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Research Paper - Accountancy

Water Status - Designate Social Affirms

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Introduction:

Water is essential part for human being and it is basic need of life. Several households depend upon one source to meet their daily requirements. Though some had individual tap connections, however the quantity of water supply was inadequate, therefore they too supplement it with other sources like hand pump or public taps to meet their daily requirements of water. The disparity between actual requirement and actual supply is increasing every day. To fulfill the requirement the urban poor has to purchase water from private source. Slum-dwellers pay Rs 5 per can of water; others tap into water lines illegally, or pay the local mafia for the supply. Because they don't have own accommodation and they can't pay money to get connection of tap and some because of ignorance and some due to lengthy procedures. The poor of urban area (Mumbai) are struggling every day to get this essential thing. They are ready to pay for water 20% to 25% of their income is spent on water only. After paying for water also many times they get polluted water as these water facilities they get from private source. The polluted water creates many health related problems. The number of common taps is not sufficient as the increasing number of migrant.

The social status of population of any state, city is important factor in the growth of economy. In the present study the social status of respondents has been measured by set of water status as variables. Am attempt has been made to find out the social status of respondents between change in year between year 2005 to 2008 with the help of the water status as variables which is essential in influencing the social status of respondents and socio-economy status of city overall.

2.Review of literature:

Harda Hardeki, Shikura Shigeo, Karan Sunil (2003) observed that the facts of life of urban poor of Mumbai is that living environment of urban poor could be basically characterized by nearly 70 per cent households living in flimsy shacks and temporary dwelling, 2 m2 housing space per person, 28 LPCD water consumption, 1.5 per cent households having access to sewer and only half of the people having access to toilets. The annual cases of water related disease such as diarrhea, typhoid and malaria is estimated as 614, 68, 126 cases per thousand of population respectively. Brian Bell, Karthikeyan Bharath Kumar, Mark Lundgren, Tony Schrempp (2001) reported that the city of Mumbai has a population of 19 million people and is the world's fifth largest metropolis. Mumbai is India's economic and financial capital at a time when the nation is becoming a major player in the world market. With rapidly expanding industry, an influx of India's rural population is relocating to Mumbai to find work and support the expanding economy. This influx of labor, in combination with high housing costs, has led to a major housing crisis in Mumbai and the expansion of semi-permanent slum settlements.

The slums of Mumbai have been in existence for many decades. Considered a necessary evil, this populace provides for a large work force, skilled and unskilled, which powers the formal and informal industry in Mumbai. This intense urbanization places extreme stresses on an already overstretched municipal water supply infrastructure. Institutionally, Mumbai fails to provide sufficient urban water supplies to its inhabitants due to aging water infrastructure, poor cost recovery practices, poor operation and maintenance of existing systems, and insufficient controls on water quality. The city receives 5 hours of water per day, forcing its citizens to turn to household level water supply alternatives. The poor do not have the financial resources for costly alternatives and are forced to share overcrowd.

3. Objectives:

The research was conducted keeping in view the following main objectives..

a) To study water status of respondents

4. Hypothesis:

On the basis of the review of literature, the following hypothesis has been formulated.

a)Water status of respondents has not increased marginally during 2003-2008.

5. Research methodology:

The study is focuses basically on primary data about the availability of basic facilities availed by respondents. The data was collected from 5 areas(slums) of Mumbai through the convenient sampling method. A sample size of 750 respondents has been taken for the purpose of study. Data collected is qualitative in nature. There is no rating given in

questioners.Urban poor consumers are using four types of water sources; namely common tap, personal tap, well and tanker. Common tap and personal tap are provided by BMC whereas well and tanker water provided by private agencies. Increase in number of well and tanker and personal tap is symbol of increase in status whereas decrease in common tap is the symbol of increase in social status of urban poor consumer.

Table 1.1 Ward wise distribution of water taps in slums of Mumbai, 2001.

No.	Area of study	Number of persons per tap
1	Andheri (east)	103
2	Mahim	107
3	Kurla (east)	113
4	Dahisar (east)	153
5	Malad (west)	119

Source: Census of India 2001

Table 1.1 indicates the number of person per tap for drinking water. Tap is the source of safe drinking water and lacking of its shows the inferior condition of slums. This is clear from table 1.1 that in Andheri (e) 103 person per tap, in Mahim 107 persons per tap, in Kurla(e) 113 persons per tap, in Dahisar (e) 153 persons per tap and in Malad (w) 119 persons per tap. This is clear from the table. This is not good condition as it shows that slum dewellers are lacking the access to tap water facility and also they are waiting for hours for the collection of water because of population pressure in these areas. A large number of slum people are migrants; most of them belong to the lower socio-economic group and come from different parts of the country. The majority of slum population is concentrated in core areas of the city because they want to live nearer to their working places and contribute significantly to the economic activity of the city. These living places are normally in way of slums. The respondents represent these types of slums. When respondents were asked regarding uses of water source, their responses are presented in table 1.2 and graph 1.1.

