

Quality of Life Study on Slum Dwellers (With Special Reference to Sri Lanka)

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Abstract

This report examines the major characteristics of urban slum dwellers. In case of social transmittance, some anti-social phenomena have been occurred. Especially in this modern world, there are different kinds of social phenomenon. Poverty, suicide, prostitution, alcoholism, malnutrition, child deviancy, child abuse are most affected social problems which the present society have to face in these decades. According to several studies, poverty is the main and center problem among them. Because of this center problem, many other related problems have arisen. These social effects directed to create many social issues such as unemployment and under employment, malnutrition, illness, low income dwellers as slum and shanties, prostitution, abortions, criminals, and other social and health related problems etc. On the other hand these social experiences help to derive new social problems. Therefore, this study focuses to explore urban slum residences. It researched slum resident's life style through quality of life social indicators in this study. As consequences, it makes a platform to discuss and make arrangements to uplift their quality of life.

1. Introduction

When consider on international situation regarding slums, it is very significant. Meanwhile this theme has been got in the first, especially not only in third world countries but in developed countries also. Late in 2003 the United Nations reported that one billion people, approximately one third of the world's urban dwellers and a sixth of all humanity live in slums. And it predicted that within 30 years that figure would have doubled a third of the current world population. During the 1990s the urban population across Asia, Africa and South America grew by a third. There at least 550 million slum dwellers in Asia, 187 million in Africa, 128 million in Latin America and the Caribbean and further 54 million in the world's richest countries.

Asia is the most considerable region in this era. It has showed noteworthy remarks on economic, social, cultural and political issues. When we consider on population issue, the number of Asian cities with population of more than one million is projected to increase from 69 to 148. Also of the world's largest 22 cities, Asia will have 13, each with a population of over 10 million. Structural change and adequate employment opportunities shift of employment from agriculture to non-agriculture, and the increase in the GDP with the urbanization process. Newly industrial countries, between 1960 and 1980, Taiwan and South Korea, sharp decline of their labor force in agriculture from 56 to 20 (Taiwan) 66 to 34 South Korea (World development report, 1990).

Slums punctuate almost every city of the world. This has become a universal phenomenon accompanying with urban growth. Sri Lankan experience on slums is discussable and it is one of current topics of national policy planners. The ratio of slums will increase day by day with chronic problems. As existing data showed, slums are continuously on the increase. Of the total housing stock about one half belongs to middle and income whiles the balance half belongs to low-income population. The low-income housing stock has been subdivided in to several categories depending on the nature of the structure. According to survey on low-income resettlements conducted by the Ministry of Urban Development & Housing in 1998/99, sub categories of low-income settlements were identified.

Table 1: sub categories of low-income settlements

Category	Housing Units
Slums	25,000
Shanties (squatter housing)	13,313
Low cost flats	8,950
Relocated housing	14,814
Old deteriorated quarters	2,757
Unplanned permanent dwellings	870
Total	66,022

Source: Ministry of Urban Development & Housing, 1998/99.

Urbanization is the other broad and complicated process in the developing countries. Because of the increasing population and the number of cities, the people gather in to the cities. The first urban cities in the world were Paris, London and New York. But today the most urban cities are Mexico (31 million), Sao Pavlov (25 million), Tokyo (23 million) and Shanghai (23 million) (Potter, 1992). The urbanization of the third world countries is different from that of the developed countries. There are considerable facts such as time, the need of urbanization, the population and infrastructures are very important. Urbanization cannot be considered as a pilot factor in third world countries. There are lot of problems have arisen such as air pollution, malnutrition, mobile housing, creating slums and shanties because of urbanization. This has become a huge problem of third world countries.

Research Problem

What is the life pattern of slum residents?

Research questions are,

- How fast of the slum dwells are increasing?
- What effects are created by this increased?
- What are the suitable solutions for up lift the quality of life of slum residents'?

Objectives

This study was concerned with the following objectives.

- To identify slum dwellers life pattern in Sri Lankan society.
- To explore new trends or problems of slums.
- To identify social effects of slum dwellers.
- To consider some of the possible policy implications of this research.

Previous Research

I have examined several research reports on relevant field. These all reports considered urban poverty as well as slums occupants on their view. According to their studies, they have concerned on several themes as their life style, transport access of low income residents, health and sanitation matters etc.

Dayarathne, and Samarawickrama, (2003) examined the relationship between environment and urbanization which was consider on empowering communities in the peri- urban areas of Colombo. This paper describes the work of community-based self-help groups, the community development councils,

initiated by the Colombo Municipal council in the 1970s and layer of local government in the mid-1980s. Although, the organization and functioning principles of the community development council's and how the links to higher levels of the city administration structure such as district, municipality and province have enabled communities to act in relation to the tensions typical of peri-urban settlement in transition from "rural" to "urban" characteristics.

Patterns of community structure in Colombo, Sri Lanka (Arachchige, 1994), has done a study in the low income residence in Colombo. He has identified their especial community structure. Four types of urban community structures showed from his study as strategic integration, polarized communities, fragmented structures and individualized community structures. He further says that the distribution of power has to be examined in the context of the micro macro frame work of South Asian countries.

Sevanatha organization (2003) explored slums as one of human settlement in Sri Lanka. They said that slum dwellers have been living since many years. They talked on land tenurship, education, economic patterns as well as problems which they are facing. They showed that, during the period from early 1980s to early 1990s, Housing and Urban Development has been one of the key target areas of the government's development agenda.

The world health organization (2004) conducted a study on Asian civil society conference on macroeconomics and health mentioned that there are four areas such as policy, access to service, relief and research to improve the health outcomes of the poor. It is further expected that the presence of government focal persons will facilitate subsequent discussion in country on the role of NGOs reaching the poor with health-related service.

Kumarage (2002) experimented on access problems of the urban poor in Sri Lanka. He illustrative two main aspects; first one is the impact that the lack of accessibility has on the poor from securing employment available in urban centers. The second one is the safety related impact of recently concluded road rehabilitation and improvements programs on the poor. In further demonstrated that the poor are the primary victims without recourse, when transport-especially road development is undertaken that does not adequately look after the needs of the poor-especially the need for non-motorized transport.

1.2. Findings and Discussion

Methodology

Data:

There are two kinds of data have been used in the data analysis. First one is official statistics that data which were collected and presented by the department of population and senses in their senses report in 2001. They are fully quantitative and already available. This gave full information that can be compared from one year to another.

Second one is that data which were collected by empirically. Sampling element was urban community. Population was urban slum residents. Study population was one of GramaNiladari division (local administrative system) and it has over thirteen thousand people. It was selected by using probability multi-stage cluster sampling method. There were five sample units with men who were in labor force, women who were within age above 18 years, children, people who were engage in vulnerable behaviors, and general community. There were observation units as key informants, prostitutes, and including four target groups with men, women, children and prisoners.

I have selected four sub themes and did target group interviews among them to maintain reality. There were three target groups with 50 members chosen by randomly as children, men and women. I have used structured questionnaires to collect data from them. I have made discussions with key informants such as clergy, Gramaniladhari, *Samurdi* development officer, teachers etc. The third group was that people who were in the prison from certain area. These four prisons were named as Colombo

magazine, Colombo remand, Welikada prison (male) and Welikada prison (female). I have checked the attendant book of 2007. I have observed people from Wanathamulla and I discussed with 50 persons who were in the prison at that time. I have discussed with 20 female victims who were in the female ward in the Welikada prison.

Research methods:

I have analyzed field data according to structural functionalist perspective. The main research method was the participant observation. Participant observation is a specific form of field research in which the researcher participates as an actor in the events under study (Babbie, 1998). I visited them in last six months from 2008 January to 2008 July. I stayed whole one month with them as a member of that society. I have used scientific observations as well as general observations. I have done individual interviews and general discussion.

Case study method was used to do in-depth interviews with prostitutes, prisoners, and drug addicts.

Quality of Life Indicators:

Measures of QOL are often called QOL indicators. A distinction is made between objective and subjective indicators of QOL. There are two major models in study on quality of life have been used.

- Subjective and objective quality of life at individual level
- Subjective and objective quality of life at societal level

There are two perspectives in this model as objective and subjective indicators and individual and societal level measures. Objective measurements can observable environmental conditions such as per capita income, literacy rate, employment rates, labor force rates etc. Subjective measurements are measuring feelings of satisfaction, happiness or related attitudes. These are mainly related with sociological and social psychological awareness.

The analysis was done according to functional perspective and giving concentration on contribution of each of its parts to the operation of the whole. Therefore, there are six profiles have been discussed in the analysis as family, education, economic, social behavior, gender and infrastructure profile. Quality of life indicators were the population, ethnicity, income, work participation, literacy rate, political participation, housing, infrastructures and social relations.

Physical Characteristics of Study Area

Research area was located on the eastern side of the city of Colombo, about 4 km east of the central Colombo municipal area. Borrella and Dematagoda (two names of cities) are the nearest to Wanathamulla. The Baseline road bounds Wanathamulla on the west, the Dematagoda stream on the east, Sri Nigrodharama Mawatha on the north and Swarnapalahimi Mawatha and Seevali Lane on the south side.

