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Socio-Economic Profile of Slums: A Study from Berhampore Town, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

Slums are characterized with incomplete urban infrastructural facilities and services like lack of reliable sanitation, supply of clean water, reliable electricity, law enforcement and other inadequate basic facilities. These infrastructural facilities are very much needed to develop an urban community in terms of social and economic conditions. Slums are called also shanty houses or bastees which are deprived zone of the urban landscape. Socio-economic status reveals the actual well-being of a community. The present paper tried to focus on socio-economic status of slum dwellers of Berhampore Municipal area. Two Slum pockets are selected for the present study i.e. Bildhar Baste and Gandhi Colony which are situated in Berhampore municipal area. Primary data as well as secondary data has been utilized to accomplish the whole research work completely. Some methodology and techniques are also used which are location quotient, index of satisfaction, sex ratio, work participation rate and literacy rate to design the dissertation paper. This paper also enlightened of some major problems in concerned area and outline measures to mitigate the great problems in the pattern of socio-economic status of Slums in Berhampore Municipal area.

KEYWORDS: slum, housing condition, sex ration, facility, Municipality

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INTRODUCTION

Slum area is locality characterized by inadequate and deteriorated housing, deficient public utilities, overcrowding and congestion and usually inhabited by the poor and socially heterogeneous people. Slums are mostly population density urban informal settlements which are tremendously congested with low standard of living conditions. These are called also shanty houses or bastees. A slum, as defined by the United Nations agency UN HABITAT, is a rundown area of a city characterized by substandard housing and squalor and lacking in tenure security. However, in present time due to rising population, the number of slum dwellers is rising in the whole world. One billion people worldwide live in slums & will likely grow to two billion by 2030. These are characterized with incomplete infrastructural facilities and services like lack of reliable sanitation, supply of clean water, reliable electricity, law enforcement and other inadequate basic facilities. These types of informal settlements are occurred due to population increase and grow around the world as well as India due to many leading causes. Here, urbanization is the main cause of this land space. Urban people are increasing day by day but land is insufficient as well as facilities. They tried to settle their settlement in road side, railway side vacant fellow space. The lack of awareness of their life they failed to prevent their health.

STUDY AREA

Berhampore town has been selected as study area. Berhampore town (Figure No.1) is the district headquarters situated in eastern side of the Bhagirathi River, in 200 KMs. The geographical extension of Berhampore town is from 88°9'E to 88°25'E and 24°1'N to 24°8'N. There are 25 wards in the municipality according to 2011 census. Total population of Berhampore town as per 2011 census is 195223. In this city the growth of urban population is gradually increasing along with increasing rural population. The total slum population of all the wards is 68464 as per 2001 census, and the total slum population 41381 in census 2011. It is not possible to find out the level of social well-being of slum population of entire wards of Berhampore town due to lack of sufficient time and scope of the work. Two slum areas in two wards (9 & 12) have been chosen to fulfil the recent paper.



DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

Database

Primary data are collected by different questionnaire designing and are used the main sampling technique i.e. Random Sampling. The study has been selected with two slums and chose 25% households in randomly in those slums of Berhampore town. And also been used the secondary data source of Census of India 2001 and 2011 in Berhampore town.

METHODOLOGY

After field, for present study are represents by some statistical and cartographic techniques, i.e.

- i. **Location Quotient (L.Q.)** = $(P_{ij}/p_i)/(P_j/p)$ The spatial variations of concentration of slum population have been analyzed by this technique.

Where, P_{ij} = Slum population of a given ward

p_i = Total population of that given ward

P_j = Total slum population of entire Municipality

P = Total population of entire Municipality

- ii. **Sex Ratio** = $(\text{Total female Population} / \text{Total male Population}) * 1000$

