

Health Awareness among Women and its Relation with Covid_19 Effectiveness in Urban Slum Families of Kolhapur

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Abstract

The crucial issue related to slum-dwellers is that they do not possess tenure of the land on which they stay. Also, the resettlement and rehabilitation of the slums are difficult due to the shortage of land with Kolhapur Municipal Corporation. Health infrastructure in Kolhapur includes a poor state of equipment and property in municipal hospitals and dispensaries, inadequate and poorly trained staff, and inequitable distribution of medical services. The slum areas of the cities are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 due to poor infrastructure, unavailability of medical facilities, and high population density. For example, Asia's largest slum Dharavi in Mumbai, recorded more than 1400 COVID-19 cases in May 2020. It indicates how vulnerable the slum areas are to COVID-19 in India. It is declared by authorities earlier that cities worldwide are more susceptible to COVID-19.

As women are one of the essential and central components of the family, which is directly associated with all family members, if she is aware of the preventive measures, nutritious diet, etc., it might be helpful. That's why it is an attempt to understand health awareness among women and its association with Covid_19 effectiveness in Urban Slum Families of Kolhapur.

Keywords: *Slum dwellers, Covid-19, health.*

1. Introduction

According to National Sample Survey Organization, areas notified as slums by the respective municipalities, corporations, local bodies, or development authorities declare as "notified slums." They tend to receive a higher level of services, and those unrecognized by the local bodies consider "non-notified slums. Kolhapur is a well-known ancient and heritage city in the state. Kolhapur has been known for its prosperity, tradition, arts, and culture for centuries immemorial. Slum Population: There are 54 slums in Kolhapur, of which 44 are in the declared category, and ten are undeclared. According to the 2011 Census, the slum population is 94,650, about 15% of the total population.

Generally, the standard of life depends upon the availability and utilization or quality of social services and infrastructure. The urban slums are vulnerable to disasters. The structure of urban slums, essential service availability, and usage are the reasons for risks. As people attempt to meet their immediate need for shelter, many low-income urban dwellers end up with poorly constructed shelters in unsafe locations. They are highly vulnerable to disasters and other environmental degradation. High population density, lack of proper toilets, and proximity of homes allow diseases to spread quickly, which creates a real risk for large populations who often cannot access adequate health facilities to get treatment in time.

The critical issue related to slum-dwellers is that they do not possess tenure of the land on which they stay. Also, the resettlement and rehabilitation of the slums are difficult due to the shortage of land with KMC. Kolhapur's health infrastructure includes poor equipment and property in municipal hospitals and dispensaries, inadequate and poorly trained staff, and inequitable distribution of medical services. The slum areas of the cities are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 due to poor infrastructure, unavailability of medical equipment, and high population density. For example, Asia's largest slum Dharavi in Mumbai recorded more than 1400 COVID-19 cases in May 2020, which indicates how vulnerable the slum areas are to COVID-19 in India. It is declared by authorities earlier that cities worldwide are more susceptible to COVID-19. Worldwide infection: 642 million people infected, No of deaths: 6.6 million; most severely affected countries include the US, India, and Brazil.

Statement of the study: Health awareness among women and its relation with covid_19 effectiveness in urban slum families of Kolhapur

Significance of the study:

People in the urban slums face many problems like improper sanitation and social, economic, and health issues. In slums, women neglect their health needs; due to this, they are anemic, which contributes to exposure to infections such as the virus in both slums and non-slum areas.

2. Research Methodology

Objectives of the research study:

- To study the association between awareness among women and its impact on family's health condition.
- To study the practices and measures taken by women and family members of Urban Slums during Covid_19.
- To analyze the perception of urban women towards health practices, sanitation, and hygiene.
- To identify the severity of such a Pandemic in Urban Slums and awareness about the same.
- To suggest a possible intervention to improve health practices, sanitation, and hygiene.

Study Area: Selected slums of Kolhapur City (four slums)

Element of the study: Slum dwellers and their families

Research Design: Exploratory study

Sampling Method: By using a simple random sampling method. (150 households)

Tools and Instruments: Individual interview using a structured interview schedule

Universe of the Study: Slums of the Kolhapur city.

