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# Political Attitudes of Slum Dwellers

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## ABSTRACT

Slums are amongst the main underprivileged segment in any state. These groups are living in weak or primitive homes on unprotected property. These homes normally have no suitable sanitation scheme and no fresh water. This is an important group that needs to be followed to gauge its contribution and thinking patterns. My study explores slum communities and how they partake in political activity and their perceptions regarding politics. For conducting this research quantitative approach was used. Two groups of slums were opt for research i-e Bhutto colony and juggie community. SPS17 is use for the clarification of statistics of study. The facts and figures were examined by using cross-tabulation. This study will be beneficial for the developing policy framework for different governmental regimes, Non-government organizations as well as for scholarly work. This will provide original results and encourage advance research in this group.

**Key Words:** Slum Communities, Political Activity, Quantitative Approach, Cross-tabulation, Juggle Community.

## Introduction

For the first time the idea of Slums was explained in Vaux's 1812 where it was used with synonyms of 'racket' or 'criminal trade' (Planet of Slums). This name comes from the Irish word "Slomic" which means "vulnerable place" (Davis, 2004). Various terminologies used for these kind of groups such as informal settlements, squatters, favelas in Brazil, gecekondu in Turkey, townships in southern Africa, and aashawa in Egypt (Fuchs, 2006) (Hare, 1998). These segments are known as juggies in India. "Informal settlements seemed in our state mainly owing to fast arrival of refugees from India in 1947 (Zahra, 2009). In 1947 – 1959 the machinery of state was totally failed in providing the facility of accommodation for immigrants. Due to this problem the demand of homes is increased. The initial idea was the removal of katchia badis in 1951; almost 152,161 persons lose their houses. In 1958-1968 dictatorial regime removed the underprivileged areas Convert them into housing colonies, which raise the demands for more homes.

## **Types of Slums**

There are two types of slums, both of which have been listed and explained below

### **Transferred Slums**

Slums that have been given ownership status by state are named as transferred slums. Accessibility of amenities of daily life is slightly improved in transferred slums (Riaz et al, 2015).

### **Non-Transferred Slums**

Slums that have not been given ownership status by state and the masses are living their life on states territory. These are named as non-transferred slums.

## **Review of Literature**

To know political motives is the main concern of my study. Politicians use these underprivileged people only to get a huge number of votes. Politicians make false promises to secure votes. They promise the common man that they will provide every facility. After the election, there is a difference in their theory and practice. They forget the demands of the people.

John Harriss 2005 was interested in exploring the mechanism of problem-solving methods of residents of Delhi. From the finding of the research, he argues that the people of Delhi are very efficient in solving their issues. They solve their problems by using the medium of law and sometimes they adopt more than one medium like striking, People use the medium of political parties. People involve themselves in political activities to solve their problems. Many activities are non-political, but their implications are purely on political grounds. The actions of political participation affect the distribution of goods and services. A huge number of individuals participate in this procedure of problem-solving.

The elite class with a good educational background does not take much interest in these political activities. They have contacts within the government to solve their problems. The Muslims are active in associations; the Women are only very active in religious and cultural associations and the Sikhs community is most active in neighborhood associations. In ethnic associations, people with secondary education represent themselves while in Neighborhood associations' people with a primary level of education represent themselves. The data from research indicates that permanent job holders' are more active in associations and retired members are active in neighborhood associations. This whole discussion indicates that there is a difference in political participation between rich and poor people (Harriss, 2005).

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Sometimes these slum communities are neglected by the concerned institutions of the government but these people have the will and passion to change their circumstances. According to (Bolnic et al, 1997) Welfare colony is a slum community in Karachi that faced a lot of issues regarding infrastructure. They set out to solve their problems by their means. Ninety-one percent of the sewerage lines are laid by the members of the community. They were also given their services in other domains like construction of culverts, Nala (river), Landfilling of streets and roads, construction of boundary wall around half an acre of cemetery and preparation of survey map, the lines of natural gas are being laid. Funds were collected from one hundred and fifty rupees to two hundred rupees from each person. For cleaning sewer lines, they collected one hundred rupees from each house.

