

## Socio-Economic Status of People Living in Slums of Kotdiji, District Khairpur Mirs, Sindh

TEHMINA MANGAN<sup>1</sup>

Department of Agricultural Economics  
Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, Pakistan

ABDUL GHANI SOOMRO

ASADULLAH JAMRO

MUHAMMAD ALI SHAIKH

Department of Rural Sociology  
Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, Pakistan

MUSTAFA NANGRAJ

Agriculture Extension  
Agriculture Department Government of Sindh, Pakistan

### Abstract:

*The main objective of this research is to conduct the socio-economic analysis of people living in Slums or Kachi Abadies of surrounding area of Kotdiji, district Khairpur Mirs. A sample of 100 respondents was randomly selected. The data was collected through personal interviews of the respondents. Most of the Katchi Abadies settlers were migrated from villages. Accommodation status indicates that majority of the people living in houses of only one room with small open space of area of 1000 square foot. The major source of water was hand pump and the average family size was 9.29 members in colony 1, while in colony 2, the average family size was 11.51 members. It was known that 52 per cent of the household heads, 61.58 per cent of the male family members and 89.80 per cent female family members were uneducated. Most of the household heads were unskilled labour, the average income of household heads living in colony 1 was Rs. 12126, while those living in colony 2 was Rs. 9652 per month.*

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author: t.economist@hotmail.com

**Key words:** Socio-economic, Kotdeji, Sindh, Slums, Kachi Abades

## 1. Introduction

Urbanization is a common problem of the developing world. Pakistan is the 4<sup>th</sup> highly populated country in Asia and about one third of population of Pakistan lives in cities. More than one fifth of the urban population of Pakistan is poor. Mostly people migrate from small towns and rural areas towards cities for better employment opportunities and better quality of life. But when they arrive in the cities, they face many problems especially availability of shelter to live which leads to emergence of squatter settlement Slums, hereafter called Kachi Abadies. Squatter settlement is defined as a settlement where a resident has an unauthorized possession of the land (Pathan, 2010, Siddiqui, 1994).

In legal perception, Pakistan government described a squatter settlement Kachi Abadi as an area which is occupied unauthorized before the date of March 23, 1985 and has at least forty dwelling units (Abbas and Ansari 2010). Poverty is one of the major causes of spread of Kachi Abadies or squatter settlements. In cities housing facilities in planned schemes are very expensive, therefore poor people, low income employees and industrial laborers have no choice except Kachi Abadies as an affordable accommodation to live (Qadeer, 1992). The other most important cause of expansion of Kachi Abadies is population growth and rural urban migration (Siddiqui, 1994, Kazmi, 1999).

The main objective of this research is to conduct the socio-economic analysis of people living in Slums or Kachi Abadies of surrounding area of Kotdiji, district Khairpur Mirs. Khairpur Mirs district of Sindh province of Pakistan has an area of 15910 square km and is headquartered at the city of Khairpur. The district is noted for its bountiful harvest of dates,

the soil is suitable for many cash crops including cotton and wheat. The dry, hot climate makes the fruit very sweet, supple and juicy. Khairpur trades in wheat, cotton, and dates and is linked by road and rail to Karachi. Manufactures include refined sugar. Prior to the annexation of the state in to Pakistan in 1955, Khairpur was an industrially much more advanced than Pakistan producing leather goods, carpets, silk clothing, matches, soap, shoes, cigarettes to name a few. It also had the largest factories in textiles, tobacco refrying, and silk weaving in the sub-continent (Herald, 2008). In view of the above facts, the study is proposed to assess the socio-economic status of people living in Kachi Abadies of Kotdiji, District Khairpur Mirs.