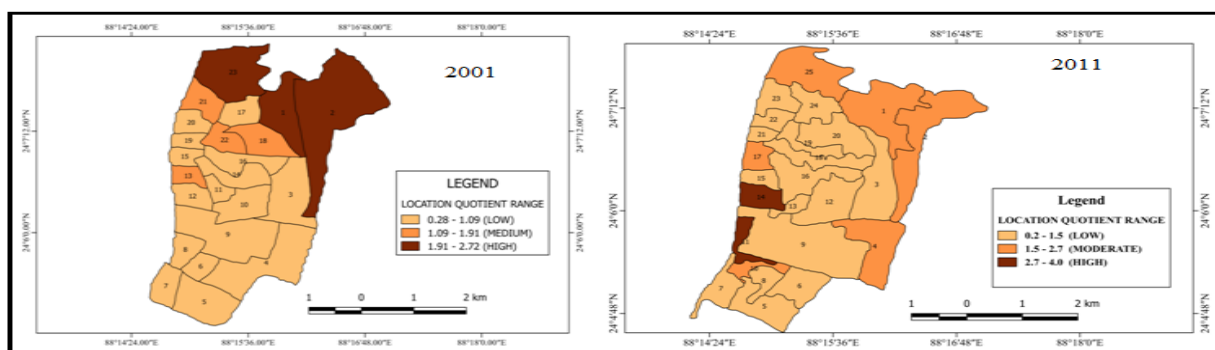
- iii. **Work Participation Rate** = $(\text{Total workers} / \text{Total Population}) * 100$

- iv. **Literacy Rate** = $(\text{Total Literate Population} / \text{Total Population}) * 100$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Concentration of population in wards wise under Berhampore town

In the present study the major objective is to study slum concentration of Berhampore. To analysis the slum concentration, it is required to know the percentage of slum population to total population of the Municipality and how they are distributed in different wards of the town. On the basis of 2001 census data, High concentration Zone (1.91-2.72) are shows that the ward no. of 1, 2, and 23, and in this ward is situated in northern part of the municipality map, and In 2001 the Moderate Concentration zone (1.09-1.91) are shows that the ward no. of 13, 18, 21, 22 and in this wards is situated in middle & western part of the municipality map (Figure No.2), and On the basis of 2011 census data there are 25 wards, where the high concentration Zone (2.7-4.0) are shows that the ward no. of 11 and 14 and in this ward is situated in western part of the municipality



map. In 2011 the moderately concentration zone(1.5-2.7) are shows that the ward no. of 1, 2, 4, 10,

Figure No. 2 Spatial Concentrations of Slums in Berhampore town

17, 25 and in this wards is situated in north-eastern & western part of the municipality map. In 2011 the Low concentration zone (0.28-1.09) are shows that the maximum ward in this ward are situated in maximum southern and middle and some are western part of the municipality map, and In 2011 The Low concentration zone (0.2-1.5) shows that the maximum ward in southern part of the map.

Source: Berhampore Municipality

Socio-Economic Profile of Slum Dwellers

1. Demographic Features

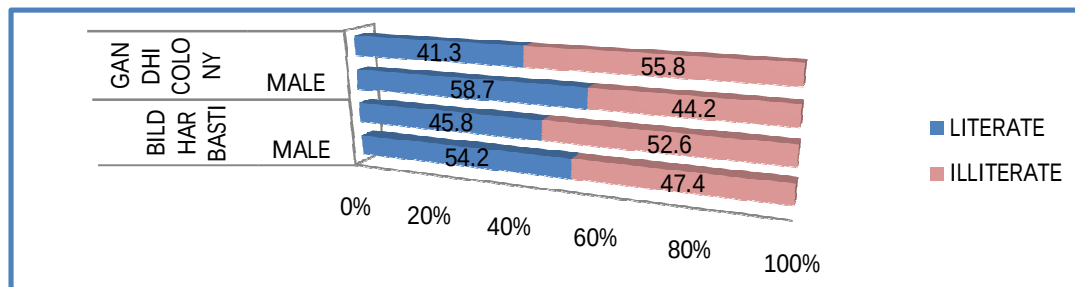
From the secondary data analysis of both surveyed ward in Berhampore town portrayed a picture on the basis of overall population of two slum area on the basis of demographic structure. From secondary data analysis of both surveyed ward in Berhampore town portrayed a picture on the basis of overall population of this two slum area (Gandhi Colony and BildharBastee). In BildharBastee, the slum population of 2001 and 2011 was 146 and 185 respectively, where the decadal growth rate is 26.71. In Gandhi Colony, the slum population of 2001 and 2011 was 760 and 857 respectively, where the decadal growth rate is 12.76%.

2. Sex composition

In India Sex Ratio is calculated as number of females per 1000 males. Sex Ratio varies the socio-economic attainment. The Sex Ratio of surveyed household in BildharBastee is high (1211) than that Gandhi Colony area and this ratio is 899 per 1000 male.