Data Collection Methods: Primary: Interview Schedule, Observation, And Discussion. Secondary: books, journals, periodicals, newspapers, etc.

Data Analysis and Interpretation: With the help of SPSS (Statistical package for social sciences), the computer data remained analyzed.

Limitations of the study: The study is limited to the areas selected in selected Kolhapur city slums. As well as, due to Covid_19 pandemic restrictions, it's hard to reach out to the sample.

3. Major Findings

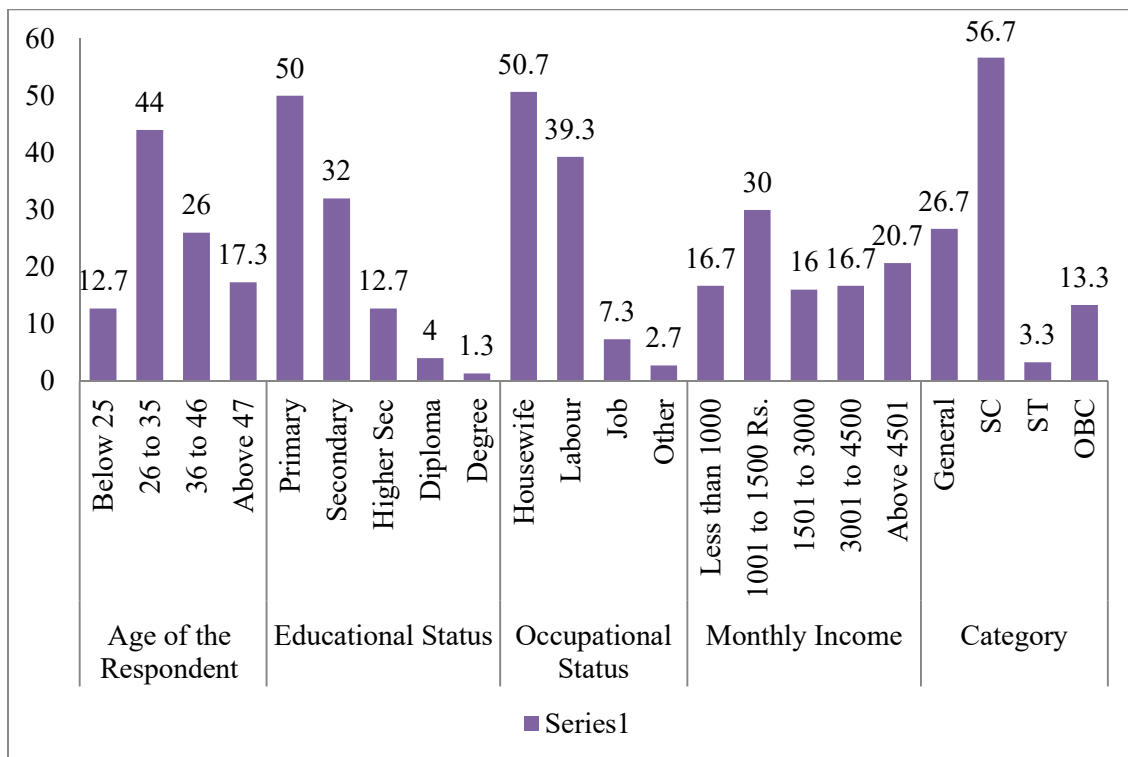


Figure-1: Indicating basic Information of slum dwellers of the selected urban slums of Kolhapur City

Interpretation:

Figure 1 indicates the majority of the respondents belonged to the age group of 26-35, that is 44%, followed by the age group of 36-46 and above 47 years, and 12% of respondents belonged to the age group below 25 years. Apart from the age, one more thing observed was that all the respondents were married.

32% of respondents' educational status is up to secondary level followed by higher primary, approximately 13% were higher secondary, 4% graduated, and the remaining 28% are still illiterate. In comparison, 50% of respondents are illiterate and educated up to the primary level.

Half of the respondents are homemakers, 39.3% of respondents worked as laborers, 7.3% are working somewhere as a job, and the remaining 2.7% are doing other work. Almost 50% of the respondents are homemakers who are generally busy with domestic labor and child-rearing.