Study area is one of Grama Naladari divisions of Colombo city. It is in ward 30, one of 47 wards that comprise the administrative units of Colombo. Colombo city is the main city in Sri Lanka. Colombo city covers of 37.3 square kilometers, which is about 5.4 percent of the total area of Colombo district (696 sq km) (Department of Census and statistics 2004). There are two divisional secretary's divisions namely Colombo and Thibirigasyaya with effect from 3rd March 1999. The study area is under the Thibirigasyaya divisional secretary. It covered with more than 75 acres. It was one of the settlements identified for urban upgrading under the Million Houses Program (1984-1989) the National housing development authority was receptive to the request of its Community Development Council.

This area was populated by different people from various parts of the country. Most of the migrants are from the Western province, Southern province, Central province and few in number from

other provinces. The total population in study area is 13032, almost equally divided between males and females as 6742 and 6290 in orderly.

Table 2: Population by age of Study area

Variable	Categories	Number (Thousands)	Percentage
Age Group	1-14	3344	27
	15-59	8735	67
	60 & over	953	6
	Total	13,032	100

Source: Department of census and statistics, 2001.

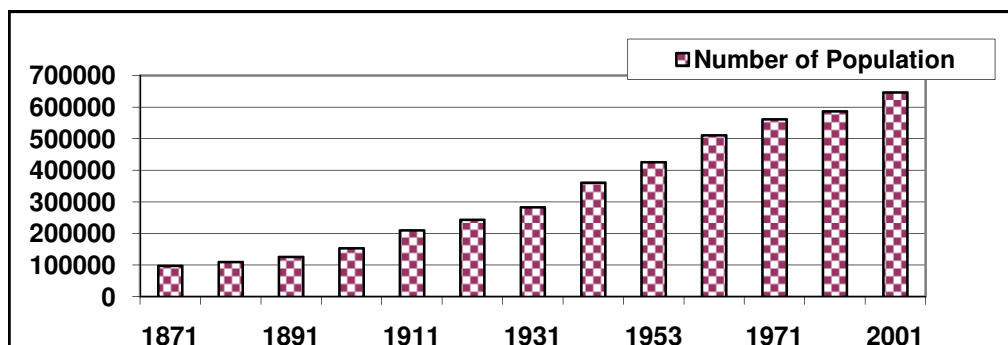
Sixty seven percent represent age between 15-59 age group. As indicated in table 5.2 further says on dependents as 33% of total population and nearly one third of population included it. This amount is similar to national wide statistical data (DCS, 2001).

Common Characteristics of Slum Dwellers

Origin of slums in city of Colombo

In general view of the study of that tried to understand the life pattern of low income residents who are living in urban areas. As a historical over view it can be seen as a one result of urbanization as well as colonization. When we consider the origin of slums in Sri Lanka, it was connected with the city and harbor such as Bombe, Kolkata and Karachchi. In 19 century Sri Lanka was ruled by the British government and it was the period of start of the urbanization. Plantation sector was developed under British ruled time. They built upped railway. Tea plantation companies were in up country of the country. The exchange market was in Colombo city near by the harbor. The export market was uplifted by this time and they used Galle and Colombo harbor for transit. But it was increased as 95% in Colombo as a result of introducing plantation industry. As consequence, the population of Colombo had been increased. It can be summarized as bellow.

Diagram 1: The population of Colombo from 1871 to 2011



Source: Department of census and statistics, 2001.

The first population census in Sri Lanka was held in 1871. According to that census the population of Colombo city was 98843. The total population enumerated in the city of Colombo on the 2001 final census is 647100. This represents a more than six fold increase since the first census in 1871.

Population density, measured as the number of persons per square kilometer of land, regarding the Colombo city, it is the most densely populated city in the island with 17353 persons per Sq.k.m in 2001. Back the density of population of the Colombo city was only around 6000 persons per SqK.m. whereas it has almost trebled in 2001. This is more than five times higher than that of the Colombo district (3330 persons per SqK.m).

Colombo became the metropolis of the European rulers in 1796- 1815. After the annexation of the Kandyan kingdom in the interior by the British in 1815 it became as the capital of the whole island. There was a rapid growth of capitalistic import-export economy based plantation agriculture. The impact of this change on Colombo, it became as major administrative and commercial city. On the other hand it was directly made influence to the Colombo port. The growth and expansion of the Colombo city followed the typical colonial pattern of urban development. As a result it shares many characteristics in common with other primate cities in Asia and Africa which expanded during the colonial period.

This population growth was not only based on natural birth rate in Colombo city. Actually, migration was the vital factor of this. It was not the internal migration, it was the external migration. There was a significant value of this change.

The Sinhala people who lived in villages were very simple and independent. They were mostly farmers. They didn't like to engage with more complex jobs as well as workers in the city. But there were more job opportunities in the city sector at this time. So owners considered on external labors. As a result of this necessity, many south Indians were migrated to Colombo as workers. They needed to live in city area. Therefore Slum dwelling system was introduced for them which they used in India.

There was a housing structure which was most popular within the poor families in southern India. This is a special type of houses called "*kidangi*". Each of this kidangi eight feet long and ten feet wide. The factory owners introduced this system to them in nearby Colombo harbor. This was very significant to the owners because of the lack of land in Colombo. This was fast spreader in Petta, Saint Basthiyam and Saint Palles urban council areas. This is the starting point of slum houses. Now it has been spread around one third of Colombo city area in Kotahena, Thotalaga, Boralla, Slave Island, Paliyagoda so on. Now it has become as a big social issue in the country. There are different kinds of social, economic, and cultural matters were identified in this housing.

The study was mainly focused on slum occupants within these low-income dwells. There is an especial culture have been developed in this community. It has most important issues to study to sociologist. Wanathamulla can be considered as one of most urbanized place in Colombo city and it represents 2% of Colombo city population.

Table3: Ethnic composition of the community level and the national level

The community level:

Nationality	Number	Percentage
Sinhalese	8805	58
Sri Lankan Tamil	4058	27
Muslims	1693	11
Burgher	32	0.2
Sri Lanka Moor	214	1.4
Chetti	01	-15
Indian Tamils	144	1.0
Other	129	0.9
Total	15076	100.0

Source: Field study, 2008.

Sinhalese are the majority of the country. Tamils are originated as Sri Lankan Tamils and Indian Tamils. They represent second highest percentage of ethnicity.

Among the people who are living in study area are two fourth of them are Sinhalese respectively. This proportion is different with national ethnic composition; it was 81.9% in 2001 (DCS, 2001). Other one fourth is covered by Tamils. The share of Tamil population in Sri Lanka has increased in national level analysis. Other one fourth is covered by Burgher, Moors and Muslims. Therefore there are different religious group in this community such as Buddhist, Catholic and Islamic. The distribution of the population by major religions is shown below.

Table4: Religious composition of national level and the community

National Level

Religion	%
Buddhist	76.7
Hindu	7.9
Islamic	8.5
Roman Catholics	6.1
Christian	0.8
Other	0.1
Total	100.0

Community Level

Religion	Number	Percentage
Buddhist	8673	56
Hindu	1874	12
Islamic	1963	13
Roman Catholics	2353	16
Christian	315	2
Other	19	1
Total	15197	100

Source: Source: DCS, 2001. Source: Field study, 2008.

The major religious groups are Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and Roman Catholics. Most of Buddhists are Sinhalese. Hindus are mostly Tamil people. Roman Catholics are combination of Sinhala people, Tamil people, and Burghers. Islamic are totally Muslims. When this religion composition compared with national data, it reveals significant features of the community.

The religious affiliations in study area showed that out of the total population 57% are Buddhist. Comparison with the corresponding city of Colombo with national level; figures reveals that this percentage is little different with city Buddhist percentage. It was 77% according to the 2001 census report. From the community religion composition 12% percent are Hindus, 13% percent are followers of Islam 16% are Roman Catholics.

For an instance, there are five temples in this area as Shri Dharmasrama, Vivekaramaya, Sri Lankaramaya and Weluvanaramaya etc. There is a small Hindu Kovil (the temple of Hindus). But there are no Catholic churches or Muslim churches in this area. On the other hand when it compare with country census report, it is little complicated. It indicates that there is a good combination or actually miscegenation in the community as nationalities and religious. On the other hand, it presents different choices of the members of the group of people.

Migration is the other important determinant of urban population combination. The usual focus is on the net migration from rural to urban areas. But there is a large amount of migration from urban to urban areas. Thus this area was populated by different people from various parts of the country. Most of the migrants are from Western province. The first stage of migration, rural to urban migration is largely characterized by surplus rural labor. The export market was the foremost factor. In addition to, the absence of landownership, or unproductive land ownership, unhealthy family environment, lack of rural employment pushed this rural labor out from their home areas.

But in the present time, I have identified several reasons for that. According to the study occupation and marriage are the most significant issues of their migration. On the other hand unstable political situation was the other significant factor.

Table 5: Reasons for migration

Reasons	Male		Female	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Occupation	22	44	12	24
Marriage	14	22	26	52
Education	06	12	02	04
Political asylum	03	06	01	02
other	05	10	09	18
Total	50	100	50	100

Source: Field study, 2008.

There are three generations in this community. The first generation was who migrated before thirty years respectively. The second generation was the children of first generation. The third generation was who were born in this place. 46% of them were migrated because of occupation. It was a result of lack of job opportunities of rural sector. The second issue for the migration was marriage. It represents 40% of total and it was highly influenced on female. For example; there was a one lady from rural area said that she very much like on her village but now she couldn't escape from this life because of her husband and children. She further mentioned that her husband doesn't like to go her village because of their market oriented life. Another significant feature was this place could be considered as a place for political asylum.