They have no proper mechanism of waste disposal sometimes they make ditches near their house and buckets toilet latrine for excreting. Cleaners collect get five rupees from every house per month to clean excreta on daily basis. In these areas, community leaders have an important role in all matters of the community. In particular, In this area, Shuban chacha and Namakdar Khan gave complete guidelines about the solution to their community issues. They inform people to about the importance of civics issues. So in these underprivileged areas, the concerned authorities of the state fail to provide basic facilities of life to citizens. Then citizens solve their problems by using their limited resources and improving the condition of facilities. The reason behind the success of these areas is people have helped themselves (Bolnic et al, 1997).

In squatters, the absence of property rights is the prime reason for the denial of basic services Such as electricity to residents. The politics of the settlements are always involved in their struggle to secure these rights (Roy, 2009). The more formal rights bring prosperity and happiness to the lives of urban poor people.

The name of the Aam Aadmi Party reflects the idea that the layperson, the common man, plays a central role in this party. This party consists of such segments of society that are neglected by the political elite. Their miseries and deprivations germinate the roots of this party. The party building of the Aam Aadmi Party and the mobilization of new workers has three advantages. First enhances the voters and political activities and these anti-establishment parties consider outside the political arena and it takes a huge time to attract party voters.

With the establishment of this party people who feel deprived become part of this party. This party gave importance to the opinion of laypeople and provided them a chance to participate in the political activities of the state. In the past, the educated class had no value in political activities. It enables the IT graduates and lawyers to give their best services; it promotes awareness of electoral politics among the community of laypeople. It was built in November 2012.

Palawan is considering a strong man in this area. He belongs to a sub-group of the Gujjar family. He owed much property. He is a simple man during extremely hot days in Delhi he sleeps on char paii and doesn't think to sleep in an air-conditioned room. He mobilizes the masses in such a way that they dare to stand up for their rights. In my research, political agents have a crucial role in the electoral politics of the community.

Money is required to continue the different activities of the party. So, the members of AAP hold the white sheet to collect funds. People donate some money to it. Most of the members of AAP work as volunteers. They work with full dedication and sincerity. In motorcycle rallies, each worker pays 500 Rs for petrol. The rishawk puller donates 2 Rs. Their little amount is much more important than the cheque of any cooperation. Due to the efforts of the AAP, many residents of slums cast their vote to motivate them in such a way that if they sell their vote it means they are selling the future of their daughter. The people of slums portray that they are spending the life of insects, and the leaders of AAP convince them to vote on rational grounds Eat everyone's biryani but vote with your mind (Roy, 2014 ).

Before the election of 2013 municipal political parties were quite active in the politics of the municipality. Other political parties did not consider the importance of issues in the municipality. They had no rational comprehensive plan for the development of the city. So the municipal political party came into power to give better facilities to the common masses and introduce some new plans for the development of the city. After the election of 2013 in Gatineau the

Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, the leader of the municipal political party came to power. Politicization creates opportunities for citizens and also elected officials. Politicization solves problems of property services, land use planning, urban development, quality of life, and social justice.

Recently the political parties of Canada involved themselves in the politics of the municipality. They set their indirect role for mobilization of people so voters support their candidate in elections, but without formally establishing their political affiliation. The political system of Canada lacks the availability of local political parties. The non-partisan 'city' model is still exercised in Canadawhere the local leader is elected without the support of a political organization, Maybe this candidate is a resident or may have affiliation with a national political party. Politicization installed the scheme of political debate, and political thinking among citizens. the author is using infringement or requalification for urban planning. If a local political party emerges then they consider a consequence of politicization. Politicization is not only active during election days but also provides a golden opportunity for the masses to debate their issues in front of the political elite. The politics of everyday life are very important because the members of civil society participate in municipal affairs. A scholar Wolff argues that the rapid increase in urban movements and emergence of local political

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parties truly indicates the - politicization of local areas. Political parties are small social groups of political agents (Chiasson et al, 2013 ).

The Modasa was located in sabarkantha in 1962 the total population of the district was 118434. In 1990 this tehsil was divided into two portions Modasa and Dhansura. Nine percent of people live in slums. There are two hundred and eleven polling stations located in one hundred and nineteen villages and one is in town. This constituency has high literacy rates and a good system of education. There were three hundred and fifty-three schools in this constituency and one high school in every village. Baniyas have a strong role in the economic, social, and political spheres. But over time in 1960, their influence started to decline. To avail education opportunities, baniyas tend to move to urban areas and become less active in the political activities of the constituency. Patidars and Kshatriyas are the most influential in the constituency. The upper classes in Patidars are loes and kadavas, rich and middle-class farmers.