## **2. Method**

Purposive random sampling method was used to select villages for this research study and simple random sampling technique was adopted to select households to collect the primary data through a survey from the households by using well-structured questionnaire. Questionnaire was prepared by keeping in view the population size and characteristics, kind of the data analysis, time and resources available. There are 2 recognized as Kachi Abadies in the surroundings of Kotdiji. The details regarding Kachi Abadies in the surroundings of Kotdiji city was obtained from the Directorate of Local Government and Kachi Abadies and similarly the number of dwelling units was noted. The target population of present study was the inhabitant of two squatter Katchi Abadis called Colony 1 and Colony 2 hereafter. A sample of 100 respondents was randomly selected. The data collected through personal interviews of the respondents filled in the questionnaires individually will be fed to the computer software “SPSS” for obtaining means and standard deviations to interpret in the result. To analyze the results of present study the descriptive statistics was used to

find out the percentage and frequencies of different characteristics of farmers, Contractors and Middle man.

### **3. Results**

#### **3.1 Status of accommodation**

The status of accommodation of the settlers of colony 1 and colony 2 Kachi Abadies were documented during the study and the results to this effect are presented in Table-1. The data presented that the people of nuclear families living in colony 1 (18.66 percent) and colony 2 (19.45 percent) have houses of only one to two rooms, while 64.87 percent residents of colony 1 and 60.48 percent residents of colony 2 were living peoples of joint families were have three to four rooms. However, only 16.46 percent of the people living in colony 1 and 20.08 percent of people of extended families living in colony 2 having five and above rooms on average. It was noted that the status of accommodation was relatively same in colony 1 and colony 2 Kachi Abadies and people living in both colonies were have nearly same socio-economic status.

#### **3.2 Open space**

Open space in a family accommodation partially represents status of the people living in that house and people with better status will obviously keep more open space. The open space in the houses of people of colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies were observed and the data are given in Table 1. Mostly the people living in colony 1 (18.66 percent) having houses with small size open space and in colony 2 19.45 percent residents have houses with small size of open space. About 64.87 percent of people living in colony 1 having houses with medium open space (1500 square foot), while in colony 2, 60.48 percent residents have houses with medium open space of about 1500 square foot. However, 16.46 percent people living in colony 1

and 20.08 percent people living in colony 2 having houses with large sized open space.

### **3.3 Fuel used**

Use of fuel for cooking and other purposes has been the major problem everywhere, particularly in the areas where natural gas has not been provided by the government. The people living in colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies were asked for type of fuel they use for cooking and their responses are reported in Table 1. It was reported that 27.69 percent of the people living in colony 1 and 34.28 percent people living in colony 2 use wood or dung cake as fuel for cooking meal. Similarly, 72.30 percent of the people living in colony 1 and 65.71 percent people living in colony 2 used gas as a fuel purpose for their cooking purpose.

### **3.4 Source of water**

Water is the basic need of everyone either he/she is living in rural areas or in the urban locality. The data in relation to source of water in studied Kachi Abadies of Kotdiji city are presented in Figure 1. Water was one of the biggest problems for colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies. The 90 percent people living in colony 1 and colony 2 use hand pump water they installed at their homes, while remaining 10% use communal tap water and tap water.

### **3.5 Food taken by the people**

During the survey of Kachi Abadies of colony 1 and colony 2 around the Kotdiji city, the type of food was evaluated and the response reported is presented in Table 2. It was observed that 100 per cent of the respondents from the colony 1 of Kachi Abadi use leafy green vegetables and potato and other vegetables, while 75.35 per cent use pulses (grams and lentils), 26.08 per cent of the people living in colony 1 use meat (Poultry and fish); while 23.19 per cent of the settlers of these Kachi Abadies use milk (butter, curd) and 88.41 per cent of the colony

1 settlers use achaar and chatnies too. Only 2.89 of the respondents indicated that they include Ghee and fruits in their meal. In colony 1 of Kachi Abadi, 90.32, 74.19 and 74.19 per cent of the settlers indicated that they use leafy green vegetables, potato and other vegetables and pulses (gram and lentil), respectively. The meat (poultry and fish) was used by only 35.48 per cent people living in colony 2, while 48.38 per cent include milk, butter and curd in their meal. Hundred per cent of the colony 2 of Kachi Abadies settlers use achaar and chatni etc., while 3.22 per cent of them also include ghee in their meal. It was observed that relatively better condition of the people living in colony 1 Kachi Abadi was observed in relation to food items they use for their meal as compared to those living in the colony 2 of Kachi Abadies around of Kotdiji city.

