



## **EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF SLUM DWELLERS: A STUDY IN ANANTHAPURAMU CITY OF ANDHRA PRADESH.**

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### **Abstract**

*Education is the backbone of any category of the people in the society. For the depressed sections who are far away for education from so many decades will improve their lifestyle, social status and economic upliftment through education only. Proper education is very important for all sections of society. It facilitates quality learning all through the life among people of any age group, cast, creed, religion and region. It is the process of achieving knowledge, values, skills, beliefs and moral habits. People need to get high level awareness about the importance of knowledge more than before. Education is very necessary for each and every one in order to improve knowledge, way of living as well as social and economic status throughout the life. Getting proper education is the birth rights of everyone restricting which is the crime. Education is the ultimate way to get victory over all the personal and social problems. It transforms a person completely from inside and outside by changing mind and personality as well as improving confidence level. Education helps to build social skills, problem solving skills, decision making skills and creative thinking skills. To receive various government schemes in a right way, to fight for right cause, to know the developments in the society, education plays an important role. Education helps to the development of an individual in his way of life.*

**Key Words:** *Depressed, Decades, Upliftment, Transform, Creative thinking.*

### **Introduction**

Education is a critical input in human resource development and is essential for the country's economic growth. Though the major indicators of socio-economic development are the growth rate of the economy, birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate and literacy rate and all of them are interconnected. The literacy rate has been the major determinant of the rise or fall in the other indicators. There is enough evidence in India to show that a high literacy rate, especially in the case of women, correlates with low birth rate, low IMR and increase in the rate of life expectancy.

The recognition of this fact has created awareness on the need to focus upon literacy and elementary education programs, not simply as a matter of social justice but more to foster economic growth, social well-being and social stability. Literacy rate in India has shown considerable improvement over the past few years but the condition of slum education is still in its immature phase. The present chapter focussed on the educational levels of slum population in the study area along with their income levels, expenditure pattern and saving behaviour among the slum population.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To review the educational status of slum dwellers in the study area.
2. To know the literacy rate between men and women in slum area.
3. To suggest the possible measures to improve the educational status of slum dwellers.

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

1. The Socio-Economic & Educational conditions of slum dwellers of Children's are poor
2. The educational levels among the slum dwellers is not at satisfactory level



3. Slum area higher education is poor
4. Women literacy rate is very poor in slum area

### Methodology and Sampling Design of the Study

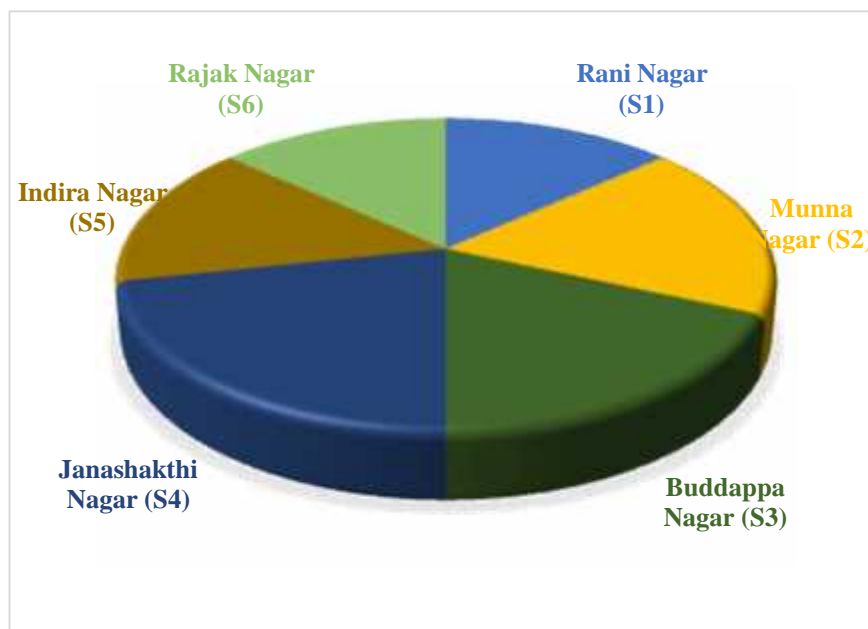
For the purpose of the present study, 4 stage random sampling method has been adopted. In the first stage, Andhra Pradesh which comprising 13 districts has been selected. In the second stage, one district namely, Ananthapuramu district of Rayalaseema region which comprises 12 Municipalities has been selected. In the third stage, out of 12 Municipalities in the district, one Municipality, namely, Ananthapuramu , a district headquarters city has been selected. The Ananthapuramu Municipal Corporation has 50 Municipal wards with 61 slums. Out of 61 slums, 6 wards have been selected.