Sometimes in underprivileged areas, people have no civics knowledge political parties do politically socialize, like (Shah, 2010) argues that The BJP has an active mechanism for political socialization of their people so people vote in their favor. In 2007 all activities related to the election were monitored by NarendraModi. Like the distribution of tickets and material for speech in public address, and he has a keen eye for the working style of media. Due to the political socialization of the BJP, the voters of the BJP take much interest in political activities, like political debate, and watching political talk shows.

The government of Modi portrays themselves as an ambassador of a deprived community. During an election, campaign leaders claim that there is no crime rate in Gujarat. They argue that this city is safe and sound for residents. Gujarat is the highest number of industrial growth and this city have some programs to eliminate poverty provide employment opportunities, and provide education to the female gender.

There are changes in the political environment of the constituency. In Modasa sometimes BJP gains momentum and sometimes congress will come on front. The local factors that influence their voting include issues like inflation, the voters tend to vote for those parties which have good economic policies (Shah, 2010). Mostly in these areas people have no concern with international relations with other states and their advantages they just like such candidates who control inflation and introduce such steps for the welfare, which brings prosperity to their life. (Shah, 2010)

### **Research Methodology**

This research is quantitative. The Sample and gathering of statistics will be done by a quantitative approach use a questionnaire. Analysis of data was done by using SPSS17. The Taro Yamane formula is use to detect the amount of participants for study. The participants of this study are illiterate so the scholar

will explain the questions in their regional tongue so these participants are in a position to contribute in responses on the queries.

### **Findings of the Study**

In this section, the researcher asked few questions to know political attitudes of inhabitants of concerned communities.

#### **To What Extent Do You Participate In the Social and Political Issues Affecting Your Residential Community?**

In the Bhutto colony, seventy-four respondents regularly participate in social and political issues affecting their community. "They said sometimes our transformers run out of order the officials of WAPDA do not give attention to this issue. we spend two or three days without the availability of an electricity connection". Eventually, they collect some amount from each house and get the transformer repaired by themselves. They attempt to solve their problems by using their limited resources. There was no proper path leading to their community. They go below the railway track during the rainy season; this track was filled with water. So it's very difficult for them to move ahead. They always assemble in the community to discuss this issue. Female members were not allowed to take part in these gatherings of the community. Forty-seven of the respondents said sometimes They take part in these meetings. While one hundred and sixty-five of the respondents said never take part in these gatherings, one respondent said sar din kam say time e naimilta, another said hum apnay say Kamraktyhaii.

While in the juggie community ninety-three respondents regularly participate in these events. one respondent said he only participates in social activities which are very important like "Khush Ghami but I have no political interests. I just do my business." Most people responded in the same way. They said we along with women visit different politicians to think about us as citizens of Pakistan. "They said we have no facility for water so we collected some amount from every member of the community and managed a hand pump". Eighty-seven respondents sometimes take part in these gatherings. Eighty-six respondents never participated in these gatherings they said ya sab Waqt Zaya karnay waly Kam haiii.

#### **Are you Interested In Local Politics?**

In the Bhutto colony out of two eighty-six participants, one hundred and sixty-four respondents had a high interest in local politics. Women had no interest in local politics. They are busy with their domestic duties. Twenty-five respondents had low interest in local politics; Thirty-four had very little interest in politics

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.sixty three had no interest in local politics. They said Saisat ma dil chaspil any ka faida nai Bakar Kam haiii another respondent said humara Kia Kam haii saisat say, another respondent said: "If we don't get anything out of it, why do we need to engage in politics?" Politics has nothing for the poor.

In the juggie community, forty respondents had interest in politics, forty-seven had low interest in politics, ten respondents have little interest in politics, and one sixty-nine have no interest in local politics they said ghareeb ka Kia kam saisat say . When asked why they are not interested in politics a woman said that people come to politics only for corruption. Another said Politicians use us as tools on the ballot paper," They claim that they are not interested in politics, they think about their salaries because they have families to feed. Most of them were not familiar with the current political system, the current situation, and the manifestos of the political parties.