2. Family profile

Family is a basic social institution which is found in every society and in every part of the world. The form and structure of the family may differ from place and time to time. The "family" in this research means people related by blood, marriage, children who were adopted and they live in same household. The family has been functioning to fulfill societal needs in different sector as economic functions, socialization, and welfare. The "family" in a slum area has failed to perform its various other social functions apart of course from that of bearing and rearing children. According to the general observation of the study, overwhelming majority of families was found to be nuclear, Thirty percent of them are extended family unites. There was a gradual decline of an extended family system. This is due to wide range of factors including migration, urbanization, urban poverty, limited spaces of household, being most of them working for salary paid in day today basis. Most of the slum dwellers were identified as intermediates that were engage in the process of buying and selling of goods such as fruits, vegetables, clothes, and even drugs. All these factors immensely related to a hand to mouth existence of dwellers which eventually resulted in an inability to mould number of relatives. This essentially paves way to formulate nuclear family system instead of extended family system.

According to empirical figures on their home appliances, it showed that 80% of them have television sets. 70% of them have fan and refrigerators. 80% of them have electric power. But there is a problem regarding their houses that some of those houses are built upped illegally. Because of illegal tenureship they couldn't apply electricity from the government. Some limited respondents used kerosene by people who use the bottle lamps and chimney lamps. When consider on water and sanitation

facilities, most of them use pipe borne water. Some of them have their own lavatory facilities in their home. But most of people use common lavatories. These common latrines are not enough for them because one common system is for more than ten families.

Some of families have large number of persons as members, who cannot be accommodated in small size houses. They rent their rooms. It is needless to say that these houses were over-crowded. There are no separate rooms for parents and children. Most of them are living in common living room. Also, no proper supervision over children is possible. Most of parents lose all control over their children and family members. Quarrels are frequent. Confusion abounds. Nobody bothers to carry out the orders of the head of the family. As a result these families look disorganized, broken and deserted, having little or no control over its members.

Research findings showed the fact that there is a remarkable tendency of dwellers for romantic love out of which most of them ending in marriage. Here, it could be expected that the responsibility of life is minimum whereas the emotional reaction is at its maximum. Whatever it is, the inevitable result of this is the declining coherence of the husband and wife. It was found that there was a restricted sexual and marital relationship among these couples, which was a leading tendency for domestic violence. Dowries are not common in these settlements. Virginity tests and the “*Poruwa*” (This ceremony is held at the wedding to symbolically express the brides virginity.) ceremony are very rare. Dowries usually consist of clothes, ornaments, furniture and domestic utensils.

It is an important to note that, most of families were becoming female headed as their husbands who functioned as breadwinners had been died as well as some of them were arrested or remanded. The noticeable feature here is that these factors coming in succession appear as vicious circle. Stable marriages and families are important to the women. In one side, they often spoke of how such stability in the family can be achieved by the women pleasing their husbands. On the other hand, stable marriage is often help to control their children as good way.

Table 6: Attitude toward home environment

Home environment	N. of Respondents (women)	Percentage
1. Peaceful	12	24
2. Violent	38	76
Total	50	100

Source: Field study, 2008.

By this peace and violent meant that actually the home environment such as noisy, calm and temerarious, and quarreling or fighting so on. From their responses it is clear that about 76% respondents described their home environments as bad. They did not get peace and comfort. There houses were small. Most of families were out of control. Those were disorganized. There was no peace and quit to be had at the home, even after the day’s hard and languishing labor. Because one reason for that these houses are build as back to back rows. There is a huge congested. Some of these houses are deteriorate or tenements. Therefore they can’t rebuild or even repair. The children who are living in this are very much like to live in a spacious place. But as a result of their cultural value they were adapted to this way of life.

There were three suicides had been reported in this area last year. Two of them were unmarried female. But they were engaged with drug selling, drug abused as well as prostitution. They were come from broken family; because of this anomic situation they committed suicide. These two girls had engaged with prostitution as well as drug selling. One girl had addicted to taking drugs also. The

empirical evidence reveals that they learnt to do this easy earnings from their childhood. They were socialized by this subculture community.

The first character of identifying their family relations was attendance to one's children is represented by that refers to the time that parents spent active time with their children in week. I have observed that fathers neglected this issue almost. Most of mothers spent their active time on Sundays for their children as well as for their home. The identified reason for that was most of parents is unskilled labors. Some of them are vendors or hawkers. So they must go daily for their work. They are coming back home in the evening.

Both husband and wife have been playing a major role in their family in every human society. The concept of partnership evaluation is relevant regarding this issue. There are some measurements of conversation quality, the evaluation of sexual intercourse, and the overall evaluation of partnership. It can be measured by frequency of talks with each in the respectively past week on their personal problems, family and or partnership matters, financial problems and acquisitions. This is the concept of partnership evaluation. Actually most of husbands are taking drugs and alcohol in the study area. Some of families were already female headed. So this issue is complicated. They don't have experience on discuss their matters. They are taking decisions what they want personally. Married women have their main ambition on their children. They satisfied with their husbands regarding sexual life. But it was only for physical satisfaction, most of them alone in their life; focal cultural values are force them to satisfy from their husbands. Most of husbands are taking drugs, because of that, women worried of this issue.

Relatives have been playing a vital role in rural family. But it has been abolished by nuclear family system in urban life. The community of Wanathamulla also has this experience. But some of families are living with their grandparents and some relatives. But it was very few. This isolation makes children to learn and catch misbehaviors. As a consequence, children had loss their childhood early with bad and awful experiences in this community.

3. Education Profile

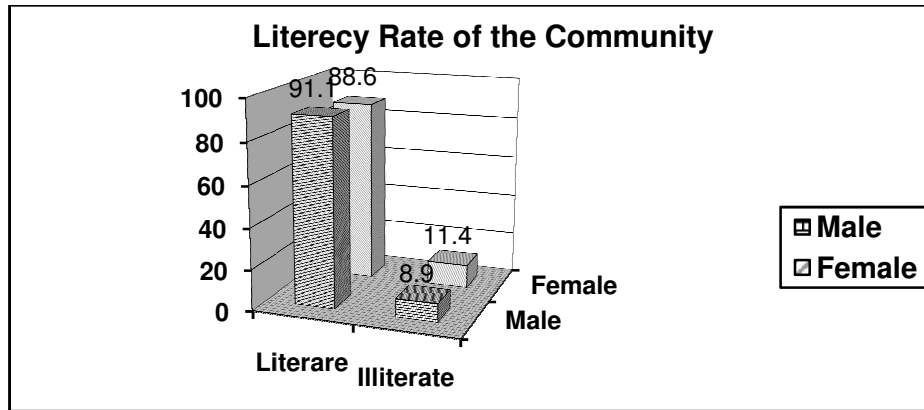
A large part of our social and technical skills, are acquired through deliberate instruction which is education. It is the main waking activity of children, from the ages of five to fifteen, and often beyond. It is also a major economic activity. It consumes the largest single part of the budget of many developed and developing countries.

There are three primary and high schools in this area named Seevali School, Weluvana College and Wipulananda College. The specific feature is that this area is boundary to good national schools such as Ananda College, Nalanda college, Gothami girls' school, Anuruddha girls' school, St Anthony's college and Kannangara College. This is a big opportunity for this community.

The literacy rate of Sri Lanka is very high and it is a remarkable indicator in developing region. It was 90.7% in 2001 (DCS 2001). There is a free education system up to university in Sri Lanka since 1943.

Ability to read and write at least one language was regarded as literate. This is an important social indicator, which throws light on the quality of life. It has long been recognized that social environment cannot improve much without attain higher literacy level. Having looked at this most important aspects of education is that literacy rate is very high (89.9) in this community. This indicator is very important because, it can be used when making policies regarding their life. In further this figure showed that they were not excluded from education system of focal society.

Diagram 2: Literacy rate of the community



Source: Department of census and statistics, 2001.

Because most of slum residents are in urban areas as well as it is a one of most significant results of the national educational policy. The government has put it’s strictly attention on primary and secondary education and people have equal rights to go to school. The literacy rate of males is higher than that of females. In contrast, most of people have experience with not more than grade eight. This high rate of school dropout rate shows us an insight picture of their future life. It makes to a path to choose early jobs.

In the writings of Durkheim; education put its main function on to transmit the societies’ dominant culture. Students can learn what are the norms and values of standard culture. It helps to make good stability and collectivity of the whole society. According to the government policy on education primary and secondary education is compulsory for every child. Thus most of children below 14 in age are schooling. Those who are going to school were asked to give reasons, for doing so.

Table7: Necessity of education the children

Necessity	No. of respondents (Children)	Percentage
For find a job	17	34
For getting knowledge	11	22
Should be educated	12	24
Useless	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Field study, 2008.

This table illustrates that children hope to get job after schooling and their representation was thirty four percent. Also 44% of children are expecting white collar jobs such as teaching, nursing, computer assistance so on. Some of them like to attach armed forces. This issue of hope of white collar jobs can be considered as a good indicator. It gives an idea on that, these children are thinking and believes their selves. It was differing than their elders’ views of that 76% of parents expect their children can’t get white collar jobs. Twenty percent of them don’t have positive idea regarding schooling. School dropouts are the result of this thought as well as there were many odd jobs because of this place is nearby industries and commercial sectors. Therefore their expectations also differ from the standard

culture. These different kinds of accesses make path to them drop their school. Most of parents have education on below grade eight. Hence they don't have an idea on control their children.