**Table :1 Sample Slum Dwellers of Ananthapuramu Municipal Corporation of Andhra Pradesh**

S.No.	Ward/ Division Number	Name of Slum Area	Total Slum Population	No. of Sample Slum Dwellers
1	02	Rani Nagar (	1262	40
2	22	Munna Nagar	1784	55
3	24	Buddappa Nagar	1729	55
4	41	JanashakthiNagar	2031	65
5	42	Indira Nagar	1354	45
6	48	Rajak Nagar	1224	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>9384</b>	300 (100)

Source: District Census Hand Book, Ananthapuramu

**Diag. 1: Sample Slum Dwellers of Ananthapuramu Municipal Corporation of Andhra Pradesh**





### Educational Status of Slum Dwellers

Most slum children go to schools where teaching standards are low and classrooms are seriously under-equipped. For older children, vital text books are absent and their parents can't afford to buy them. For most slum dweller families, educating their children is the last thing on their minds. Education plays a vital role in economic growth of any economy. With increasing urbanization, urban migration has led to a serious problem of increase in urban slums. These urban poor usually consist of semi-skilled or unskilled labour. The poor condition of these urban poor in slum areas is mainly due to their inability to compete with skilled labour class and afford a decent standard of living.

The educational level of Slum residents in India is very low and there is an urgent need to improve the educational attainment level of urban poor for better economic growth. Table 2 presents the educational status of slum dwellers of six selected slum areas in Ananthapuramu town of Andhra Pradesh. It reveals that the illiteracy rate among the slum population is 27.50 percent in S1 and S6 slum areas, it is 25.45 percent in S2 and S3 slum areas. In S4 slum area, 36.92 percent of the slum dwellers are illiterates and 26.67 percent of the respondent slum dweller households in S5 slum area are illiterates under review.

**Table: 2 Educational Status of Slum Dwellers under Study**

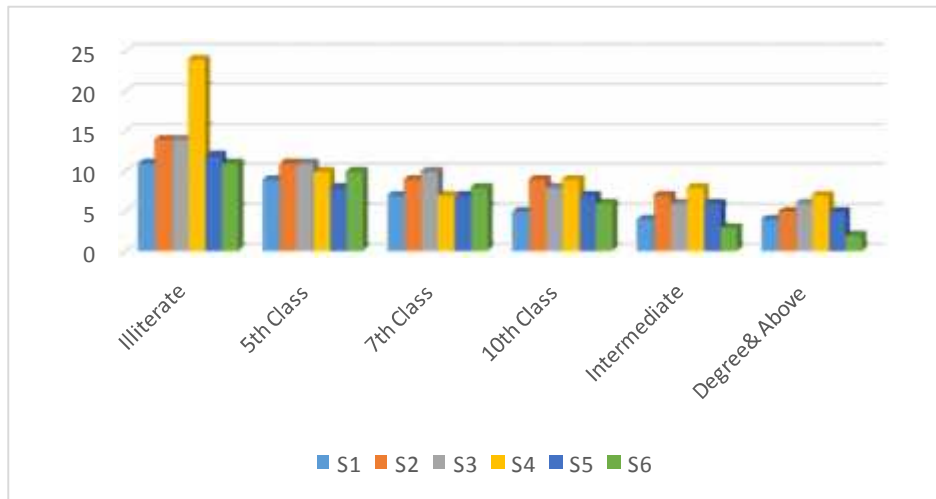
Slum Area	Illiterate	5 <sup>th</sup> Class	7 <sup>th</sup> Class	10 <sup>th</sup> Class	Intermediate	Degree & Above	Total
S1	11 (27.50)	09 (22.50)	07 (17.50)	05 (12.50)	04 (10.00)	04 (10.00)	40 (100)
S2	14 (25.45)	11 (20.00)	09 (16.36)	09 (16.36)	07 (12.73)	05 (9.09)	55 (100)
S3	14 (25.45)	11 (20.00)	10 (18.18)	08 (14.55)	06 (10.91)	06 (10.91)	55 (100)
S4	24 (36.92)	10 (15.38)	07 (10.77)	09 (13.85)	08 (12.31)	07 (10.77)	65 (100)
S5	12 (26.67)	08 (17.78)	07 (15.56)	07 (15.56)	06 (13.33)	05 (11.11)	45 (100)
S6	11 (27.50)	10 (25.00)	08 (20.00)	06 (15.00)	03 (7.50)	02 (5.00)	40 (100)
Total	86 (28.67)	59(19.67)	48 (16.00)	44 (14.67)	34 (11.33)	29 (9.67)	300(100)