### **3.6 Educational level of male family members**

The educational level of male family members of people living in the colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies was evaluated and presented in Figure 2, which indicated that 60.75 per cent of the male family members in colony 1 were uneducated, 16.98 could achieve primary education, 10.57 per cent got education upto matriculation, 7.17 per cent could reach middle school education level, while 3.02 had some college education. However, 0.75 and 0.75 per cent of male family members were educated upto Graduation and Masters. In case of colony 2 of Kachi Abadies, 63.12 per cent of the male family members were uneducated, 16.31 per cent could achieve primary education, 11.35 per cent passed matriculation, 7.09 per cent could reach middle school education level, while 0.71, 0.71 and 0.71 per cent male family members were educated upto intermediate, Graduation and Masters only. The overall results showed that 61.58 per cent of the male family members in colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies were uneducated, while 16.75, 7.14, 10.84, 2.22, 0.74 and 0.74 per cent were educated upto primary,

middle school, matriculation, intermediate, Graduation and Masters, respectively.

### **3.7 Education level of female members**

The educational level of female family members of the people living in the colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies was examined and the data is shown in Figure 3, which showed that 89.57 per cent of the female family members in colony 1 were uneducated, 7.58 could achieve only primary education, 0.95 per cent got education up to middle school, 1.42 per cent could complete matriculation, while 0.47 per cent had some college education. In case of colony 2 of Kachi Abadies, 90.15 per cent of the female family members were uneducated, 4.55 could achieve only primary education, 1.52 per cent passed middle school classes, 3.03 per cent were matriculated, while 0.76 per cent female family members in Lakha colony were educated up to intermediate. The overall results indicated that 89.80 per cent of the female family members in colony 1 and colony 2 Kachi Abadies were uneducated, while 6.41, 1.17, 2.04 and 0.58 per cent were educated up to primary, middle school, matriculation and intermediate.

### **3.8 Source of income**

The income sources of household heads of families living in colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies was evaluated and the result obtained is given in Table 3. It was noted that 17.39 per cent household heads living in colony 1 and 19.35 per cent household heads belonged to colony 2 were government employees, while 34.78 per cent household heads in of colony 1 and 25.80 per cent household heads in colony 2 were skilled labour such as mason, carpenters etc. However, majority of the household heads 47.82 per cent in colony 1 and 54.83 per cent in colony 2 were unskilled labourers. This indicated that most of the household heads in both the abadies were unskilled labourers.

### **3.9 Problems faced by the settlers**

The problems faced by the settlers of colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies were ranked and according to the perceptions of household heads of the families living in these Kachi Abadies, drainage and sewage was the highest ranking problem perceived by 71.01 per cent and 83.87 per cent settlers of colony 1 and colony 2, respectively. In colony 1, 65.21, 49.27, 42.02 and 40.57 per cent household heads perceived that drinking water, health facilities, girls school and crimes and criminals are the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ranking problems. Similarly, in colony 2, 74.19, 61.29, 54.83 and 38.71 per cent household heads perceived that drinking water, health facilities, girls school and crimes and criminals are the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ranking problems.

## **4. Discussion**

The present study showed that nuclear families dominated the Katchi Abadies settlements of colony 1 and colony 2. Most of the Katchi Abadies settlers were migrated from villages. Accommodation status indicates that majority of the people living in houses of only one room with small open space of area of 1000 square foot. Majority of the settlers have no covered space for cooking and they cook food in the open sky and majority used to take bath under open sky. Most of the people used flush for lavatory purpose and for cooking they mostly use wood or dung cake as fuel. The major source of water was hand pump and the average family size was 9.29 members in colony 1, while in colony 2, the average family size was 11.51 members. It was known that 52 per cent of the household heads, 61.58 per cent of the male family members and 89.80 per cent female family members were uneducated. Most of the household heads were unskilled labour, the average income of household heads living in colony 1 was Rs. 12126, while those living in colony 2 was Rs. 9652 per month. Among problems of

the settlers, drainage and sewage, drinking water, health facilities, Girls school and crimes/criminals were the priority problems of the Kachi Abadies under study.