On the other hand, most of slums are situated in main cities as well as nearly 80% national schools are in cities. So it makes a platform to children who are living in slums to get good schools. As a consequence, there is a good trend on some people are respecting and expecting on educational success. But in contrast, there was a bad tendency on early economic activities regarding children.

When the study concerned on reading habit of these children was taking different ideas. They were much more like to read stories especially love stories, heroic stories and detective novels. When it compare with newspapers there were 20% of them have reading habit on national newspapers respectively. The teenagers and females paid their interest on tabloid papers. Most of female read tabloids such as "Nawaliya", "Sirikatha", "Sarasaviya" so on. Teenagers often read paper such as "Tharunaya", "Wandna" etc. This figure gave us a thought that what interest and freedom they have as well as they hope. Most of them didn't care on national wide issues and problems. On the other side most of children addicted to watching T.V. On this context also they selected programs on entertainments. But there were graduates before and there were a small number of university students and advanced level students.

4. Economic Profile

According to the structural-functionalist perspective, poverty and economic inequality serve a number of positive functions for society. But, poor people often have viewed as a burning factor to the society. They are having low paid, impoverished workers ensures that someone will be willing to do dirty, dangerous, and difficult work that others refuse to do. Poverty also provides employment for those who work in the "poverty industry" (Gan, 1982). This community is a blue print of this. There were able- disabled people, ethnic villagers so on.

It is noteworthy that, economic conditions are related to man's ability to produce and consume. Therefore production and consumption are the determining factors that may lead us to assess the economic condition of people. The capacity to produce and to consume, differ from place to place, time to time as also individual to individual. Thus those who succeed in producing and consuming more are rich, or in the upper level of status ranking. And those who fail to do this are in the lowest continuum of status ranking or are in other words "poor". Thus this place can be considered as intermediate scrounge society. Most of them engaged with buying and selling system.

In the writings of economic issues, the concept of labor force has taken vital place. Economically active population or the labor force comprised of both employed and unemployed persons. The proportion of the economically active population to the total population aged 10 years and over is called the labor force participation rate. When it consider with the study population it was showed that 67% of them were between ages of 15-59, but economically active percentage was 41%. The first 67% represented both able bodied as well as disable people.

Table 8: Work participation

Variable	Category	Indicator		
		Economically active people by age	Employed	Unemployed
Sex	Total	5369	5002	367
	Male	4103	3868	235
	Female	1266	1134	132

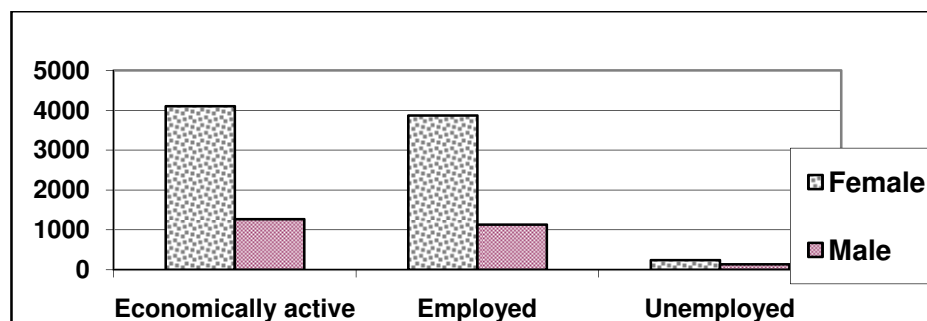
Source: Department of census and statistics, 2001.

According to above mentioned table 77% of them are male workers. 23% represent female workers. But 76% males are economically active. There is a gap between economically active age people and employed people. They were identified as unemployed. The other significant issue is that unemployment rate of female is low. It is interesting to note that a small percentage of the overage and underage population also employed. But 41% of them are in the real working class category. Furthermore, 39% of them are engaging with various sorts of activities in skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled labor categories.

Above two tables present distribution of working population as, 5002 are representing as employed. 20% of them are working in government and semi government institutes. 60% of them are working in garments, shops, security services, restaurants, catering services, beauty parlours etc. In relation to the findings, it is clear that, more than 75% of them working as temporary workers.

According to general observation most of them can be identified as temporary workers. Some of them work for few hours as cleaners, house maids, helpers, porters, and so on. Some of them are working as land and housing brokers, pawn brokers, money lenders and some of them are selling drugs, alcohol as well as selling sex.

Diagram 03: Gender Wise Work Participation

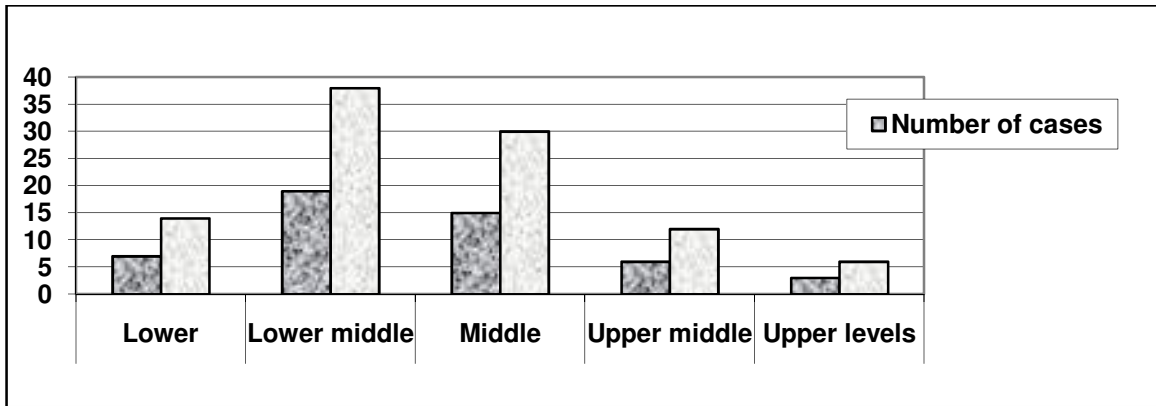


Source: Department of census and statistics, 2001.

The study was revealing that there is a high rate of temporary employees and there is unemployment also. The total number of unemployed population in Wanathamulla is 367. Majority of them are males. The overall unemployment rate in Colombo city area is 6.0 percent and it was 3% in research community. The highest proportion of male employed population is engaged in elementary occupations as unskilled laborers. Some of employed belongs to personal and protective services workers and sales and services respectively. For instance, they are engaging with all kinds of business such as land and vehicle buying and selling (brokers), restaurant, small scale shops, and boutiques, and

laundries etc. Some of them have been working in hospitals and urban council as minor staff workers. There are some odd jobs as well as illegal economic activities such as smuggling and gambling. Some of women are working as baby sitters or as housemaids. Some of them are hiring three wheels as working as three wheel drivers. Most of them have low income employments.

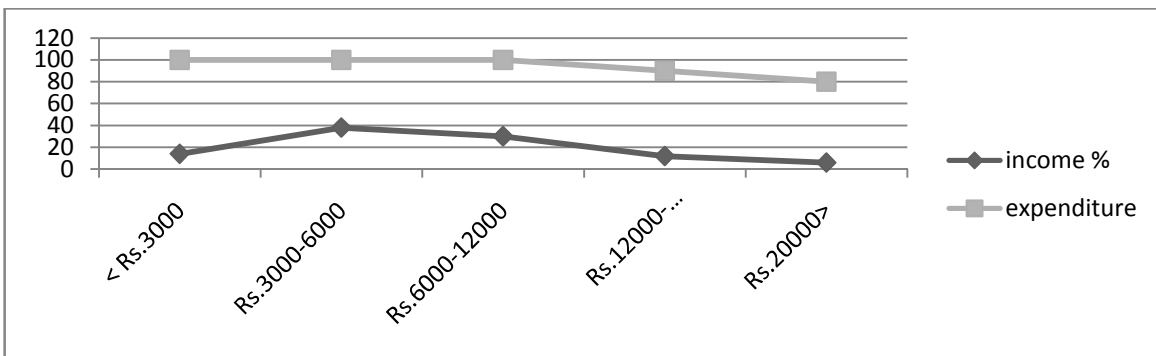
Table 04: Income Levels



Source: Field study, 2008.

It further mentioned that, there are different economic activities in this community. Public, private sector and self-employment are the basic strategies of it. But, as stated earlier; there are more unskilled labors. Most of them didn't have permanent jobs as well as they don't want to do one exactly job as regularly. Therefore they did not have regular income. As a consequence they have tight monthly budget. Self-employers don't having substantial income. Hence, 52% of them earned less than 2 US dollar per day and 38% from this proportion earn below 60 USD per month. 14% of them earned less than 1 US dollar per day and it means they earn less than 30 USD per month. 12% of them earn between 120 USD to 200 USD per month respectively. 6% earn more than 200 USD per month. This is the rough idea on their earning.

Diagram 05: Monthly Expenditure



Source: Field study, 2008.

Another characteristic of this community is that, from the total number of cases 82% of them spend their total monthly income for daily expenses basically for foods, and cloths, for schooling and housing. 12% of them spent 90% of their monthly income for this. They are expressing their hand to mouth existence. As a consequence, they are habitual to taking loans for high rate of interest from

informal sector. The interest showed as from 5% up to 20% per month. There is a gap between income and expenditure and their income enough for “just sufficient”. They are paying high expenses to fulfill their fundamental needs with comparing their total income; they can’t manage their budget without debit.