3. Literacy rate

The diagram shows the literacy rate in two slum area of Berhampore town. In BildharBastee area the male population literacy rate is high (54.2%) than the illiterate population (47.4%). But the female literacy rate is low (45.8%) than the illiterate population (52.6%). Besides, in Gandhi Colony area the male population literacy rate is high (58.7%) than the illiterate population (44.2%). But the female literacy rate is low (41.3%) than the illiterate population (55.8%). So, this diagram represents that the male population is maximum literate in Gandhi Colony than the BildharBastee area. But female population is maximum literate in BildharBastee area than the Gandhi Colony (Figure No.3).



Source: Field Survey, 2017 **Figure No.3 Literacy rate in Slums**

4. Caste system

From the household survey data this shows that the caste distribution (Table No.1) of these two slum area. Its represents that BildharBastee belongs to 65.7% people are General, 5.7% people are OBC, 22.9% people are SC and 5.7% people are ST population. Besides, Gandhi Colony people belong to 37.7% people is General, 20% people are OBC, 42.3% people are SC, but ST population are not present in this area. Because in this area maximum migrate people are going to Bangladesh, so SC population is maximum but ST population is blank.

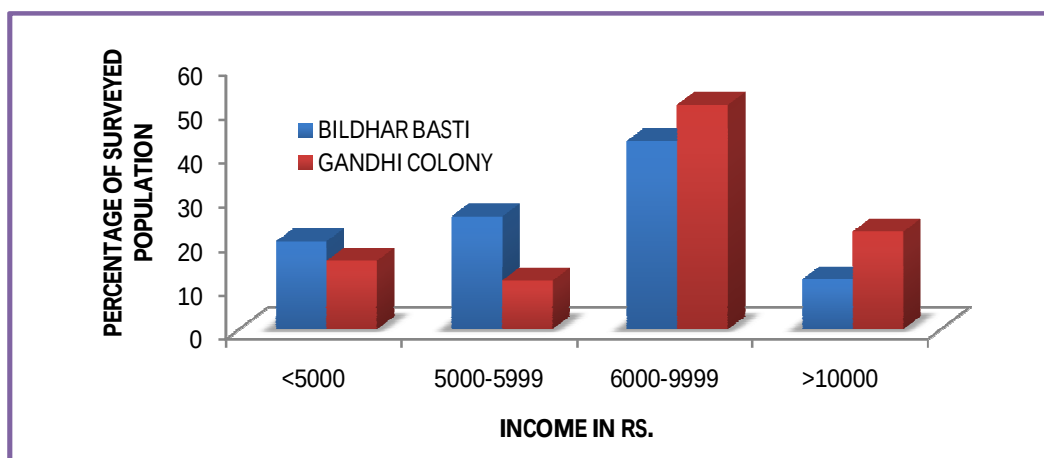
Table No.1 “Caste System in Study Area”

Caste	BildharBastee (Population in Percentage)	Gandhi Colony (Population in Percentage)
General	65.7	37.7
OBC	5.7	20
SC	22.9	42.3
ST	5.7	0

Source: Field Survey, 2017

5. Monthly income

The primary survey data in BildharBastee represents that 6000-9999 Rs. Per monthly family income is 42.9% and this is the highest monthly income range. And >10000 Rs. Per monthly family income is 11.4%, which is lowest monthly income range. In Gandhi Colony 6000-9999 Rs. Per monthly family income is 51.1% and this is the highest monthly income range. And >10000 Rs. Per monthly family income is 22.2% and lowest range is 5000-5999. So the monthly income is stable in Gandhi Colony than BildharBastee.



Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure No. 4 Monthly income of Slums people

6. Occupational types

Occupation type is the most important component of an area to measure his economic structure. So, In this two slum area represents different type of occupation, i.e. In the slum area of

BildharBastee the diagrammatic representation shows that the maximum people are joined in Daily Labour(64%), some people are engaged in other types(22%) of work, some people joined in Business(10%) and Household Industry are joined in minimum people(4%). So the maximum people's monthly income is low(5000-6000). In the Gandhi Colony area the table (Table No.2) shows that the maximum people are joined in Daily Labour(45%), some people are engaged in Business types(40%) of work, some people joined in others(10%) and People are not joined in Household Industry. So the maximum people's monthly income is Moderate(6000-8000).

