

Evaluation of Suburban Improvements and urban Challenges in Iran

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Abstract. This approach is considered to underpin the identification of priorities for intervention and drawing up policies and strategies for improving slums' conditions and the lives of their inhabitants. The paper sheds light on the findings from a survey carried out by the Informal Settlement Development Facility. This attempted, for the first time to identify unsafe and unplanned areas spatially in all the urban centres in Iran. Result of this study showed that, According to these data, about 16 percent of the active populations in Ghale chenan are jobless or seeking a job, about 1933 of people are retired or physically disabled supported by different welfare organization. At present, one of the important problems in Ahvaz is, its water contamination. Due to drainage waters of farmlands irrigation and the flow of hospital, industrial, and domestic sewage. The very important point repeatedly occurring in the case of vulnerable, poor, and disadvantaged strata especially the youth of Ghale chenan is illiteracy and unemployment They do, banditry, stores robbery, blockade of the main road of Ahvaz to Mahshar to stop heavy vehicles like lorries and trucks by force and weapon for robbery. Several reports indicating of such armed robberies. it posits that women's participation in the domestic sphere may sometimes give them a 'gender advantage' over men in terms of health and adaptation to old age.

Keywords: Slum area, Illiteracy, Vulnerable, Health.

1 Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) directly address achieving a significant improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers and increasing access to water and basic sanitation in MDG 7, Targets 10 and 11 (UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs, 2008). Based on estimates made earlier this decade, up to 50% of the urban population in Asia lacks adequate provision of water and up to 60% lacks adequate sanitation (UN-HABITAT, 2003a). There is a pressing need for interventions to address these targets as improvements in sanitation, potable water supply and distribution systems in urban areas have failed to keep pace with population growth (UN Dept. Of Economic and Social Affairs, 2008). Furthermore, health-related targets rarely collected at the slum level, and health indicators show that urban slums concentrate hazards and risks to health and in many cases increase the baseline rates of morbidity and mortality. High rates of diarrhea . and malnutrition reveal the link between water, sanitation and health in urban slums. A recent study in the slums of New Delhi found that the average child under five had 1.7 episodes of diarrhea per year (Gupta et al., 2007).

Thus, the world is rapidly urbanizing and 2007 marked the first time in human history that the majority of humans have been living in urban areas (UN Human Settlements Program, 2008). In fact, the urban population is expected to grow to 4.9 billion by 2030 while the rural population will decrease by 28 million (UNFPA, 2007). Much of this growth in cities is fueled by the growth in their respective urban slum populations, with almost half the residents of developing economies and up to 78% in the least developed countries living in such areas (UN-HABITAT, 2003b). Accordingly, the population of slum-dwellers worldwide grew to 1.2 billion in 2008 (UN Human Settlements Program, 2009). Actually, the existing poverty has given birth to a number of other social problems such as gender injustice, adiction and crimes. The complexity of the term poverty and vulnerability has forced scholars to view poverty from different dimensions. Socio-economic poverty, human and cultural poverty and so on have become current. Living conditions for the vast majority of slum dwellers are deplorable, with high rates of malnutrition, communicable diseases, and exposure to violence. Hence, the provision of housing and basic services (e.g., potable water and sanitation) to Third World urban residents, especially the poor, is difficult because of: (1) poor planning, (2) weak municipal governments, and (3) rapid urban growth from high natural increase and

excessive rural-to-urban migration rates (Otiso, 2002). As in other Third World countries, the dominant strategies for housing and service provision for Iran’s urban poor include slum upgrading and site and service schemes. However, the efficacy of these strategies has been limited by ambivalent government attitudes to irregular settlements (Otiso, 2002) and to the fact that “in the eyes of the political elite, the administrator, and the professional, upgrading is not attractive for political display. The upgraded areas are too low a standard to be good show pieces” (Syagga and Kiamba, 1992, p86). Due to inefficiency, fiscal difficulties, poverty and market failure; the state, the private sector (both formal and informal), and community self-help efforts in recent decades have failed to meet poor people’s needs, thereby creating room for voluntary sector actors such as NGOs (Tripp, 1992; Wekwete, 1997). However, national and local states play an important role in urban housing and service provision in developing countries. In Asian countries, states have had a legal and social contract to provide services in return for political support (Therkildsen and Semboja, 1995; Wekwete, 1997). Moreover, basic urban services (e.g., potable water and sewerage) become the preserve of the state by default because they are public goods whose benefits cannot be kept from non-contributors once provided (Pinch, 1985). Hence, it is imperative to consider Ghale chenan as one of the disadvantaged districts of Ahwaz. There is no doubt the lives of the poorest households are deteriorating on daily bases where their numbers are increasing steadily. The main social issues such as gender , security, women, disability ,and unemployed youth attracts the social scholars’ view for depth study. In fact empowering individuals to participate social, cultural and economical context and strengthening their ability to stay out of poverty, co- ordinating interventions in primary health care, gender equity, water and sanitation, pollution control, housing, generating income and education are the most important projects which should be taken on to account.