When it compared with the poverty line given by the World Bank, it called as “person who earn below 1 dollar per day he should be considered as a poor”. According to the study 14% of them earn below 1 dollar per day. It revealed that 14% of the community couldn’t fulfill their basic needs. On the other hand, other 86% of them are in above of the poverty line which was given by the World Bank ranking. In contrast, empirical data make known that, if it will compare with village life, city dwellers meet to fulfill their needs for money every time. By this I meant that, city dwellers have to pay for everything such as water, fire, even curry leaves also. Therefore they don’t have a chance to saving their money or even fulfill their basic necessities.

Their credit balance also very low, because of they usually spend more than 75% of the total expenditure on food. Therefore they have poor lack of basic amenities and poor access to services.

Table 09: Occupational Status

Variable	Category	Indicator					
		G	SG	PS	E	OW	UW
Occupational Status	Male	701	115	241 0	25	592	23
	Female	187	26	776	7	111	27

G = Government
 PS = Private Sector
 OW = Own account worker
 SG = Semi government
 E = Employer
 UW = Unpaid family worker
 Source: Department of census and statistics, 2001.

As an overall discussion, considerable amount of them are working in outside of the study area. Yet study area is surrounding by the Colombo city. Hence, this place is generally considered as working class community. Especially there is an urban council, Petroleum cooperation, Ceylon government railway, and garment factories. Business activities in this area are in permanent and temporary locations. It can be seen as pavement hawking, mobile vendoring, small boutiques, and pastry shops so on. Some of them are running hotels, selling fish and vegetables, selling firewood, as well as renting houses. However, the sources of employment and the pattern of income distribution indicate a marked variation that reflects on life pattern, living conditions, and social network of the community.

It is interesting to say that people who are engaged in employment activities which are of a highly informal and illegal nature. The income of the indigenous leading group comes from activities such as bucket shops, clubs, trade in narcotics and money lending, etc. According to the observation, the majority of the indigenous land owning group is engaged in professional activities while a fair proportion is engaged in working class occupations.

5. Socio-cultural profile

One of the most striking features of slum community is their social relations. There are different paths had been selected to consider on social profile of this community. It was measured their well-being through talk about social relations, mental health issue, vulnerable behavior, and political relationship. I have recognized significant features of their social life.

Social relations

At the broadest level, the slum dwellers develop a sub- culture which is clearly distinguishable from the focal culture. They have their own mode of life, and different patterns of social relationships. Observations revealed that, they often have unhealthy relationships with their neighbors. For instance, most of them they don't know who are living in their lane. There were different reasons for that. The significant issue was that, there are many temporary migrants. It was a one of results of urban rural disparities and unstable political situation. As a consequence there were different ethnic groups. It makes a path to express minimum social relations. Let me illustrate one field experience regarding these migrants. When I was observing in the office of local administrator; it was overcrowded every working day. There was no permanent officer at that time. The officer who was working as acting said that 50% of them come to take their living certificate as well as making national identity cards. It was a one results of unstable political situation of the country.

The respondents were asked to express their opinion about their neighbors; they expressed it in the following way.

Table10: Attitude towards their neighbors

Respondents' opinion	No. of respondents		Percentage	
	women	children	women	children
Good	12	14	24	28
Bad	22	12	44	24
Indifferent	16	24	32	48
Total	50	50	100	100

Source: Field study, 2008.

As these data indicate, the main idea was they do not believe on their neighbors. 26% of them have close relationship with their neighbors. 40% of them have no clear thought of that. Therefore internal network of relationship is largely confined to one or two neighborhood friendships. This friendship has no tangible reciprocity as in other forms of neighborhoods. The purpose of this type of friendship is to share common experience in their professional and business activities, and to have entertainment. But there were inter-marriages among these different ethnicities. On the other hand, because of migration there was considerable ethnic combination of the community. Some of them represent caste differences; Some of Tamil people symbolize low caste and it appears from their occupation. For an example, there was a caste called "sakkili"¹ and they are engaging with cleaning lavatories. As a consequence, it is influence to them to make friendship with others who are from different ethnic group. On the other hand different nations have different behaviors. For instance, Sinhalese people have different food habits; they don't like relish when they taking foods. But, if it compared with Tamil or Muslims, they don't care on this issue.

They make limited relationship with their relatives also. They believe that independency is most important and no need to make trouble with relatives. The one of differences between villagers and this community was that relatives are more important in their life in villagers and it has changed it to friends in certain community. Relatives are rarely visited such as for weddings, funerals, or for special incidents.

They have been practicing religious activities as almsgiving, organizing and participating religious festivals through the temple. They celebrate and doing customs on the new years of these four ethnic groups. They share foods and presents among them. In addition to, they are gathering for social activities such as training, and learning programs. Hence there are some saving systems which are

launched by the non-government organizations such as *Lak Jaya*, *Sarvodaya*, *Sanasa*, and other women's societies. These agencies have an effort to address the causes of gender subordination, by promoting women's political participation, and by fostering dialogue between those in positions of power and organizations with women's empowerment goals. There are voluntary clubs as Sports clubs, Development clubs, Children clubs, and Women clubs.

"*Samurdhi*" was the main project which was conducted by the government. It has been launching different kinds of programs to uplift their life in this community. There were 456 families as members of this movement. These families are the poorest or disable people in this community. The government pay monthly subsidy for them as money and materials. The movement has introduced some savings schemes as "diriyamatha", "sisuraka" and compulsory savings. In addition there were social development programs conducted by this movement throughout the society such as preventing suicides, preventing drug addiction, preventing and acknowledging on venereal disease.

In many respects, other vital issue was mental health profile. It always combines with human being and their survival. Physical well-being also can be considered as a result of the mental well-being. The residents who are in these slums have problems of insecurity regarding their life. Most of they are migrants as well as this community is a multi-collection of ethnicity, religion, class and caste as well as different believes. Because of this cultural diversity, they don't have neighborly warm hearted feelings with each other. They don't have an idea on understand and making trust with each other. It is constantly said that social exclusion is a vital concept in this community. Quite possibly, mental stress and tension are the vital consequences. It was directly affected to their whole family. Most of children have insecurity problems of their lives. In the unique, bad mental environment makes less life satisfaction.

In the next phase of the study paid its attention to recognize their political relations. The respondents had different attitudes towards political participation. Political organization and the functioning of the political parties are different. Each political party has definite objectives. On the basis of their aims and objectives, they contest the election. They form the government if they win at the polls. These parties get public support on the basis of their ideologies.

But the study was illustrated or focused to reveal only the relationship between these two parties as politicians and followers. There was a close relationship with local politicians and the community. It can be seen in their family get-togethers such as wedding parties, attend parties and funerals. They visited them normally if they have been invited to this kind of occasions as well as clients hope that. Due to this, slum dwellers hope that local politicians can interfere to their personal matters. That may be because, most of they are facing troubles with police. They hope to settle their misbehavior through them such as drugs, smugglings, arresting so on. However, they represent all political party followers including three major parties. But, there are no political party candidates within the last decade from this community.

The research shows that, fewer women are to be found in the participation of women in formal politics including national and local polity parties.

Vulnerable behavior

In case of vulnerable behavior, several aspects of deviant behavior can be happened. The slum dwellers generally committed these crimes. These are gambling, drinking, beggary, theft as well as sex offences. Vulnerability is the most controversial issue in this community. In its wide ranging focuses, one can imagine the reality of this society. Drug addiction and alcoholism are taking major part. Most theories of drug use and abuse concentrate psychoactive drugs. These drugs alter the functioning of the brain, affecting the moods, emotions, and perceptions of the user. Such drugs include alcohol, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Drug abuse is a response to the weakening of norms in society. As society becomes more complex and rapid social change occurs, norms and values become unclear and

ambiguous. It is a result of anomie or normlessness as Durkheim's point of view. On the other hand it is one of results of social exclusion (Sen, 2004). This drug addiction makes easy path to do child abuse and child deviancy in this society. That may be because of high school dropout rate. This sometimes leads people to anti-social behaviors as smuggling and gambling and underground criminals. On the other hand, female prostitution is the other big issues in this community. It is a one of results that their breadwinners are always arresting by the police or they don't have permanent jobs. A child, whose parents are experience with a divorce or separate from their marriages, may be more vulnerable to drug use because of such conditions.

I have visited four main prisons which were situated in Colombo. These prisons are situated very close to this study area. One side boundary was the Welikada prison wall. According to the field experiences of main prisons in Colombo city revealed that contribution of the study area towards criminals. Person who were in main prisons have their own biological characteristics with dark skin, dread and misgiving eyes, lean body and withered hair (as Lombroso 1835-1909 mentioned). It was results of their misbehaviors. In the notion of below table, 80% of them suspect for drug selling as well as using. This proportion provides us the extent of drug abuse and practice. The most famous drug was "Heroin". According to general observation, drug sellers use different kinds of symbols to identify the places which are available for drugs. Most of villagers know some of drug sellers as well as users. There are agents, brokers and sellers on one side. The other sides also there are brokers and addicts.

Table 11: Experience on Prison

Name of the prison	Colombo magazine	Colombo remand	Welikada prison (male)	Welikada prison (female)
Total	13554	7533	6577	3087
From Wanathamulla area	370	190	170	35

Source: Prison statistics, 2007.

In its wide ranging focus, there were 30751 offenders had been reported in main prisons of Colombo within 2007. It includes with illustration of deviant behavior of certain community as 3% of them from the study area. It is a peculiar issue to discuss because it was only one ward of Colombo secretariat division. Thus it should be focused to further study. In its substance, it combines with their family and social back ground. Most of these victims have broken family background, and substandard family. 75% of them don't want to give up their criminal behavior because they survive from it.