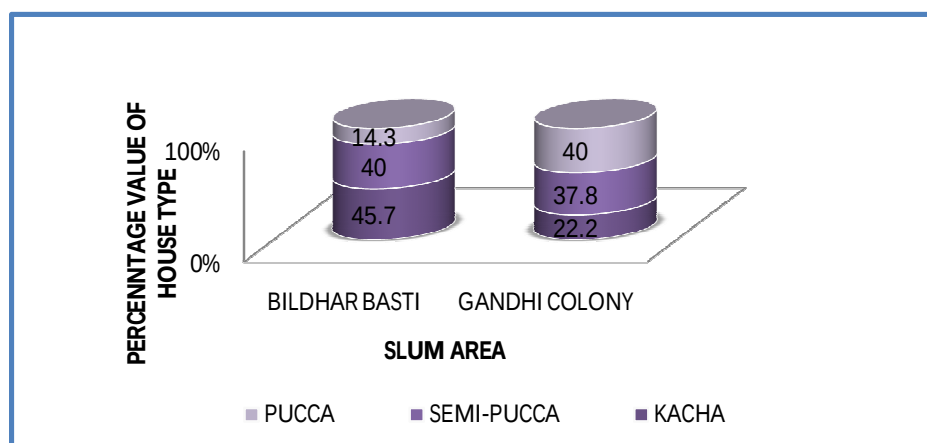
Table No.2 "Occupational system in Study Area"

Occupational Type	BildharBastee (Population in Percentage)	Gandhi Colony (Population in Percentage)
Business	9.7	40.5
Daily Labour	63.9	44.6
Household Industry	4.2	0
Other	22.2	14.9

Source: Field Survey, 2017

7. House Conditions

House condition is a reflection of economic well-being. Pucca and Multi-storeyed buildings indicate a flourished economy, whereas Kuchha or Semi-pucca and single-storied buildings indicate a poor economic condition. The figure shows that the types of house in this two slum area. In BildharBastee area 45.7% of surveyed households are Kuchha, 40% surveyed households are Semi-Pucca and 14.3% of surveyed households are Pucca. On the other hand, Gandhi Colony area are Kuchha types house is 22.2%, Semi-Pucca types house is 37.8% and Pucca types house is maximum(40%). So, this figure reflects that the socio-economic conditions of this two slum area. BildharBastee areas are covered by Kuchha type house but Gandhi Colony is building up maximum by Pucca house. So, Gandhi Colony socio –economic conditions is better than BildharBastee area.



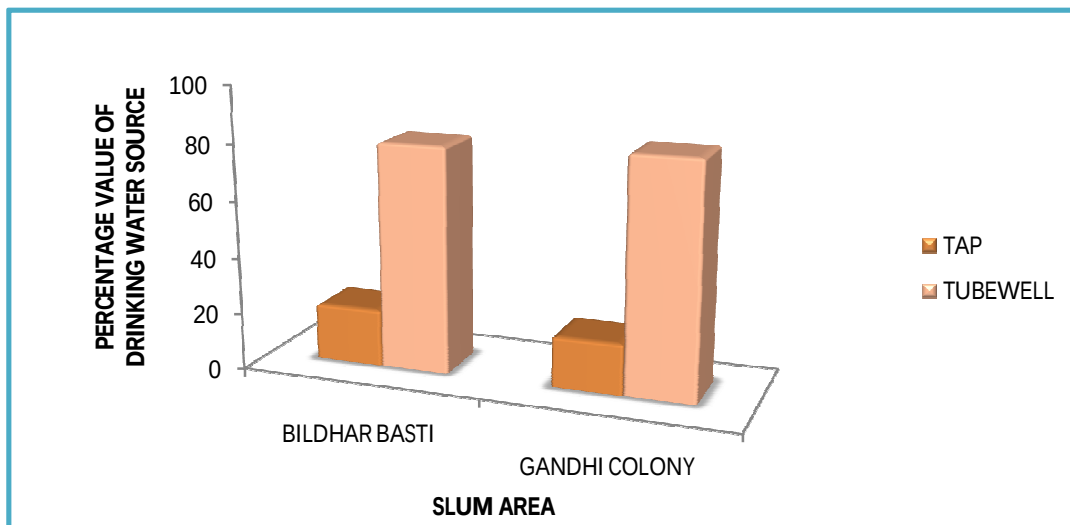
Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure No.5 House conditions in Slums

8. Drinking water

• Sources of drinking water

Drinking water and health is other major parameters in social well-being and development of slum area. Availability and quality of drinking water is to some extent determine physical health condition which in turn may affect mental health, development of their status and social well being. In Bildhar Bastee of the surveyed household of Berhampore town most of the household (80%) are used for drinking water purpose the tube-well and few people (20%) are used the tap for drinking water purpose. On the other hand, Gandhi Colony of the surveyed household of Berhampore town most of the household (82.2%) are used for drinking water purpose the tube-well and few people (17.8%) are used the tap for drinking water purpose (Figure No.6).