**Source:** Field Survey Data, **Note:** Figures in Parentheses indicates percentages to their total

The primary level standards of education i.e., upto 5<sup>th</sup> class, among the slum dwellers is 22.50 percent in S1 slum area, 20 percent in S2 and S3 slum area, 15.38 percent are studied upto 5<sup>th</sup> class in S4 slum area and 17.78 percent are studied the same level of education in S5 slum area and 25 percent are studied upto 5<sup>th</sup> class in S6 slum area. It reveals that 17.50 percent of respondents in S1 slum area, 16.36 percent in S2 slum area, 18.18 percent in S3 slum area, 10.77 percent of slum dwellers in S4 slum area, 15.56 percent of sample households in S5 slum area and 15 percent of respondents in S6 slum area are studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> class standard of education as shown in Table 2



**Diag. 2 Educational Status of Slum Dwellers under Study**



It may also noticed that 12.50 percent of respondent slum dwellers in S1 slum area, 16.36 percent in S2 slum area, 14.55 percent of slum dwellers in S3 slum area, 13.85 percent of sample households in S4 slum area, 15.56 percent in S5 slum area and 15 percent of respondent slum dwellers in S6 slum area are studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> class standard education. About 10 percent of respondent slum dwellers in S1 slum area, 12.73 percent in S2 slum area, 10.91 percent in S3 slum area, 12.31 percent in S4 slum area, 13.33 percent in S5 slum area and only 7.50 percent of sample slum dwellers in S6 slum area are studied intermediate. It may be noticed that 10 percent of sample slum dwellers in S1 slum area, 9.09 percent in S2 slum area, 10.91 percent in S3 slum area, 10.77 percent in S4 slum area, 11.11 percent in S5 slum area and only 5 percent of respondent slum dwellers in S6 slum area are studied upto degree and above as shown in Table 2 The diagram 2 illustrates diagrammatically on the educational status of slum dwellers in the study area.

### Male and Female Literacy Levels among Slum Dwellers

Now a days, the women are also studying equally to the men in the society, especially in Andhra Pradesh. But in some sections of the society, female literacy is low comparatively male. The following Table 3 displays the educational levels of Male and female slum population in the study area. It reveals that in S1 slum area, 10 percent of male are illiterates as against 18 percent of female illiterates. Also 13 percent of male are studied up to 5<sup>th</sup> class as against 10 percent of female. In the same slum area, 13 percent of male are studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> class education as against 5 percent of female. 8 percent of male are studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> class and 5 percent of female are studied upto the 10<sup>th</sup> standard education. Intermediate level of educational standards are there in 8 percent of male and 3 percent of female in S1 slum area. Only 10 percent of male are studied upto degree level and no female slum population are there in this category in S1 slum area.

It reveals that 11 percent of male and 15 percent of female are illiterates in S2 slum area. Also observed that 13 percent of male and 7 percent of female are studied 5<sup>th</sup> standard education, 9 percent of male and 7 percent of female are studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> class, again the same percentage of male and female are studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> class, another 9 percent of male and 4 percent of female in S2 slum area are studied upto intermediate and 7 percent of male and 2 percent of female are studied degree and above in S2 slum area under review.



It may also noticed that 9 percent of male are illiterates as against 16 percent of female illiterates in S1 slum area. In the same slum area, 11 percent of male population and 9 percent of female are studied upto 5<sup>th</sup> class education. Another 11 percent of male and 7 percent of female are studied 7<sup>th</sup> class level education in S3 slum area. Again 9 percent of male and 4 percent of female slum dwellers are studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> standard education, only 4 percent of male and 2 percent of female are studied intermediate level education and 7 percent of male and 2 percent of female in S3 slum area are studied degree and above level of education under study.