2 Materials and Methods

Ghale chenan is located on the South west of Ahwaz. Its area is about 910545m² and it is consider as one of the suburban (slum) area of Ahwaz. This surveillance study had a population of 13800 & 2000 households, of which 7034 (47%) were children in the age of 0-15 years , 4833(38%)were in the age group of 16-64 years and 1933 (15%) were above of 65 years old. Most of them are immigrants that have come here in last 10 years. The main reason of immigration to this village is that the lands here are too cheap so the ones who cannot buy in other places come here to live. In this slum area a treatment center was established for the purpose of surveillance health. The sample was based on the number of households in Ghale chenan. The randomisation was based on the type of sanitation facility, the household income level (low, and medium), the family head (male, and female) and the need to cover different locations in this slum area. The final decision on the actual number of households selected and their location took into consideration the actual situation on the ground through consultations with the Division Administrators, Local Council Leaders and field observations.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Because of no accessing to high school due to distance, insecurity, family fanaticism, cultural lag and family illiteracy most of the girls drop out school un willingly. The number of schools and students in Ghale chenan (2005) appears in tables below.

Table 1: Number of State Schools & Students in Ghale chenan

Level	No. of Schools			No. of Students			No. of Classes		
	Boys School	Girls School	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys Class	Girls Class	Total
Primary	1	1	2	756	890	1646	18	18	36
Intermediate	1	1	2	530	220	750	14	14	28
High school	0*	0*	0*	250	200	450	0*	0*	0*
Total	2	2	4	1336	1310	2846	32	32	68

It could be seen from table there is no High school for Girls and Boys in Ghale chenan therefore the students (girls and boys) are going to high School in cities nearby this slum area. There is an Adult school as Literacy movement center in Ghalechenan , which have 4 classes and 20 students for each class. Educational

status is not high in this village. Literacy movement teaches nearly 80 ones, in 4 classes & 20 ones in each class. It is worthwhile to mentioned that, in this slum area about 7000 of people are illiterate,3000 women and 4000 men.

3.1 Basic Educational Needs in Ghale Chenan

Educational institutes have shortcomings in regard to room capacity and cooling system that based on the estimates of the authority of Ahwaz Education Organization, gas-running airconditions and water coolers are needed for primary and intermediate schools, respectively. It does not have a girl high school either, and it is anticipated that construction of a few room girl high school would need a similar above; this would solve one of the major problems of the village and people would not be obliged to allow their daughters to go to Ahwaz for intermediate education. Hence there are social problems which girls are facing to achieving their higher education. The establishment of a girl high school in Ghale chenana would prevent many social harms cause of the lack of security in passage of girls to city and bring about tranquility for the inhabitants. The other problem the inhabitants are facing regarding education is the low knowledge of teachers. In fact, newly trained teachers are selected by Educational Office to teach in such regions; thus, the knowledge level of students is not comparable with that of Ahwaz students. Furthermore, the needed establishment and equipment in intermediate and high schools are not sufficient, most of the materials presented in classrooms are theoretical, and laboratory activities are lacking.

3.2 Unemployment & Poverty Situation

According to these data, about 16 percent of the active populations in Ghale chenana are jobless or seeking a job, about 1933 of people are retired or physically disabled supported by different welfare organization. Most of the people in this village work in ahwaz. People are economically poor. As we notice here nearly 2000 unemployment in the village. There is not enough land & natural resources in the village so most of the people work as worker in steel company.

3.3 Employment wise and Main Activities

The classifications of employees in Ghale chenana according to the type of job and income level are in following table.

	Population	Percentage	Main Activity	No.	Percentage
Employed	2500	20 %	Husbandry	60	52%
Unemployed	2000	16 %	Farmer	40	35%
Total (Em/Unem)	4500	36 %	Staff	15	13%
Total Population Ghale-chenana	13800	—	Total	115	100%