46% of respondents have an income in the range of 1000 to 1500 rs, Per month. It means that most of the respondents belong to the lower-income group.

The majority of the respondents, i.e., 56.7%, belong to Scheduled Caste Category. The reflection of social stratification is still occurring in this way.

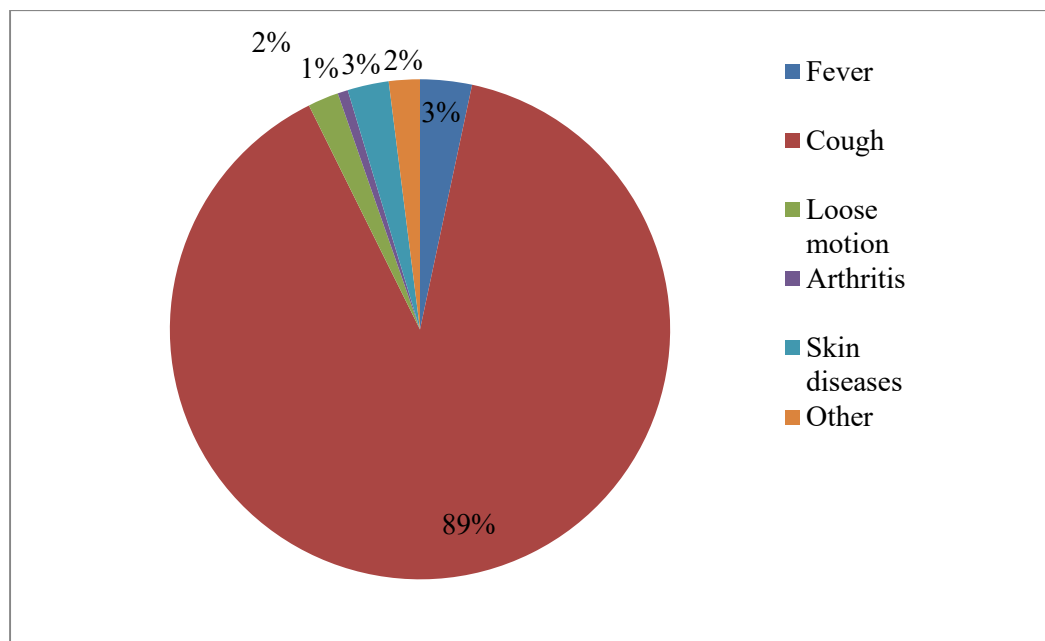


Figure 2: Indicating Disease Severity in the selected urban slums of Kolhapur City

Interpretation:

The general disease severity in the family contains cough with the highest number, i.e., 89%, fever, skin disease at 3% and arthritis at 2%, and loose motion at 1%. Due to water and air pollution, cough severity is at the highest percentage.

Table -2: Covid-19 effects on respondents

Covid_19 contamination		Change in Daily Schedule due to the Pandemic		Impact of Covid_19 Pandemic on Personal Health		Family member migration during the Covid_19 Pandemic	
Food	15.3%	Yes	35.3%	Yes	38%	Yes	2%
Air	84.7%	No	64.7%	No	62%	No	98%

Interpretation

15.3% of respondents stated Covid_19 contamination has been spreading through food, and 84.7% of respondents said Covid_19 contamination has been spreading through the air.

35.3% of respondents stated their daily schedule has changed, and 64.7% said their daily schedule has not changed.

Impact of Covid_19 on the health of positive patients 13(8.6%) respondents' health declined due to Covid_19 contamination.

It is also seen that very few people migrated from one place to another during Covid_19.