Table12: Respondents from Colombo remand; convicted of crime

Convicted of crime	No of respondents convicted	Percentage
Taking drugs	53	28
Selling drugs	40	21
Gambling	17	9
Theft	35	18

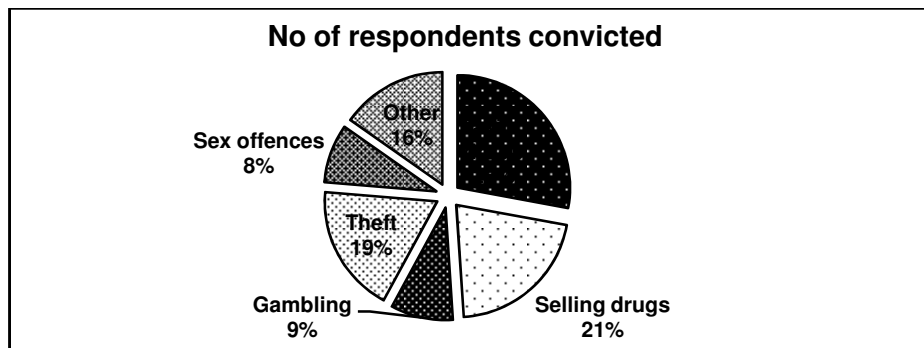
Sex offences	16	8
Other	29	16
Total	190	100

Source: Prison statistics, 2007.

48% of them were convicted for selling drugs, gambling, and larceny and robbery. According their reveal, they could earn more money easily on this way. Let me point up one example regarding this, I asked one prisoner who was convicted for selling drugs; to give up this job after releasing. He answered me as “madam how can I give up this job, I earn more money from this. I don’t know any other work to do. I bring money as full of sarong in the evening”. Therefore they are routine to this process. These are the manifest and latent functions of this subculture for their members.

I have examined this factor according to the strain theory(Merton, 1957). Merton showed us the real situation of the criminal behavior. According to him, legitimate means of acquiring culturally defined goals are limited by the structure of society; the resulting strain may lead to crime. On the other hand it is obvious that the crime and deviation are significantly related to the bad housing and overcrowded condition.

Diagram 06: Respondents from Colombo remand; convicted of crime



Source: Prison statistics, 2007.

As percentage of total convicts, taking drugs has reported the highest proportion. The above table shows that 53 respondents were convicted for taking drugs such as Heroin, Hasis and Ganja. For an instance, there was a boy in 26 years, and he was arrested for thievery for her mother’s jewels to take drugs. There were three of them in their family who are taking drugs. Thus abuse of drugs and alcohol can be considered as a factor that worsens the conditions of the urban poor. Addiction is often viewed as a main cause of low wellbeing for individuals and households.

Table13: Drinking habits among the respondents

Drinking habit	No of respondents	Percentage
Excessive drinking habits	18	36
Limited daily dinking habit	12	24
Occasionally drinking habit	14	28
No drinking habit	06	12
Total	50	100

Source: Field study, 2008.

The concentration on the background of delinquency is found in the problem of misbehavior. The delinquents have exhibit pre-delinquency habits which are not socially approved. Among such habits, drinking is one. The table shows that 36% of respondents are engaging with extreme taking alcohol. This is the first stage of misbehavior or leading behavior of most people in this community. There is a gang behavior also. This helps to them to learn and socialize to this cultural experience. According to the general observation, 75% of families have almost one member who takes drugs. The research has shown the existences of a close relationship with sub cultural values and petty crimes. These values are responsible for petty crime. This is one aspect of function of maintenance of social unity and cohesion. Because certain groups of subculture as study area have, values and attitudes those are conducive to crime and violence. These norms and values contribute to street crimes. This was particularly because of overcrowding. People had no privacy. Children were exposed in their adolescence, to the sexual acts of their elders. This stimulated them, possibly to have even pre-mature sex adventures, which later on became a fun indulgence, leading to sex offences ultimately.

Prostitution is a profession that, low skill labor intensive especially female oriented. But both women and men sell commercial sex. It can be identified as prostitution is the “act or practice of engaging in sexual intercourse for money” (The Random house dictionary, 1969). But central feature of it is that prostitution compromises with female. This feature is same within this community also. The following is a good example of their life that is engaging with this job. A 31 years old lady, she is unemployed. Her husband is doing a casual job; they couldn't earn enough money from that job. She has three children, all of them are schooling. She was born in this place. In her early years, it means before marriage she had this experience. But after marriage she gave up the job. But now she is selling sex again. I met her at the prison. She looks beautiful. Hence the significant feature of this was they earn very low amount from it was between 1 \$ - 5\$. And according to them they don't do that daily. Actually they are doing this when they want money; especially for their day to day existence. Most of them were street prostitutes.

There was another lady who was about 29 years old. She had her first sexual experience from her stepfather. She was arrested by the police when she was taking drugs. Her marriage was a love affair. Her husband died when their first baby born. She worked at Dematagoda market for long time. Meanwhile she had worked as a prostitute. According to her, it is totally for cherish of her kids. Most of them they don't have an idea to give up this. They have knowledge of its effects. They are using condoms before the intercourse. But out of 60% of my sample of prostitutes have experience on illegal abortions. They know on these illegal spots who conduct the surgeries. Three wheel drivers who are appear as brokers, help them to find these places.

The cause of this especially is bad home environment. It was a one of bad effectives of overcrowded home as well as insecurities. On the other hand early marriages and pre sexual behaviors are common to this community. As before noted; there were two suicides had been occurred in this community in last year. These two of them were prostitutes as well as drug sellers. Therefore family background, drug addiction and social values are directly influence to vulnerable behavior.

Now this slum culture affects virtually every facet of a great number of the world slum dwellers. It is largely a synthesis of the culture of the lower class and of what Lewis has referred to as the culture of poverty (Lewis, 1961). Nearly all slum dwellers are of the lower class.

6. Gender Profile

Throughout the research, gender issue had been taken significant approach. The research has shown existence of a close relationship with gender and gender inequality. Firstly, outlook of their behavior makes us an image of same opportunities and same rights they have among male and female in this community. The whole population also equally divided quantitatively. However, female employment

rate is only nearly 22% including self-employment. Whatever it is, most families has become as female headed. As pre industrial society; required a division of labor based on gender. Women, out of biological necessity, remained in the home performing such functions as bearing, nursing, and caring for children. Men, who were physically stronger and could be away from home for long periods of time, were responsible for providing food, clothing, and shelter for their families. This traditional role of family as male for earns money and female for home worker still in the society with few differences. One side of the coin, they have discrimination in their family and the other side, there is discrimination in the occupation sector. It can be seen through domestic violence as early mentioned and through low wages and low working rights in their working places. They don't have chance to taking decisions on their future. They don't have chance to talk on their production, promotions, basic rights, and even their reproductive.

The study looked at the connection with woman and work in their point of view. The same question had been asked from man and woman but each in different families. The question was that “what is your idea on working woman and its effects of certain household”. They responded as below.

Table 14: Attitudes toward women and work

Response	Male		Female	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Women only for house work	12	24	08	16
Female in employment is useless	05	10	05	10
Best responsible on children but work is ok	22	44	25	50
Women should work	11	22	12	24
Total	50	100	50	100

Source: Field study, 2008.

Let me illustrate what results showing on gender role ideology. The proportion of 66% male respondents paid their attention on positive way regarding female working. It was 74% of share regarding females. The significant issue for that was as they mentioned that they are dealing with over the counter market in urban life. They have to have buy everything what they need to live. For instance, the villagers are respectively independent comparing with city dwellers. Most of villagers are farmers or their relatives are farmers. Most of them can find fire, vegetable, fruits, leaves and such things from their land or for less money. But urban dwellers have some difficulties if they don't have enough money. Thus, these respondents believe that if the wife has job it will be benefited regarding their family doings.

Not only positive reactions on woman and working but also there were negative reactions. 28% of female rejected this. It concludes with illustration of traditional and male oriented point of view. They stay at home voluntary or involuntary. Observation revealed that there was a high quota representing by Tamil and Muslim female as non-working. There are two reasons have been seeing in this context as number of children in family and cultural disparities. When consider population growth by ethnic, there is a new trend that there was a gradual deduction of Sinhalese portion (DCS, 2001). On the other hand there was increase of Muslim and Tamil population portion. That may be because; these two ethnic groups have special customs on female such as clothing, marriage, and even lodging. Hence, not only male but also female also considered working is useless for woman.

In the second part of this issue had been conversed on how far working woman effects to whole family. Whole family⁴ takes its mean including parents, children, husband and wife and other relatives also.

Table 15: Attitudes toward working woman and the family

Response	Male		Female	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
It makes more negative effects for children	13	26	08	16
It makes harms to husband and whole family	15	30	12	24
It helps to make good income	16	32	21	42
It helps to happy life	06	12	09	18
Total	50	100	50	100

Source: Field study, 2008.

Out of full responses, 48% of respondents thought when woman is working, it influence to their family as bad way. If the house wife is working, she couldn't look after her children. So it should be fulfilled by other who can get this responsibility. Otherwise, this is the responsible of her husband. Or else it should be done by their grandparents. According to them it makes more troubles. The woman has been playing two characters as instrumental role and expressive role that is living in this community (Parsons & Bales, 1955). They have been earning money as well as caring of children and settling relations. They often try to manage their time. Most of them allocated their free time or leisure time to cover her work what should be covered by her. As consequence, male partake leisure more than female in same household.