**Table 3: Male and Female Educational Levels among Slum Dwellers(Field Survey)**

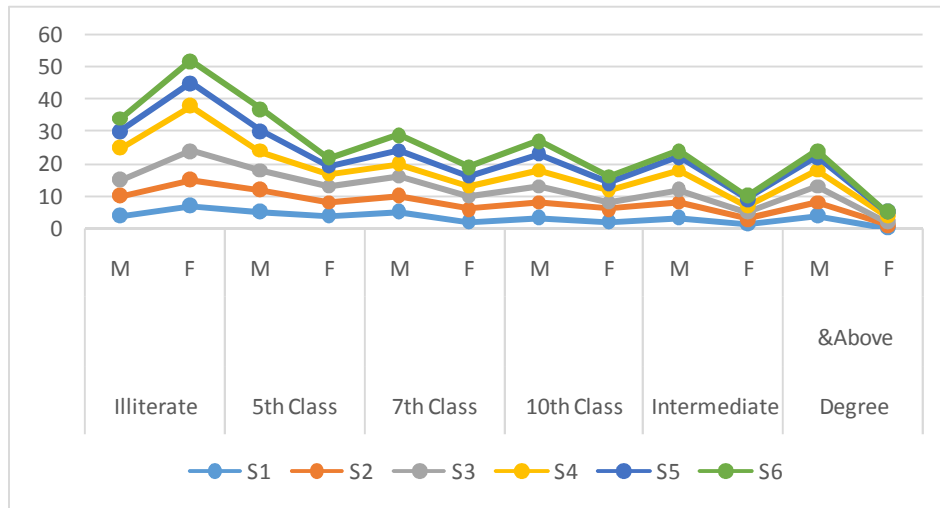
Slum Area	Illiterate		5 <sup>th</sup> Class		7 <sup>th</sup> Class		10 <sup>th</sup> Class		Intermediate		Degree & Above	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
S1	4	7	5	4	5	2	3	2	3	1	4	0
%	10	18	13	10	13	5	8	5	8	3	10	0
S2	6	8	7	4	5	4	5	4	5	2	4	1
%	11	15	13	7	9	7	9	7	9	4	7	2
S3	5	9	6	5	6	4	5	2	4	2	5	1
%	9	16	11	9	11	7	9	4	7	4	9	2
S4	10	14	6	4	4	3	5	4	6	2	5	2
%	15	22	9	6	6	5	8	6	9	3	8	3
S5	5	7	6	2	4	3	5	2	4	2	4	1
%	11	16	13	4	9	7	11	4	9	4	9	2
S6	4	7	7	3	5	3	4	2	2	1	2	0
%	10	18	18	8	13	8	10	5	5	3	5	0
Total	34	52	37	22	29	19	27	16	24	10	24	5
%	11	17	12	7	10	6	9	5	8	3	8	2

In S4 slum area, 15 percent of male are illiterates as against 22 percent of female, 9 percent of male and 6 percent of female slum dwellers are studied upto 5<sup>th</sup> class, 6 percent of male and 5 percent of female are studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> class level education, 8 percent of male and 6 percent of female are studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> class(secondary), 9 percent of male and 3 percent of female are studied intermediate (Higher Secondary) and 8 percent of male and another 3 percent of female are studied upto degree and above courses in S4 slum area.

In S5 slum area, 11 percent of male and 16 percent of female are illiterates, 13 percent of male and 4 percent of female are studied upto 5<sup>th</sup> class (Primary), 9 percent of male and 7 percent of female respondent slum dwellers are studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> class (Upper Primary), 11 percent of male and 4 percent of female are studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> class, 9 percent of male and 4 percent of female are studied upto intermediate and another 9 percent of male and 2 percent of female are studied upto degree and above courses in S5 slum area.



**Diag. 3: Male and Female Educational Levels among Slum Dweller**



It shows that in S6 slum area, 10 percent of male and 18 percent of female are illiterates, 18 percent of male respondent slum dwellers and 8 percent of female respondent slum dwellers are studied upto 5<sup>th</sup> class level education, 13 percent of male and 8 percent of female are studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> class level studies, 10 percent of male and 5 percent of female are studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> class, 5 percent of male slum dwellers and 3 percent of female slum dwellers are intermediate standards and only 5 percent of male are studied degree and above courses as shown in table 3 The diagram 3 illustrates diagrammatically, the male and female educational levels among the slum dwellers in the study area.

