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**Title: Socio Economic Status of Slum Dwellers with Special Reference to Women:
A Study on the CIS Gomti Region of Lucknow City**

Historically, women have been subjected to hardships, isolation and consequently poor social and economic status. In the recent years measures have been taken to bring about a change in their status but the results are largely limited to the elite class of the society.

While it offers many benefits, one of main challenges associated with urbanisation is that of urban poverty. Urban poverty has a distinct gendered dimension with the main burden of these inequitable power relations and resources disproportionately falling on women, the elderly, the disabled and young children, especially the girl child. Most urban poor women are engaged in lowest paid, informal activities such as home based services which lack aspects like minimum wages, safe workplace conditions, stipulated hours of work as well as face the risk of sexual harassment. The health status of women and children is also particularly poor in relation to men.

24 out of the 427 notified slums in the Cis Gomti region of Lucknow city, were selected as study area for the research. Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh, has a total of 609 slums accounting for about 27 percent of city's population. The study had the following objectives. To examine the status of women in India in a historical perspective; to study the spread of slum colonies in Lucknow city (2003-2019); to study the socio economic conditions of slums dwellers of Cis Gomti region with special reference to women; to evaluate the policies and schemes being run by the government of India for empowerment of women. Both primary (field survey, 2018) and secondary data were used for the study. For expansion analysis of slum colonies between 2003-

2019, LANDSAT images with 144/41 path and row, UTM Projection and WGS84 as Ellipsoid and Datum acquired from Open source USGS and Google Earth images.

There has been a steady decline in the status of women from ancient to medieval times. Low sex ratio, increasing gender gap in literacy, increasing rate of violence against women, are few aspects of the modern day reality faced by women in the society.

The built-up area of the city has grown exponentially at the cost of agriculture, forest and the barren land. The number and population of notified and non-notified slums of Lucknow also has increased manifold over the last decades (2003-2019).

Most women respondents were found to be working and earning between Rs.2, 000-Rs.4, 000 per month, being educated only till primary level or less. The income thus earned was largely spent on the bringing up of the children or meeting the day to day needs of the household. All had access to sanitation facilities but most relied on shared facilities. In terms of health, most women respondents fell in the underweight category. Amongst the commonly reported health issues, those related to stomach and lungs were widely reported. Almost all women respondents, irrespective of their age, reported experiencing at least some form of violence both at home and at work place. It is encouraging to note that 89 per cent women respondents possessed valid voter ID card and duly voted in the last parliamentary election.

There exist numerous Central and State government funded policies and schemes for the betterment and upliftment of the urban poor. However, a vast majority still remains uneducated, lacking in awareness. A handful who did know about these schemes, were unwilling to apply as they found the application process complex. Consequently, despite the welfare schemes and other enabling measure taken by the government, the condition of women slum dwellers has improved only marginally.