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**Table 1 Accommodation status, open space availability in houses and type of fuel used in houses of families living in of Kachi Abadies around Kotdiji city**

Categories	Number of families living in			Percentage	
	Colony 1	Colony 2	Total	Colony 1	Colony 2
<b>Rooms accommodation</b>					
Nuclear families 1 to2 rooms	12.13	6.81	18.94	18.66	19.45
Joint families 3 to4 rooms	42.17	21.17	63.34	64.87	60.48
Extended families 5 and above rooms	10.7	7.03	17.73	16.46	20.08
<b>Open area (square foot)</b>					
Small (1000 square foot)	12.13	6.81	18.94	18.66	19.45
Medium 1500 square foot	42.17	21.17	63.34	64.87	60.48
Large 2000 square foot and above	10.7	7.03	17.73	16.46	20.08
<b>Use of fuel</b>					
Wood/Dung cake	18	12	30	27.69	34.28
Gas	47	23	70	72.30	65.71
<b>Total</b>	65	35	100	100	100

**Table 2 Food items used by families living in colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadi around Kotdiji city**

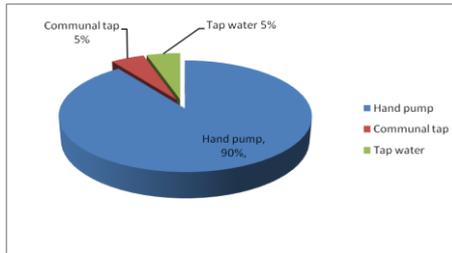
Food items	Colony 1		Colony 2	
	No. of families living	Percent	No. of families living	Percent
Leafy green vegetables	69	100	28	90.32
Potato and other vegetables	69	100	23	74.19
Pulses (grams and lentils)	52	75.36	23	74.19
Meat (Poultry, Fish)	18	26.08	11	35.48
Milk, Butter, Curd	16	23.18	15	48.38
Ghee	2	2.89	1	3.22
Achaar, Chatni	61	88.40	31	100
Fruits	2	2.89	0	0

**Table 3 Income sources and average monthly income of household heads living in colony 1and colony 2 of Kachi Abadies around Kotdiji city**

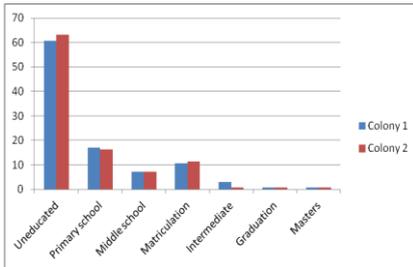
Source of income	Colony 1		Colony 2		Monthly Average Income	
	No. of households	Percent	Total	Percent	Colony 1	Colony 2
Govt. Employment	12	18.46	6	20.00	14368	10735
Skilled	22	33.84	8	25.71	16653	12960
Unskilled	31	47.69	17	54.28	5358	5260
Total / Average	65	100	31	100	12126	9652

**Table 4 Problems faced by the settlers of colony 1 and colony 2 of Kachi Abadi around Kotdiji city**

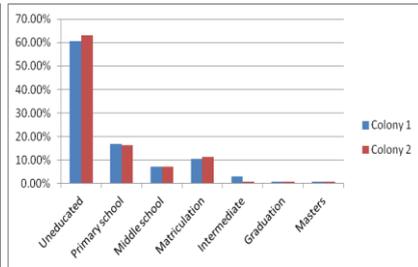
Kind of Problem faced	Colony 1		Colony 2	
	No. of settlers	Percent	No. of settlers	Percent
Drainage and sewerage	49	71.01	26	83.87
Drinking water	45	65.21	23	74.19
Nonexisting health facilities	34	49.27	19	61.29
Non-existing girls school	29	42.02	17	54.83
Crimes and criminals	28	40.57	12	38.71



**Figure1 Source of water**



**Figure 2 Educational level of males**



**Figure 3 Educational level of females**