

**THE IMPACT OF LITERACY OF MOTHERS IN DEPRIVED FAMILIES,  
A CONTEMPORARY SWOT OF THEIR LIFE: A STUDY OF SLUM  
DWELLERS IN VISAKHAPATNAM CITY OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

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**ABSTRACT**

The word “mother” is a comprehensive word that owns the capacity of welcoming a new life into this world. “*God cannot be everywhere so he created Mothers*” is really not just to say but very true. Mother is a mother; no one can replace the love and affection, though deprived and unfortunate to lead lives in a gloomy circumstances. The responsibilities are mostly posed on the women of the families hit by poverty as the men in common are in the clutches of terrible addictions like smoking, alcoholism, playing cards on lottery to swap their lives better by one chance of choice. Education plays a vital role in one’s life, when the prominence of education is among the under privileged families it brings an immense variation in all aspects of their lives. The facts are very diverse than the writings and sayings as the intensity of the hitch is elevated and concern is fewer.

**Keywords:** Women, Mother, Literacy, Poverty, Children.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Motherhood is the most delightful experience that women have in her life. Though deprived the joy of being a mother is always a boon. A mother is admired as shakthi in Vedas to create good human beings as kings and warriors with immense knowledge towards the strength of the world. Her role is always to love her children, and being in one of the most meaningful phase.<sup>1</sup>

A vital role of woman in family influences children at home and society as a mother struggles to foster and teach a child, to make the world a better place to live.<sup>2</sup> The mothers were also sometimes neglected at the troublesome old age, among slums though they provide everything as mothers, poverty is one of the prominent burden in the deprived families, that impact the

psychological capacities of the individuals to a large extent holds nothing good<sup>3</sup>. The most possible motive is opportunity of education is much higher than them to carry out the house chores rather to meet the needs of the family<sup>4</sup>. The education brings a lot of variance among the life style and prominence of well being. When mothers have education, the perspective towards family and society is constructive and the significance is perceived.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. METHODOLOGY

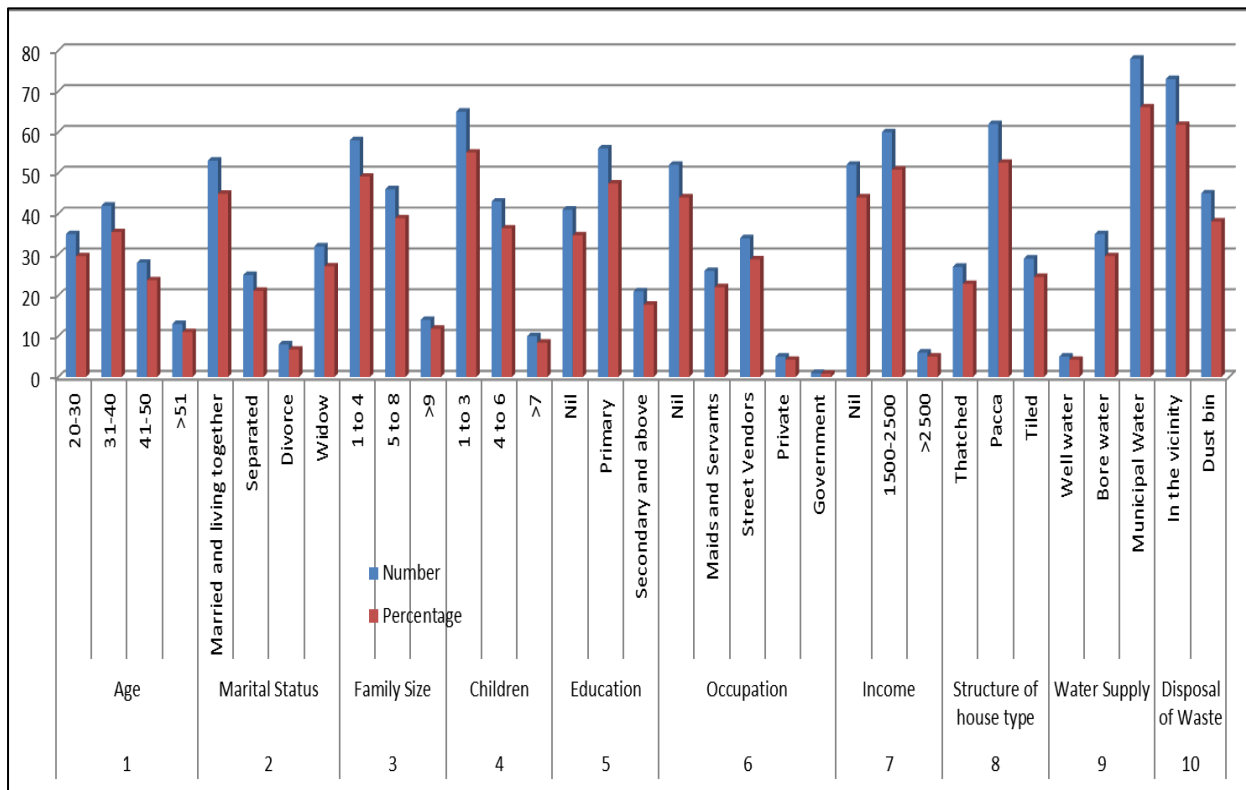
The urban slums were selected for the respondents from the sample population and the sampling was carried out in seven slums after completion of permissions and acceptance from the local leaders. The interaction with the respondents of the slums was made with an informative questionnaire and with the consent of them; personal interviews were completed from the period of April 2018 to June 2018. The population of 118 women were encountered and interviewed to signify the socio-demographic factors along with the percentage of literacy among them that influences the children and families.

