

A Profile of Roadside Squatter Settlements and their Families in Jaipur City

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ABSTRACT This study was conducted to determine the life style of roadside squatter settlers of Jaipur city through squatter settlement and family profiles. A total of 42 such settlements and 296 families were covered under the study. An interview schedule was used to elicit information on the squatters and their family profiles. The results revealed that the settlements had very limited access to water, housing, lighting, sanitation and health facilities. No regular training or education programmes had been planned for them. The mean family size in the settlements was 5.8 ± 1.65 members. Most of the families (84.5%) had nuclear family structure. A majority of adults and children were illiterate. About 81% of the migrants were from Rajasthan and the others from nearby states. The families had main and subsidiary occupations. The main occupations included construction work, blacksmithy, decoration of trucks/buses with 'jhalars'/'laris'/'chotis' (a bunch of tassels, braids), application of films on windows of four wheelers and preparation of radium number plates, pulling rickshaws and trolleys, playing drums and pipes and making plaster of paris statuettes, etc. They lived in tents. Their possessions were meager and consisted of pots, pans, cots, trunks and clothes. Personal hygienic practices were poor and sanitation left much to be desired.