Meanwhile 52% of them consider this factor as optimistic view. Out of female it was 60%. Women who are working they have a thought that they are independent because of their job. They mean independence as their desire on marketing, their willingness on taking foods, or something like that. But there was no idea on decision making on even on their right of reproductive. They think because of their salaries, they enjoy their lives. It helps to uplift their household income.

In the general observation revealed that, women often chatting each other and they take more time to that. It was more often with Muslims and Tamils. One reason for that were their husbands engaging with economic sector and women mostly consider on caring children. Their cultural values force to them. In contrast most of Sinhalese women active in economic sector.

In next phase of my research paid its attention on domestic violence. Domestic violence covers a variety of behaviors ranging from verbal and emotional abuse to physical attack, including sexual assault and rape (Marsh, 1996). It included with "beating" and "battering" both. It includes domestic violence against husband, wife as well as children. It appeared from the community. Attitude toward violence against man was low. Oral violence against man was 30%. But oral violence against woman was 40%. Although physical violence against man was nil and it was 8% for woman. But there were 22% proportion for physical and oral both against woman.

Table 16: Attitudes toward domestic violence

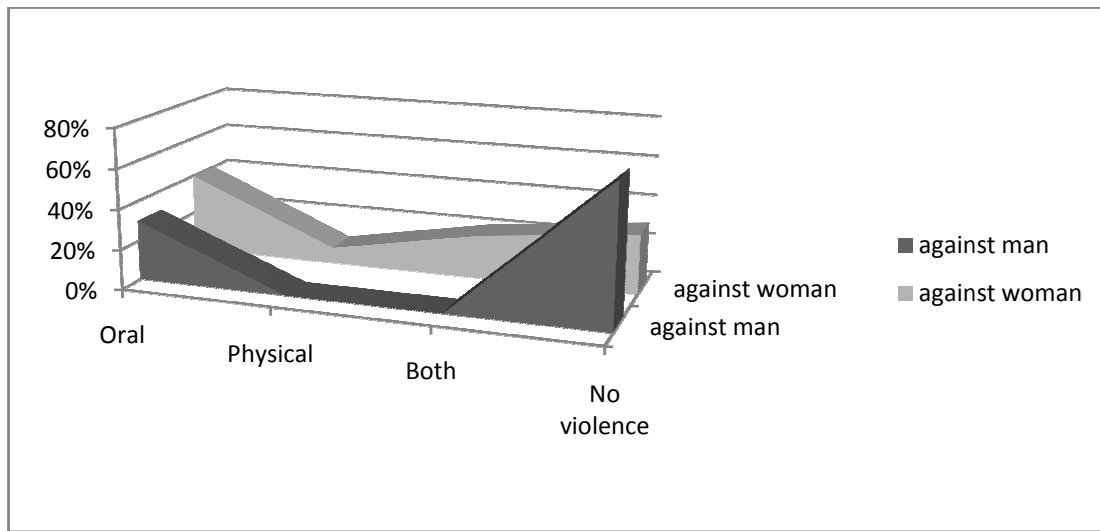
Attitudes toward domestic violence against women					Attitudes toward domestic violence against man					
Response	Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	%	No.	%	No.	%

Oral violence	40	18	36	22	44	30	12	24	18	36
Physical violence	08	06	12	02	04	00	00	00	00	00
Both	22	10	20	12	24	00	00	00	00	00
No violence	30	16	32	14	28	70	38	76	32	64
Total	100	50	100	50	100	100	50	100	50	100

Source: Field study, 2008.

The concentration of overall idea make that, there was a 70% of domestic violence against woman can be seen in this community. According to observation, oral violence including with bitter and rough words, blaming and abusing, shouting were very common. Beating was the most common physical violence regarding woman. When they were making quarrel, some husbands or males committed to destroy their home appliances.

Diagram 07: Attitudes towards domestic violence



Source: Field study, 2008.

This bad home environment directly influence to kids to select and learn the behavior. The home is the fundamental place of socialization and it hopes to make expectations, changed behavior and the desire to conform. So children absorb certain cultural values through the process of socialization. Mothers revealed that their children committed to deviant or disobedient, because, they learn their role through their parents. Fathers don't have enough effort to that because of experiences of domestic violence. Fathers release their stress or anger through their children or wives. It was 70% from blaming to beating.

“Women empowerment”, in its broadest sense implies development of women’s life in every sphere. It is a process of social transformation where women gain control over their own body, financial and other resources and hence influences decisions which affected their life. However, while they have a subordinate position in the society, various studies shows that uplift of women helps directly to uplift their families and improve the socio-economic conditions. As a result, empowerment of women, especially their economic empowerment is gaining increasing importance in the development of the most essential and primary component in empowerment of women on the one hand and to remove poverty on the other.

7. Infrastructures, Land Ownership and Housing

Infrastructures are taking main role of every task. It makes background to certain task. When it consider on human being, the basic infrastructural facilities are the roads, electricity, water, health, accommodation and sanitary facilities. There were lacks of infrastructural facilities in the study area. The main entrance of study area is the low level main road, passing about 100 meters there is a low level Baseline railway line. Some of houses build beside this railway line. In the middle of the area there is a dirty, with polluted black color water canal. Some of dwellers release their lavatory pipes and other unnecessary liquids to this canal. It spreads bad smell over the area. Some of houses were building besides this canal.

Study area placed inside of the of the Colombo city. Therefore it has electricity, main general hospitals, shopping centers, workshops, government and private offices, markets etc. But the people who are living in here, they have problems on taking electricity because of their illegal house ownership. Most of them are using electricity but with some inconveniences. For instance, when meter reader comes they disconnect their illegal electricity line. If they use the line, they give money as gratification. Few of them do not have facility on electricity power even using illegally.

There are back to back raw houses situated as lines. There are narrow roads between these houses. They are calling these areas as watta, (garden), laima (lane), or mawatha (avenue). These gardens or avenues have more than twenty houses. So they use this count to put the name for the garden. For instance, there are lanes named “T wissawatta (20 houses lane)”, “hathalispahawatta (45 houses lane)”, “297 watta”, “288 watta” etc. There were more than 3300 families in this area. In addition there were large amount of temporary migrants. They rent houses for their different kinds of purposes. In accordance with field data, in very often those houses are build upped as lines and one third of houses are temporary units or shanties. Two third of them were slums about more than 2000 houses respectively.

Table 17: Types of houses

Type	Number
Temporary Houses	1024
Permanent Houses	2389
Total	3413

Source: Field study, 2008.

These permanent houses can be considered as slums and temporary houses can be considered as shanties. But both were situated as mixed. On the other hand it can be identified as three types of houses as viz; permanent, semi-permanent and improvised in this area. It has measured based on materials of construction used for wall, floor and roof housing units have been divided. In general, where all materials used are durable like cement, bricks, tiles, and asbestos sheets; the units were classified as permanent. Where all materials are perishable such as cajan, palmyra or discarded wooden planks the units is classified as improvised.

When consider their land ownership is complicated. There are two types of ownership as private owners and institutional owners. These houses under controlled by three major institutions named as the Colombo urban council, Department of Sri Lanka railway and national housing development authority. There was 33% of houses has privet land ownerships. 37% of proportions of houses were under controlled by national housing development authority. 22% of houses were owned by urban council and 8% of them were under controlled by department of Sri Lanka railway. There was one housing scheme is under REEL company. The dwellers pay certain amount to these institutions as monthly payment. In

case of their illegal land ownership, they couldn't get legal authority to any matter regarding re-building, mortgaging, getting bank loans so on.

There were few roads considerably good, but those roads especially for entrance only. By this I meant that, often roads are actually by-roads which were to their lanes were narrow and gravel. Most of these by - roads were wide from five feet to one. Some of these entrance or roads are going on drainage lines. Therefore roads are not good and most of them don't have sufficient width which they use to go to their houses.

When think on their houses, they have limited space as about two purchases in their houses. As consequence, often they have common hall and small kitchen. Some of them divided this small common hall as two rooms. They use bricks or boards for this partition. Some of them used even cloths. Cement had used for the floor. In contrast, few of them built their houses as upstairs. Some of them use the front component to doing their business activities. They have made small boutiques. But the common features of these houses were the interconnectivity. Therefore there are no side windows in these houses. Most of houses have only the front main door. Thus theses residents have to have use fans inside their homes.

The study looked at their facilities regarding water and sanitation. Most of they don't have safe water and sanitation facilities. There are two types of water supply; private tap lines and common tap lines, and private wells and common wells. There were three common wells in this area. There are private wells in some houses which were built as separate houses. Those were very few. The common usage was tap lines. Some of them have private owner tap lines to their houses. There were two types; some of them take this line from the common tap line as illegally. Some of them take this line as legally, and they pay monthly cost for that.

Another characteristic of this water source was common tap lines use as without any parsimony or thriftiness. There was no maintenance as well as protection with these common sources of water and sanitary facilities in this community. Some of taps don't have the top or the tap. They use temporary stopper every time. As consequence, there was a water waste. In addition, these tap lines were not enough for this large amount of population. Thus there were long queue to taking bath, washing cloths and even taking morning face wash.

