where 60.5% of them had very poor quality of life.

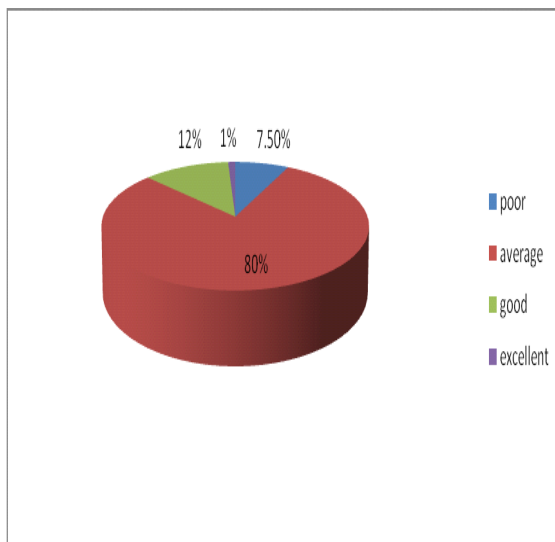


Fig .No-2. Percentage wise distribution of quality of life

Percentage wise distribution of slum working women according to their quality of life reveals that majority (80%) of them had average level whereas, lowest (1%) had excellent quality of life. However, 12 % had good and 7.5% had poor quality of life. It reveals that majority of the slum working women had average quality of life.

Table No.2: Overall and area wise mean, SD and mean percentage of quality of life scores of slum working women.

Area	Max Score	Mean	SD	Mean %
Physical well being	20	4.14	3.54	20.72%
Psychological well being	32	14.43	4.25	45.10%
Level of independence	20	12.70	3.66	60.35%
Social well being	36	25.79	4.14	71.65%
Spiritual well being	12	3.75	1.62	31.29%
TOTAL	120	60.83	10.82	50.69%

Overall and area wise distribution of mean, SD and mean percentage of quality of life scores of slum working women show that the highest mean score (25.79± 4.14) which is 71.65 % was for social well being and the lowest mean score (4.14 ±3.54)which is 20.72 % of the maximum score was in the area of physical well being. In other areas the mean score varies from 31.29% to 60.35%. However the overall mean score was 50.69% which depicts the working women had average quality of life.

Table No.3 -Association of demographic data with quality of life scores of slum working women

Area	x ² Value	Level of significance
Age	1.41	Non Significant
Type family	1.43	Non Significant
Education status	0.12	Non Significant
Marital status	0.008	Non Significant
Income per month	2.41	Non Significant
Type of occupation	10.88	Highly significant
Duty timing	2.72	Non Significant

$P < 0.05$ level of significance, (Table value - 3.84)

Chi-Square analysis was done to find out association between quality of life of urban slum working women with their demographic variables depicts that no significant association was found between quality of life of urban slum working women when compared to their age, religion, type of family, educational status, marital status, duty timing, duration of working hours, years of experiences and family income per month except occupation, whereas, highly significant association was found between the quality of life of slum working women related to their occupation (Tab no-3).

Discussion, summary & conclusion

Overall percentage wise distribution of slum working woman according to their quality of life reveals that highest (79.5%) percentage had average quality of life which is contradictory to Govindaraju. B.M (2012)⁵, who conducted a study on Quality of Life of Slum Women in Mangalore city, Karnataka state, India, which reveals very poor quality of life. Area wise distribution of quality of life of slum working women depicts that highest percentage (60.5%) of working women had very poor quality of life in physical well-being dimension which is supported by Govindaraju. B.M (2012)⁵ reveals very poor quality of life in physical wellbeing. It is also supported by the study conducted by S. Sundari (2003)¹² who conducted a study on quality of life of migrant households in urban slums Coimbatore City, Tirupur Town and

Chennai City where the slum people had very poor quality of life, which is contradictory to the findings of Fatihe Kerman Saravi (2012)⁴, who reported that employed women had higher quality of life score than non-employed women in all aspects of quality of life indicated that there was no significant difference in quality of life between employed women and housewives. Further highly significant association was found between the quality of life of slum working women related to their occupation, which signifies that their working condition is highly influencing their quality of life. Though different programmes are implemented for slum people still it is inadequate for slum people and specially women are more vulnerable in slum. Hence better opportunity for working condition is to be simple method.

Recommendations

Similar studies can be conducted on larger sample to generalize findings.

A study can be done in other places to find out the similarity and differences in quality of life of slum working women.

A comparative study can be done in other area to compare the quality of life in between urban slum & rural working women.

Different programmes can initiate and their effectiveness can be measured by experimental approach.

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