The majority of the vulnerable and poor people of Ghale chenana are involved in retailing and business transactions in the region. Hence the monthly income of (10%) inhabitants are about 1,500,000 to 2,500,000 Rls. And (60%) of them 2,500,000 to 3,500,000 Rls. And (30%) are earning 3,500,000 to 4,500,000 Rls it means about (70%) lives below poverty line or on poverty line All self-attended women are active in this market. Many Ghale chenana inhabitants are supported by different charity organizations like Imam Relief Committee, Welfare Organization, and Martyr Foundation. Hence total population below poverty line (BPL) were (10 %) and total population on poverty line (OPL) were (60 %). The very important point repeatedly occurring in the case of vulnerable, poor, and disadvantaged strata especially the youth of Ghale chenana is illiteracy and unemployment They do, banditry, stores robbery, blockade of the main road of Ahwaz to Mahshar to stop heavy vehicles like lorries and trucks by force and weapon for robbery. Several reports indicating of such armed robberies . Sometimes, the sense of contradiction and hostility towards the local government is so severe that Ghale chenana inhabitants comprising mainly of Arab tribes embark on extensive protests and complaining about deficiencies in the region to the government. In other words, it seems that ignoring people's requests in the region would lead to the separation of such tribes and the government and increase hostility towards the local government. In this regard, members of Islamic Council who are mainly selected by votes taken from such individuals from marginal town act as a strong and

integrated group. This necessitates more attention to poverty sites of Ahwaz outskirts and the need to implement civil projects to lower crisis level in these regions.

3.4 Poverty Situation In Respect Of Basic Needs

Compared with central and northern regions, most allies are earthy with no sewage disposal canal. The sewage and toilet wells of some houses directly flow into earthy gutters of allies and then into empty spaces around houses. These canals after getting filled and overlapped would lead to the main earthy canal leading finally into a big ditch called "water source" in the west of the region. This big ditch is the accumulation center sewage and domestic garbage that has strongly contaminated the environment and is the reproduction and accumulation place for mosquitoes and harmful animals like mouse threatening people's health. The other important point pertains to garbage disposal at margins of allies and streets or their being collected in areas with free and wide space. Putting garbage in fire considered being the only way to remove them brings about environmental problems including bad smell of plastic combustion and other garages.

3.5 Socio- Economic And Cultural Situation

This village like most of other villages in ahwaz has ethnic & tribal origin. The main parts of this tribal group are arabs. the tribes like Bavi & Zergani live in the village. Ghale-ghanan belongs to Soveiseh in central part of ahwaz city. And this village in the seventh place for from central infrastructures, it is highly affected by social and economical situation in this city. Most of the village inhabitants work in the city (ahwaz) & the village agriculture is also affected by urban activities. Most of the inhabitants in Ghal-e-ghanan are arab. Their language is Arabic & Persian, and their religion is Islam. They live in tribal groups and they have their own traditional and customs. Their social and cultural status is too down & most of the pressure goes on to women and girls. The group (women & girls) have too much cultural & social limitation. Ghale-ghanan is affected by the social & economic situation of ahwaz. Agricultural lands here are around the village & people are not owner of the lands so we cannot see agricultural and related industries in this suburban area.

3.6 Women's Economic Activity

Working in date cooperative company is mostly runs with women & girls work force and many of them are unattended, poor, supported by imam khomeini emdad committee or welfare organization, illiterate (or having elementary degree) & their age is between 15-45. their job is to remove date kernel. They do it at home or in the work place. Khouzastan date basically use as industrial date or raw material for the industries. Most of is exported to abroad, especially western counties they package the date in small packages for the consumers. The problems emanated from sewage accumulated with domestic garbage scattered at empty spaces have led to unfavorable environment. The Poor groups in Ghale Chenan consisted, Jobless and the youth seeking for job 6700 (62%), Poor housewife women 150 (1.4%) and the aged, the retired, and the handicapped supported by charity organizations 3950 (36.6%).

4 Conclusion

The high poverty and unemployment rate especially among the youth as a severe problem threatens the security of the site and the nearby township. As aforementioned, many riots were manifested by the youth to fulfill their goals. The lack of economic facilities and resources to pave the ground for productive employment for the youth has not only helped up the poverty trend but also increased social harms like drug addiction among the youth. And from nutrition point of view, people are not experiencing a suitable diet in regard to protein- rich foods and vitamins. the problems emanated from sewage accumulated in a dangerously threatening way amid houses accompanied by domestic garbage scattered at empty spaces have led to unfavorable environment. The drinking water is the other problem ranked first in importance. The deficiency of educational sites especially a girl high school & primary school that persuades dropouts. As aforementioned, commuting to Ahwaz is difficult for some families to accept; there is also some bigotry for girls leaving homes. Moreover, equipping educational units with cooling systems and etc. is the other problem. The method of domestic garbage collection and its being put on fire in free spaces amid houses leading to environmental threats. The lack of sufficient and suitable sports, cultural, and recreational

facilities for the youth. The supply of transportation means for Ghale chenan inhabitants to travel to Ahwaz is considered to be among the other needs. They do not transport people of Ghale chenan at nights. The power supply in the region in a lawful way to prevent numerous electric shocks.

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