**Impact of Education of Slum Dwellers on Children’s Education**

Generally, the education of children of any society depends on the education of parents. In the same manner, the present study gathered the opinion of slum dwellers on the impact of education of slum parents on the education of slum children in the study area. Table 4 reveals that in S1 slum area, due to education of parents, 70 percent of parents are sending their children to the schools, 25 percent are not sending the children to the school and 5 percent are unable to say that whether there is an impact of parent’s education on sending children to the school or not. In S2 slum area, 67.27 percent are opined that due to education of slum parents, they are sending their children to the school, 25.45 percent informed that they are not sending their children to the school and the remaining 7.27 percent are unable to answer the question rightly.

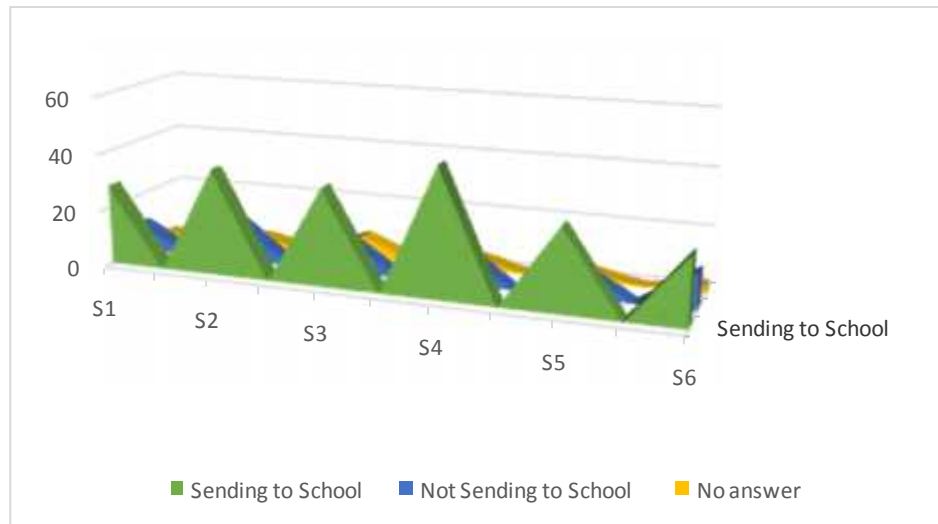
**Table 4: Impact of Education on Children’s Education in Slum Areas**

Slum Area	Sending to School	Not Sending to School	No answer	Total
S1	28 (70.00)	10 (25.00)	02 (5.00)	40 (100)
S2	37 (67.27)	14 (25.45)	04 (7.27)	55 (100)
S3	34 (61.82)	13 (23.64)	08 (14.55)	55 (100)
S4	45 (69.23)	15 (23.08)	05 (7.69)	65 (100)
S5	29 (64.44)	12 (26.67)	04 (8.89)	45 (100)
S6	24 (60.00)	13 (32.50)	03 (7.50)	40 (100)
Total	197 (65.67)	77 (25.67)	26 (8.67)	300 (100)

**Source:** Field Survey Data, **Note:** Figures in Parentheses indicates percentages to their total



**Diag. 4: Impact of Education on Children’s Education in Slum Areas**



In S3 slum area, 61.82 percent of the educated parents are sending their children to the school, 23.64 percent are not sending their children to the school and 14.55 percent are not answered the question raised by the researcher. In S4 slum area, 69.23 percent of slum parents are sending their children to the schools, 23.08 percent are not sending and the remaining 7.69 percent are not responded for the question. In S5 slum area, 64.44 percent of the parents are sending their children to the school, 26.67 percent are not sending to school and 8.89 percent are unable to answer. In s6 slum area, 60 percent of slum dweller households are sending their children to the schools as against 32.50 percent of the slum dwellers are not sending their children to the school and 7.50 percent are not answered. The diagram 4 illuminates the above information in a diagrammatic manner.