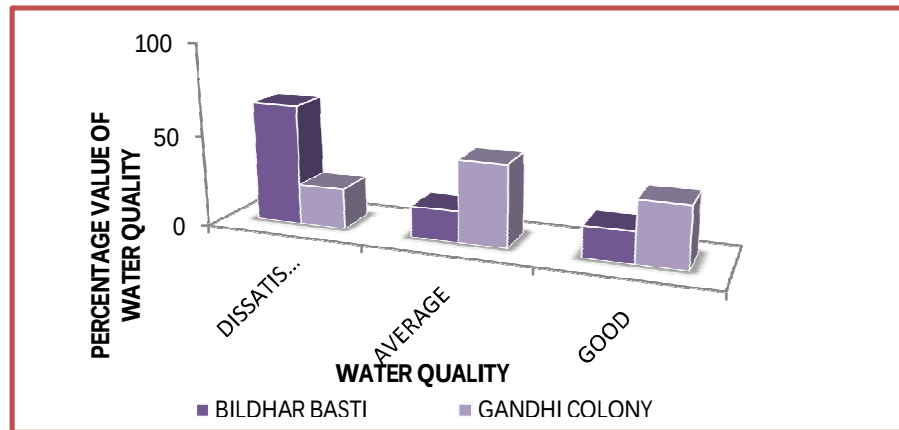


Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure No. 6 Sources of drinking water

• Quality of water

Availability and quality of drinking water is to some extent determine physical health condition which in turn may affect mental health, development of the status and social well-being. In Bildhar Bastee good quality water is 17.1%, average quality of water is 17.1% and the dissatisfactory quality of water is high percentage, i.e. 65.8%. Besides, in Gandhi Colony good quality water is 33.3%, average quality of water is 44.5% and the dissatisfactory quality of water is high percentage, i.e. 22.2%. So, this figure shows that the quality of water is better in Gandhi Colony than the Bildhar Bastee area (Figure No.7).

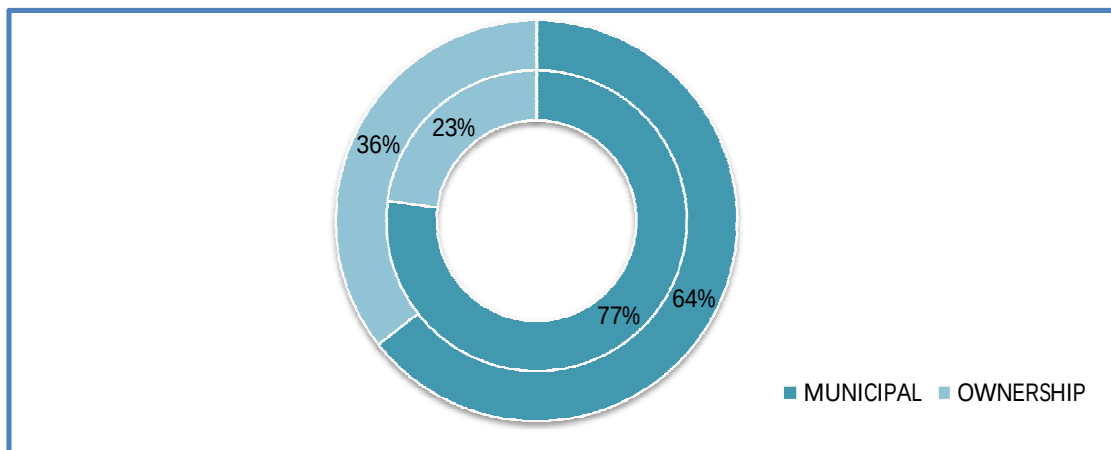


Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure No.7 the quality of drinking water

- **Status of water source**

This diagram shows the status of water source in the surveyed slum area in Berhampore town. In BildharBastee area 77% of water source can be fulfilled by the municipality of Berhampore. And 23% water source is present in this local people ownership. Besides, in Gandhi colony 64% of water source can be fulfilled by the municipality of Berhampore. And 36% water source is present in this local people ownership. So, it can be shown that by this picture that the Gandhi Colony people are maximum used in their own water source but then BildharBastee is minimum used in own water sources (Figure No.8).