**Table 1: Depicts the socio-demographic profiles of the sampled population.**

Sl.No	Variable	Cluster	Number	Percentage
1	Age	20-30	35	29.6
		31-40	42	35.5
		41-50	28	23.7
		>51	13	11
2	Marital Status	Married and living together	53	44.9
		Separated	25	21.1
		Divorce	8	6.7
		Widow	32	27.1
3	Family Size	1 to 4	58	49.1
		5 to 8	46	38.9
		>9	14	11.8
4	Children	1 to 3	65	55
		4 to 6	43	36.4
		>7	10	8.4
5	Education	Nil	41	34.7
		Primary	56	47.4
		Secondary and above	21	17.7
6	Occupation	Nil	52	44
		Maids and Servants	26	22

		Street Vendors	34	28.8
		Private	5	4.2
		Government	1	0.8
7	Income	Nil	52	44
		1500-2500	60	50.8
		>2500	6	5
8	Structure of house type	Thatched	27	22.8
		Pacca	62	52.5
		Tiled	29	24.5
9	Water Supply	Well water	5	4.2
		Bore water	35	29.6
		Municipal Water	78	66.1
10	Disposal of Waste	In the vicinity	73	61.8
		Dust bin	45	

Graphical representation of Table -1:



### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The sampled population of 118 respondents were interviewed and the interaction could gather the information about themselves and their motherhood. The impact of literacy plays a vital role, the opinion and decisions were quite variant among them. Age was the variable distributed as 20-30 yrs, 31-40 yrs, 41-50 yrs, more than 51 yrs and 35, 42, 28 and 13 respectively with 29.6 %, 35.5%, 23.7% and 11% shows the high number of 42 respondents come under 31-40 yrs and 13 respondents under more than 51 yrs were low in number. The marital status was also considered as a variable, 53 respondents were married and living together with 44.9% among 118 sampled populations. 25 respondents were separated from their husbands after marriage and living with children and parents. 8 were divorced among them 5 were divorced because of giving birth to girl children and the husbands wanted to have sons to heir their family. The other 3 respondents said that the husbands were greedy and harassed them and their parents for dowry every time they were in need of money. And unfortunately 32 respondents with 27% were widows and had to carry out the family and responsibilities.

The size of the family denotes the number of family members and was also considered a variable to understand the socio-economic status of sampled population, 1-4, 5-8, >9 were 58, 46, 14 with 49.1%, 38.9%, 11.8% respectively. The role of mother her submission, commitment agony and responsibility were understood as the number of children 1-3, 4-6, more than 7 were 65, 43, 10 with 55%, 36%, 8.4% respectively.

Truly and completely there is influence of literacy among the women in raising their children in healthy and prospective approach. But to acknowledge among 118 sampled population, 41 were without any education and termed as illiterates and 56 had primary education with 47.4% and 21 had secondary and above with 17.7% comparatively among 118 sampled populations the percentage of literacy as 77 and illiteracy were 41.

The occupation of the individuals were also considered s that itself is the way of income, 52 with 44% mentioned as nil, but in discussion would like to mention then as home makers because making home is the work and occupation but rewarded in terms of emotions and relations and never in money. Many among them were street vendors 34 in number with 28.8%, 26 were maids and servants with 22% and some were working in private offices working as helpers and cleaners in the office and 5 in number with 4.2% and only one among 118 sampled population was working in government hostel on contract basis as helper in kitchen with 0.8%.

Income is that denotes the individuals economic status and projects the social being in the society. 52 respondents with 44% did not have any occupation or income 60 respondents with

50.8% were earning between 1500-2500 rupees per month and only 6 respondents with 5% were earning more than 2500 rupees per month.

The type of home and structure denotes the life style and works of women (mother) the manner of living, cleaning, and life style of the slum dwellers. 27 respondents were living in thatched type of houses with 22.8% denote the low income among the sampled population. The 62 respondents with 52.5% live in tiled houses. The water supply was also considered as a variable to understand the stressful life of mothers in the slums. The municipal water supply was used by 78 respondents with 66.1%. 35 respondents use bore water with 29.6% and well water was used by 5 respondents with 4.2%. The strain towards everyday need of water for house hold chores like drinking, washing cleaning and primary home needs were quite stressful for them to do all the needful efforts to keep up their children and family.

The disposal of waste was also considered as a variable to understand the knowledge towards living vicinity and environment and the attention towards healthy living and teaching their children about the cleanliness and good environment. Among the sampled population 73 with 61.8 % were disposing the waste in the vicinity of houses itself as they live across the gutter or open drainage system. 45 respondents with 38.1 % use dustbin provided by the municipal corporation of the city. While, among 118 sampled population 45 respondents had a little knowledge to dispose the waste in proper place for clean and healthy environment that help their children the future generations to acknowledge the circumstances.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Women play a very vital role among the family and society as well, and as mother's its much more than usual expectations and thoughts. The literate mother is always an imperative for a better living and understanding towards, raising children and upliftment of family and society. There is high disparity among the literate and illiterate mothers, as some of the sampled population from more than 50 years have mentioned that if they would have sent their children to schools its of nothing for them as they go for works they earn money for their living, rather being a burden for the parents. But very few illiterate mothers were staunch thinkers about the prominence of education in their children's life. The attention and consideration towards the integrity of the society is certainly the submission and responsibility of the society itself, where in women have a major role as mothers to evolve the future endeavours.

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