Furthermore, lack of lavatory facilities were considered as a big problem. There were water sealed toilets and pit latrines as private and common. Most of them use common lavatories. Those were not enough for them as well as those were old and decayed. There was not enough maintenance even cleaning. There was air pollution. There was an effluvium in some areas. It was common to this community and they adapted to this bad smell. There were two reasons for this spread. One was the old and broken drainage lines. For instance, the residents turn these lines to canals; Halgahakumbura was the one of examples for that. They turned to these lines to Kollonnawa canal. The second one was there was no particular method for garbage cleaning. There is no enough space or plan to collect garbage and there is no canals system. Actually nearly 20% of land area is not suitable for residents. This can be seen very clearly specially in rainy days.

Conclusion and Discussion

It is a well-known fact that poverty is the prime characteristic of slum. The poor have always been forced to live in the worst housing of the city. Large scale migrations to cities became natural consequences of huge factories, aided by power driven transport to market their goods. Workers were often housed in the left-over spaces between the factories and sheds and the rail-road yards. In relation to the findings it is clear that, "poverty still exists in Sri Lanka, but there is little extreme poverty (Department for international development, 1999). Hence, 52% of them earned less than 2 US dollar per day and 38% from this proportion earn below 60 USD per month. 14% of them earned less than 1 US dollar per day and it means they earn less than 30 USD per month. 12% of them earn between 120 USD

to 200 USD per month respectively. 6% earn more than 200 USD per month. This is the rough idea on their earning.

As a holistic viewpoint, there is a different life pattern in urban areas as Louise Wirth (1938) defined as “urbanism as a way of life”. According to his definition on urbanism, size, density and heterogeneity are the three basic traits. The urban communities are large, dense and heterogeneous. It affects psychologically and there is an impact on the social structure. In such a sense, there is a huge gap between these slum dwellers and other city dwellers. It directly affects their personal lives that live in slums. They have built prestige as slum dwellers. Most of them adjusted to this life style. They don't have an idea to escape from this image. They survive from this. It's become as a cycle.

In relation to the findings, it is clear that, more than 75% of them working as temporary workers and for low wages also. Sueyoshi and Ohtsuka (1999) revealed this as “most working age males had jobs and 90% of them were engaged in such informal sector jobs as casual labors and self-employers”. They did their research in “Malligawatta”; one of wards of Colombo with slums. This study area community also faced with unemployment as well as impermanent employment.

According to the general observation of the study, overwhelming majority of families was found to be nuclear. Most of families included with only parents and children; means householder and his wife and children. Most of them planned their families up to three children. It was one of considerable results of national health policy.

It is important to note that, most of families were becoming female headed as their husbands who functioned as breadwinners had been died as well as some of them were arrested or remanded. This was one of remarkable issues what was bloomed from the community.

Having looked at the most important aspects of education is that literacy rate is very high (89.9) in this community. But it was almost only for reading and writing just. In case of education, that the level of performance among the children of the slum dwells is very low and poor. This may be due to want of guidance from parents. The parents do not take note of the complaints if any of the teacher. The children are left, to care for themselves. They do not attend school regularly.

Another characteristic of this community is that, from the total number of cases 82% of them spend their total monthly income for daily expenses basically for foods, and cloths, for schooling and housing. 12% of them spent 90% of their monthly income for this.

Vulnerability is most controversial issue in this community. These are gambling, drinking, beggary, theft and sex offences. The standard or focal culture mostly identified slum residents because of this behavior.

The prevailing attitudes in the area make them vulnerable to domestic violence, imprisonment at their home, inequality in decision making and economic dependence. As a result, women living in the slums suffer from the symptoms of gender inequality from various channels and institutions of the existing society. It is emphasized that the social, economic, and political status of female slum dwellers in Sri Lanka needs to be addressed through increased access to education, economic and awareness initiatives.

There were not enough infrastructures facilities. They have short comings on especially sanitary facilities. In addition there were some problems regarding ownership of their land and houses.

There is no huge gap between male and female within this society for survival. Men and women have equal conditions for realizing their day to day life activities. However there are some shortcomings of female decision making ability and socio-economic opportunities. National statistical data show us that the number of women employed has increased over the year. But this growth only consider in women contribution to the labor force. Not in enhance of her ability of decision making. But this community also represent male dominant as a part of the main culture. There is a patriarchy power. In every patriarch society; there is an effort controls women's ability on economical earnings, social mobility as well as reproductive rights. But women play significant role in the community as a mother,

sister, wife, friend, earner so on. She has more strength, but she has no possibility to develop their ability and skills.

The slum dwellers are generally not careful at all about their future because of poverty. They have addicted to culture of poverty as noted by Lewis (1965). It means these cultural values are giving to generation by generation. Thus they are economically distressed and even frustrated. This developed a sort of culture or subculture. In this sense poverty leads to a certain kind of behavior and specific attitudes. Economic distress and social inequality have long been considered as the basic causes of society ill. Most of them are casual labors whose income is so meager that they cannot even think of taking such future policies. Therefore they need cash support, food benefits, housing assistance, job training program, child care assistance, child support enforcement so on. And the most significant issue is that there should be an evaluation.

The government has launched pilot surveys to identify this area. According to findings, the government has made several efforts to get better living standards in this area. There are low –cost apartments, urban council houses, and million houses program such as “*Sahasapura*” (Thousand houses program) and “*Palin mandira*” (From hut to palace). Some of the families were granted loans for upgrading of their houses. The government also tried to relocate these families from this area to sub-urban. But the problem is that, when they received an apartment from the government, tried to sell them and again they are coming to slums. It can be identified as a cycle of culture of poverty. Because of their culture or life style they can't take on to new society or new culture. There are evident on this kind of purchasing since last four decades even today also.

Therefore, the women should be empowered. Empowerment is essentially a bottom-up process rather than something that can be formulated as a top-down strategy. Therefore women must empower themselves. But external support and intervention can be making an important role in this. Development organizations can, under some circumstance, play an inability or facilitating role. There are some economic, social and cultural programs in this community conducting by government and non-government organizations. They can ensure that their programs work to support women's individual empowerment by encouraging women's participation, acquisition of skills, decision making capacity, and control over resources.

These agencies can support women's collective empowerment by funding to their economic activities. “*Samurahi movement*” which is being launched by the government as a people enhanced program, is the main activity regarding this. It is working as most actively in this community.

Therefore empowerment should be reached through three main strategies as economic participation, social participation and political participation. Economic participation can be seen through their economic security, ability to make small and large scale business, maintain credits and so on. By social participation meant that making male -female equality, making good access to relative freedom from domination and authority within the family, improving decision making skills are can be helped to empower them. The final strategy is that, political assist such as giving leadership programs to women, develop women skills and gender sensitivity, making legal awareness is to be helped to them.

In the final, there was a bi-variate relationship in the hypothesis and it had been understood through the independent variable and dependent variable in this study. For instance, the independent variable is the cause and the dependent variable is the effect. Therefore, the independent variable was slum residents' life pattern and the dependent variable was urban poverty regarding this study. The hypothesis was revealed that, how much variation in one variable relates to variation in another. There is a positive relationship between these two variables. Furthermore, in detailed, 54.7% were urban in Colombo district and 51% represent slums from Colombo city population. In addition according to national statistical, there was proportion of 14% as slums from urban population as island wide. Besides that, there were disparities on their income and expenditure as well as consumer behavior. Hence, 52% of them earned less than 2 US dollar per day. From the total number of cases 82% of them spend their

total monthly income for daily expenses basically for foods, and cloths, for schooling and housing. Therefore the study identified that there was a relationship between slum dwellers and urban poverty.

Conclusions can be summarized as below.

- There is relativity poverty with a big gap related to focal society.
- There is an urban poverty reduction in whole over the country.
- There is a culture of poverty in this community.
- There is a strong influence on urban poverty and slum residents' life pattern.

Implication

According to my study I have identified two major issues regarding urban low income dwellers. First one is that there is a poverty and culture of poverty. The second one is that their lives can be uplift through eliminating or reducing poverty as well as changing their attitudes. Thus, poverty is a social problem and the source of other social problems; therefore it must be eliminated. Since poverty leads to personal pathology, poverty damages families as well as poverty damage children.

In its wide ranging focus, poverty can be eliminating, because it is not a natural thing. It was arising from the society or originated by the society. But eliminating poverty is not a simple task, because, this issue has multidimensional roots and concerns. On the one side, poverty is caused by lack of resources. On the other side it has cultural value system. Therefore policy makers must have considered on these two significant issues as introducing and implementing economic programs and they have to implementing programs to uplift these residents' moral and efficiency parallel. By this I have meant that poverty is not simply a matter of deficient income; it results from other inequities in the society as well. The government should have an idea on that poverty cannot be eliminated or reduced by the promoting of private sector of the economy only. In many respects, it should be combining with nationwide program.

Thus, people who are engaging with making policies should consider on rising economy, uplifted the efforts of the poor themselves, making combination with volunteer help from well-meaning individuals, groups, and organizations, making relationship with efforts of state and local governments. While designing poverty alleviation programs should be pay their keen attention on who are the target group and which sectors should be uplifted. There are three groups should be considered. First one is that the active labor force who are workers or those who are unemployment. They need adequate training, access job, enough wage, and social inclusion. The second group is disable people. They should be protected by others. They need remittance, subsidies to look after their children. The last group is children who are coming from these low income families. Children need good guidance of parents and elders. There should be infrastructure improvements programs. Remove the poor from slum neighborhoods and re-house them in low cost shelter but with security of land tenure.

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