**Drop-Out Rate of Slum Area Children from Schools**

A student who leaves the school before finishing the course of instruction is called a drop-out. Due to various socio-economic reasons of the parents in slum areas, the drop-out rate is more comparatively urban children. The table 5 presents the opinion of the parents on school drop-out in the study area and reveals that in S1 slum area, 72.50 percent of the parents opined that the drop-out rate of their school going children has been decreased, 5 percent opined that the drop-out rate has been increased and the remaining 22.50 percent of the parents not answered. In S2 slum area, 67.27 percent of the parents opined that the drop-outs are decreased and 25.45 percent are not answered for the question.

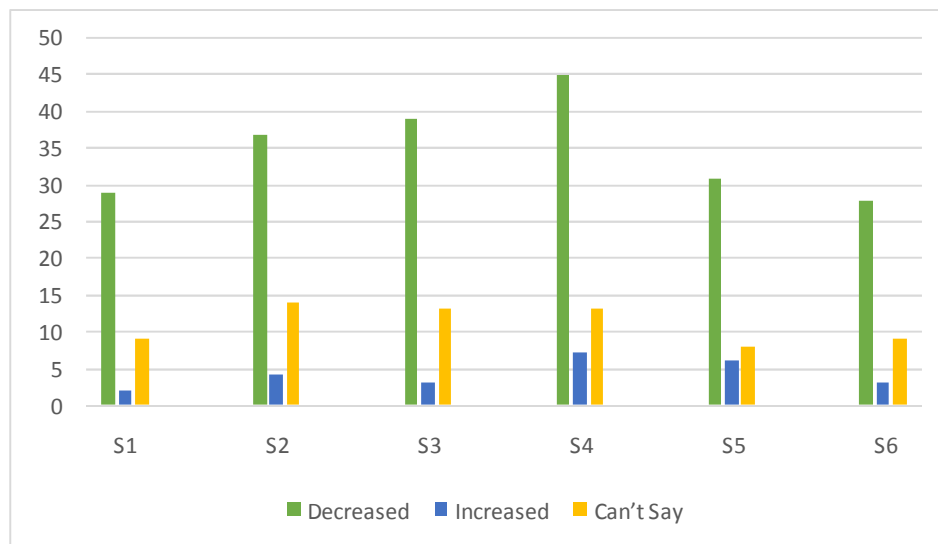
**Table 5: Opinion on Drop-Out Rate of Slum Area Children from Schools**

Slum Area	Decreased	Increased	Can’t Say	Total
S1	29 (72.50)	02 (5.00)	09 (22.50)	40 (100)
S2	37 (67.27)	04 (7.27)	14 (25.45)	55 (100)
S3	39 (70.91)	03 (5.45)	13 (23.64)	55 (100)
S4	45 (69.23)	07 (10.77)	13 (20.00)	65 (100)
S5	31 (68.89)	06 (13.33)	08 (17.78)	45 (100)
S6	28 (70.00)	03 (7.50)	09 (22.50)	40 (100)
Total	209 (69.67)	25 (8.33)	66 (22.00)	300 (100)

**Source:** Field Survey Data, **Note:** Figures in Parentheses indicates percentages to their total



**Diag. 5: Opinion on Drop-Out Rate of Slum Area Children from Schools**



It shows that in S3 slum area, 70.91 percent of the parents opined that the drop-outs from schools are decreased, 5.45 percent said that there is an increase in the drop-out rate and 23.64 percent are not responded. In S4 slum area, 69.23 percent are expressed that the drop-outs are decreased in the schools, 10.77 percent opined that it is increased and 20 percent not responded for the question.

In S5 slum area, 68.89 percent of the parents are expressed that there is a decrease in drop-outs, 13.33 percent said that there is an increase and 17.78 percent are not answered. In S6 slum area, 70 percent of the parents opined that the drop-outs are decreased in the schools, 7.50 percent opined that there is an increase and 22.50 percent not answered. The opinion of the parents on the drop-out rate of slum area children is diagrammatically presented in diagram.

### Conclusions

The present study discussed the various issues on educational levels of selected slum dweller households along with their work participation rates, child labor issue. The rapid growth of population in urban centres since independence has led to the emergence and growth of urban slums in the country. The developmental activities in urban centres provide employment to the rural migrants as well as the local urban population. These low-income groups, in the absence of proper shelter were settled in pockets of the slum areas characterized by overcrowding, dilapidated dwellings, lack of sanitation and civic amenities. Realizing the gravity of the situation governments have implemented a number of schemes and programmes to improve the living conditions of people living in slums.

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