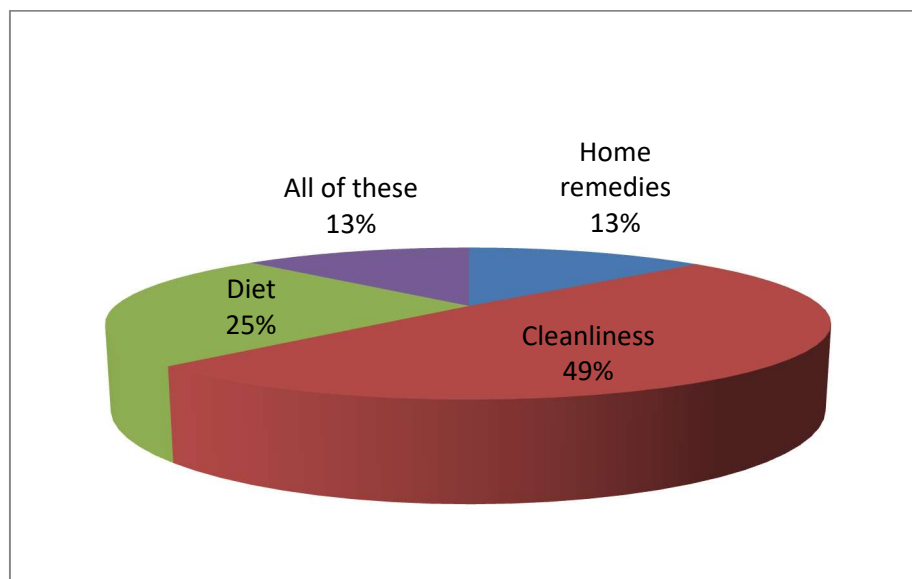


Figure-3: Precautions for Covid-19 by respondents

Interpretation

Respondents' perception about the preventive measures taken for the Covid_19 contamination contains 18% of respondents saying that washing their hands often might be helpful. 15% of respondents say social distancing is proper, 17% say using sanitizer is

beneficial, and 18% say wearing a mask is supportive. Whereas 13% say to avoid the crowd, and 17% say all measures are necessary to prohibit the Covid_19 contamination.

Information about being women, if women have taken proper care on the probability of contamination of Covid_19. The majority of respondents, i.e.131 (87.3%), feel that being a woman, if she has taken proper care, there is less probability of Covid_19 contamination, 13 respondents were neutral, and 6(4%) say no.

Table -2: Responsibility for the unhygienic condition of the area

Responsibility for the unsanitary condition of an area	Frequency	Percent
Self	26	17.3
Corporator of the respective ward	40	26.7
Municipal Corporation	46	30.7
All of these	38	25.3
Total	150	100.0

Interpretation

26(17.3%) respondents stated that it's their responsibility, 40(26.7%) respondents say it's the responsibility of the Corporator,46(30.7%) respondents said it's the responsibility of the municipal corporation, whereas 38(25.3%) respondents say it's above all commitment to maintaining hygiene in the residential area.

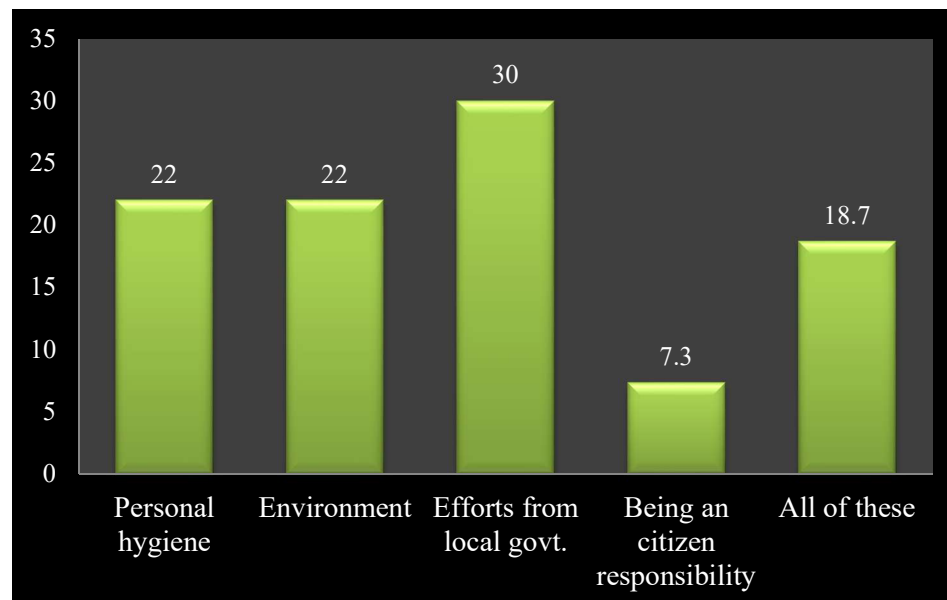


Figure 4: Indicating respondent's opinions about hygiene and healthcare

Interpretation

The above figure shows the respondent's opinions about health and hygiene; among that, 29% of respondents said maintaining personal hygiene is their responsibility. 22 % of respondents said environmental care is also their responsibility, and 30% of respondents said it's the responsibility of local government. At the same time, 18% of respondents responded that all the above efforts are needed to maintain personal hygiene and healthy condition.