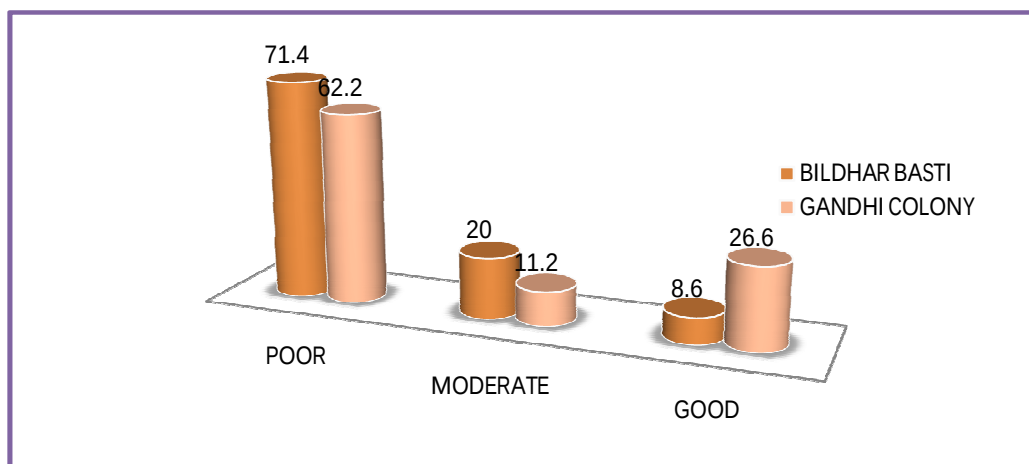
Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure No.8 Status of drinking water supply

9. Sanitation

• Quality of drainage system

The surveyed data (Figure No.9) shows that the quality of drainage system in this surveyed slum area of Berhampore town. In BildharBastee area maximum drainage system condition are very poor(71.4%), the moderate condition drainage system are present in medium(20%) but the good condition drainage system is present in very low range to the total value(8.6%). In Gandhi Colony area maximum drainage system condition are very poor(62.2%), the moderate condition drainage system are present in very low(11.2%) but the good condition drainage system is present in medium range to the total value(26.6%).



Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure No.9 Quality of Drainage system

• Latrine system

In BildharBastee the maximum people (Table No.3) are used in his latrine system in open space(74.3%) and some people are used in your present latrine system, which are prepared by in his personal expenditure(25.7%). In Gandhi Colony the half family people are used in his latrine system in open space (51.12%) and the half family people are used in your present latrine system, which are prepared by in his personal expenditure (48.88%).

Table No.3 “Latrine System in Slum”

Latrine System	BildharBastee	Gandhi Colony
Latrine Source Present	25.7	51.12
Open Space	74.3	48.88

Source: Field Survey, 2017

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After results and discussion it is concluded that the living conditions of BildharBastee and Gandhi Colony in Berhampore town is very crucial. They belong to unhygienic in conditions. From the interpretation of primary data find out the socio-economic profile in these two slums are full of various problems. The numbers of slum people are increased but decadal growth rate is higher in BildharBastee than Gandhi Colony. Sex ratio is higher in BildharBastee. Average literacy rate is high in Gandhi Colony but female literacy rate is high in BildharBastee and male literacy rate is high in Gandhi Colony. Caste distribution of two slum area is maximum general and SC population. Monthly income is stable and high in Gandhi Colony than BildharBastee, because Gandhi Colony people are engaged with the activity of business. Housing condition is better in Gandhi Colony. People use the tube well for drinking water purpose and somewhere they are using tap water which is provided by Municipality but quality of water is not satisfied in both slums. Drainage system is not good and maximum people are depended with community latrine as well as they use the open space of that purpose.

So, for reducing the problems of these two slums area Berhampore town should take some initiatives measures to development of that area through establishment of new school in slum area and give free education for their people, work opportunity, good quality of water supply, constructed latrine place in slum areas and also give them security in night. And the most significant scheme is urban renewal programme must be operated by the Municipality and government agencies. Then the people of the study area may fulfil their demand and their standard of living conditions better in future time.

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