Table 1.2 Water status of urban poor consumer respondents

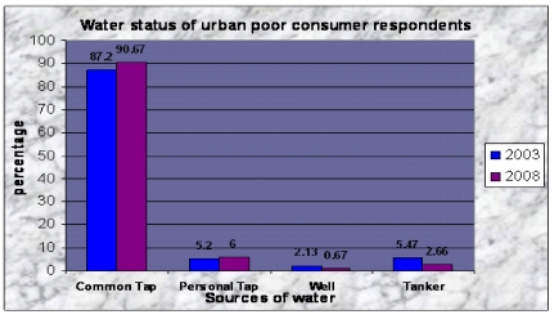
Sr. No.	Source of Water	2003 Respondent		2008 Respondent	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	Common Tap	654	87.20	680	90.67
2	Personal Tap	39	5.20	45	6.00
3	Well	16	2.13	05	0.67
4	Tanker	41	5.47	20	2.66
	Total	750	100	750	100

Source- Compiled from questionnaires

See Graph 1.1

The above table 1.2 and graph 1.1 explain water facility available to urban poor consumer. The data explain that the number of urban poor consumers using common tap for water facility are 654 (87 percent) in year 2003

Graph 1.1 Water status of urban poor consumer respondents



and it has been increased to 680 (90) in year 2008. The total number of urban poor consumer respondent using personal tap as source of water are 39 (5 percent) in 2003 and it has been increased to 45 (6 percent) in 2008. There is decrease in number of urban poor consumer respondent using well as source of water from 16 (2 percent), 5 (0.6 percent). There is also decrease in number of urban poor consumer respondent who are using tanker as source of water i.e. 41(5 percent) in 2003 to 20 (2066 percent) in 2008. It shows that more number of urban poor consumer respondents has shifted to common and personal tap.

Thus table 1.2 and graph 1.1 regarding water facilities status reveals that: 1. As compared to 2003, common tap users have increased by 3 percent and personal tap users 15 percent respectively.2. Well water and tanker water users were decreased by 68 percent and 51 percent in 2008 as compared to 2003.3. Increasing personal tap water source is symbol of increasing social status whereas increasing common tap water source is symbol of decreasing social status. Table 4.1 clearly shows common tap users were increased, they are not decreased. It indicates social status of urban poor consumers in terms of water is not changed but it remains as it was in 2003 it was slightly declined. 4. Status shown by personal tap has improved in 2008 compared to 2003 but it is due to decrease in well and tanker water source. Well and tanker water facility is provided by private supplier and it cost higher than municipal tax. 5. 3 indicators; common tap, well and tanker water shows unfavorable change towards improving social status in terms of water facilities. 6. Data interpretation and analysis:

Table 1.3 Statistical explanation of variables

Sr. No.	Variables	Chi-Square Ψ^2	Mean		Standard Deviation	
			2003	2008	2003	2008
1	Sources of water	13.02	187.5	187.5	269.5	284.703

Hypothesis : Water status of respondents has increased marginally during 2003-2008.

The mean value (?) of data about the source of water for respondents, in 2003 is (? =187.5) and in 2008 is (?

=187.5). And standard deviation (?) in 2003 is (?=269) and in 2008(?= 284.70). The increase in standard deviation in 2008 indicates the decrease in water status of respondents. The table value of chi-square ($?^2$) is 13.02 which is more then the table value (7.81), so the hypothesis is rejected. The water status of respondents has not increased marginally during the period between 2003-2008.

7.Conclusion:

The water status of respondents has increased during the study period 2003-2008. There is increase in number of personal tap, common tap and decrease in number of well user, tanker user. Emphasis has been given on the basic needs and priorities of respondents who lives in slums of Mumbai. Many urban poor consumers are using common tap for water. Many time urban poor consumers are paying high price to unauthorized of illegal elements. There must be sufficient number of taps. The study reveals that there is overall increase in water status of respondents but at very marginal rate. The status can be improved only when the respondents are alert and active and also win the active cooperation and coordination of NGOs, governing authorities and the legal mechanism.

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