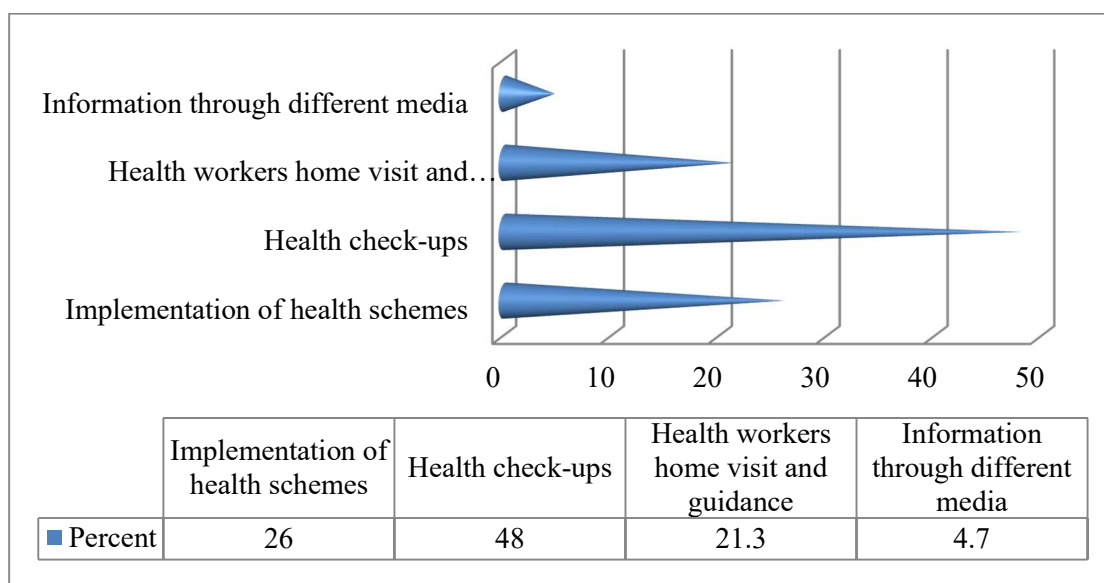


Figure 5: Indicating respondent's expectations from the government

Interpretation

The above figure no 5 indicates respondents' expectations of the government 39(26%) respondents expected a need for an awareness campaign regarding implementing health schemes. And 72(48%) respondents wanted health check-up awareness, 32(21%) respondents wanted health worker's home visits and guidance, and the remaining 7(4.7%) respondents wished Information through different media.

4. Suggestions

- There is an urgent need to give attention to health awareness and related activities in urban slums.
- The local urban authorities should organize awareness campaigning at the slum regarding personal hygiene and related things.
- The residents of urban slums also need to take precautionary measures during such a Pandemic.
- The focus of the concerned department on primary health care as a preventive measure is also beneficial.
- The provision of basic amenities at the urban slums is a prime requirement for its residents' healthy life.

5. Conclusion

- Generally, social research provides Information on a population's needs, attitudes, and motivation, and it plays a vital social role and assists various implementing agencies. The awareness level and perception about health are responsible for its care and precaution. The slum dwellers are unaware of the consequences of such pandemics and related things. The study's findings show that the respondents, who are women from urban slums, are unaware of the contamination of Covid_19 and its impact. Provision of sanitation and other basic amenities to such communities during the Pandemic as part of crisis response. Ensure enhancement of community-based health resources and their better utilization by slum dwellers. Extend helplines and technology-based solutions to assist survivors and include Information on how to tackle such pandemic situations. Awareness campaigns by voluntary organizations and NGOs as well as civil society organizations. Direct intervention to mitigate the severity of such pandemics.

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