#### **Are you Interested In National Politics?**

In the Bhutto colony one hundred and sixty-eight participants had a high interest in national politics, Some females the Bhutto colony are big fan of the Bhutto family, due to their giving property rights the Benazir income support program. They said bibi Benazir Bhutto always thought about the poor class. During the summer electricity shortages, people in the street discuss politics. Seventeen respondents had low interest in politics. Thirty-eight respondents had very little interest in politics Sixty-three respondents had no interest in politics . They said this government is failing to provide relief to the poor class. Inflation is increasing day by day. People are dying due to poverty; they fail to fulfill the needs of their people. Some people still remember the working style of the Ayub regime and Pervez Musharaf

In the juggie community, Thirty respondents had high interest in politics, while sixty-four had low interest, fourteen had very little interest in politics, and one fifty-six had no interest in national politics. few respondents said Hum koi saisat ma dil chaspi lay saisat Daandany dail Kardaty haii. another respondent said saisaat dano koi humari zindagi say kua nai liana dana.

#### **Are you Interested In International Politics?**

In the Bhutto colony, forty-two respondents had a high interest in international politics, five respondents had low interest, seventy had very little interest, and one hundred and sixty-six had no interest in politics.

While in the juggie community four respondents had high interest in international politics, twelve had low interest, thirty had very little interest, and two thirty-seven respondents had no interest in international politics.

## **What is your Main Source of Information on Local Politics?**

In Bhutto colony ninety-five respondents get information about local politics through T.V, sixteen from radio, thirty use the internet for getting information, four respondents get information from a mosque, eighty-five get information from family members, ten respondents get information from friends, forty-two respondents get information from while sitting in the shop of Nai, and Halwai, Gali , People sit outside the Halwai on wooden desk. Few people sit in the shop of Nai with friends to discuss politics, whenever free time is available all members must visit these two places. Few people are addicted to these palaces. In the evening whenever they get free, they will visit these places even in winter or on rainy days.

People always sit here to discuss local politics, so it is safe to conclude that this shop plays important role in the political socialization of the masses. These are the hub of news their sitting in these shops indicates that they are politically aware.

In juggie, forty-four respondents get information by using the medium of radio four respondents get from neighbors. Two respondents get information from the mosque, and seventy-two respondents get information about politics from family. Twenty-nine respondents get information from friends, and five respondents get information from Neighbors. One forty-four respondents get information from public meeting places. They sit in the juggie of their head People always come here to sit and smoke hooka and meanwhile discuss politics and other issues of the community.



Scenario of juggie community while discussing social and political issues of community.



### **Which one of the Following Forms of Government do you Prefer?**

In the Bhutto colony, one eighty-seven respondent said the government of the people is the best one respondent said the men who were elected through this system are not good. They damaged the purity of this system. Seventy-seven respondents said these civilian leaders are failing to provide welfare projects to the public. They have no skills to manage the nation. Twenty-two respondents said whatever government came into power. Has always neglected them.

In the juggie community, twenty-three respondents said A government of the people is the best, sixty-three said A Commanding government with strong leadership is best, eighty respondents said jab Apna khud zaleel hona hai hum ayfaraq nai parta jo b hukmat ma aya.

### **Who do you Prefer to Talk to About Politics?**

In the Bhutto colony, one hundred five respondents discuss politics with local friends and Neighbors, Six respondents discuss politics with the religious clergy; forty-nine respondents discuss politics with family members. One twenty-six respondents don't discuss politics. One respondent said Saisat pay bat karnay say larie ho jati hiiii , Because every member has their own political beliefs.

In juggie community one hundred and ninety respondents were talk about politics, with local friends and neighbors. Three respondents discuss politics with family members, and one hundred and seventy-three respondents don't discuss politics.

### **Conclusion**

People of the Juggie community see things through a limited and narrow lens; They are so busy in their lives that they don't have any time to discuss politics with each other. They are less aware of the political issues of the country. They also struggle with poor infrastructure. They lack the social services like clean water, school, electricity and even no shelter for living. They are frustrated from this system of voting and politics. They have negative thinking about politicians. They said politics is a ball of power which circulated among the elite class. They use poor people as tissue paper for obtaining this ball of power. So the respondents of Bhutto colony have to some extent awareness of politics because People of the Bhutto colony relate to lower middle class and therefore, have slightly better access to information including political information. Their better income allows them to enjoy some privileges including TV and mobile. Their effort of catching up upper middle class though constraints, but significant and has a deep influence on their understanding and evaluating abilities.

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