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LIVELIHOOD OF HOUSELESS POPULATION: A CASE STUDY OF KANPUR CITY

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Abstract

The present study attempts to analyse age structure, sex composition, literacy rate, educational and working status of houseless population in Kanpur city. The study is based on primary source of data generated through a comprehensive field survey in the city carried out during 2012. The study shows that most of the houseless population lies in young and mature working age-groups while a very little fraction is composed by the 0 to 14 years age-group as well as old population in the city. The rate of illiteracy among the houseless population is most prevalent as a little bit more than one-third houseless people are recorded literates. Among the literates, more than two-third have education only upto primary level. As a result, most of the houseless population is found to be un-skilled and, thus, engaged in casual petty works like rickshaw pulling, rag picking, street vending, loading and un-loading, begging, cobbling, construction works, etc. Most of the houseless population is of the rural migrants to the city and more than ninety per cent of which were males.

Introduction

Census enumerators are instructed 'to take note of the possible places where the houseless population is likely to live such as 'on the roadside, pavements, in hume pipes, under staircases or in the open, temples, mandaps, platforms and the like (Census of India 1991). However, in this study, houseless population is defined as persons who do not live in a house, having few possessions with them, used to sleep and live in the informal places, not meant for human habitation, excluding the slums dwellers, nomadic tribal people (gipsies) and Hindu saints, while a house is taken as a physical structure of dwelling with roof and walls, a separate unit having separate main entrance into it from the public way.

The Multilingual Demographic Dictionary states that generally the working

population consist of those individuals who take part in the production of economic goods and services, including unpaid family workers in economic enterprise as well as persons who work for pay or profit (United Nations, 1958). Employment, being one of the significant aspects of the population composition is a complex concept (Kumar, 1971). The concept of employment has to be related to some notion of the value of the work, and the value would vary depending on the persons from those points of view the work is evaluated (Sen, 1975). The term 'employment' refers to holding of some post or office. It implies that services of the individual concerned are being regularly used for some payment (Maheswari and Mehiswari, 1989). There are various other terms which have been used interchangeably to the word 'employment' as 'working population',

'manpower', 'labour force', 'economically active population', 'gainful workers', 'labour supply', 'workforce', etc., (Garnier, 1976; Kumar, 1971; Khan, 1972; Clarke, 1972; Yadav, 1950; United Nations, 1967; Mortara, 1954; Trewartha, 1969; A Survey of Research in Economics, 1979; Hausar, 1979; Jaffer and Steward, 1951; United Nations Population Division, 1954; Peterson, 1961, and Sonier, 1972). While, structure of employment is concerned with the occupation which deals with the type of jobs or economic activities the persons hold. Occupational structure refers to the distribution of working force into various sectors of economic activities. An occupation is defined as an economic activity which provides livelihood to those engaged in it. The number of occupations in an economy is very large running into thousands (Unique Quintessence of Advanced General Studies, 1991). 'Occupation' is considered here as an economically productive pursuit and there can be a variety of occupations (Patil, 1973).

One of the major problems of the country today is the continued migration of people from rural to urban areas which is a reflection of the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas (Dwarakanath, 2006). The majority of poor in the country lives in rural areas and belongs to the categories of landless agricultural and casual labourers, marginal and small farmers and rural artisans, etc., in which, a colossal proportion belongs to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward castes, minorities and economically backward families (Raj, 2006). The level of rural employment has been mainly determined by agricultural and industrial infrastructural facilities, educational services, health and medical facilities, means of transportation, banking, etc. (Khan et al., 2010). Therefore, due to lack of these infrastructural facilities and

employment opportunities in rural areas, the rural poor often migrate to the urban areas in search of work to earn the means of livelihood. These rural poor, after being failed to adjust in the rural habitat, when reach the cities, generally, have to spend their nights in the open sky, on the pavements along the roads, road-dividers, under-bridges, over-bridges, ledges of shops, market corridors, courtyards of places of worship, and other public places, as houseless persons. Most of them do not have pure air to breathe, potable water to drink, not to mention, anything about their shelter, food and clothing.

According to Census of India 2011, the total houseless population of the country is 1,772,889 wherein 834,541 persons live in rural areas and 938,348 persons in the urban parts of India. As far as work participation rate of houseless population in the country is concerned, the total work participation rate of houseless population is 61.3 per cent, against 57.6 per cent and 64.1 per cent recorded by rural and urban areas, respectively. The majority of houseless people survive on casual, unprotected, uncertain and hard labour, based on a range of occupations like daily wage works, construction works, pulling rickshaws, carrying and pushing loads, domestic works and street vending. A small number admit to be living on professional blood donation and sex work (Mander, 2009). Jagannathan and Halder (1988) also identified that more than three-fourth (82.6 per cent) pavement dwellers are engaged in mainstream sectors comprising the transport services and other occupations, shop assistants and daily labourers, while remaining proportion of workers is engaged in marginal sectors including begging, maid servants and rag-pickers. In the light of the above, an attempt has been made in this study, to assess the livelihood status of houseless population in Kanpur city.

Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of the study are:

- To investigate the age structure, sex composition, literacy rate and educational status of houseless population of Kanpur city.
- To examine the working status of houseless population in the city.
- To highlight the skill status of houseless workers in the city.
- To analyse the types of houseless workers in the city.
- To inspect the kinds of works in which houseless workers are engaged in study area.

Study Area

Kanpur city located in Uttar Pradesh lies between the parallels of 26° 10' and 26° 36' north and longitudes of 79° 30' and 80° 35' east (Fig. 1). It has been the largest metropolitan city of the state till 2001. But in 2011 Census, it slipped down to the second position after Lucknow (28.15 lakh), the capital city of the state. However, in term of population of urban agglomeration (UA) Kanpur, it is still maintains its first position in the state having the population 29.20 lakh against the population of Lucknow urban agglomeration (UA) 29.01 lakh. At national level Kanpur is 12th most highly populated city in India. Out of total population of Kanpur city 54.30 per cent are males while 45.70 per cent are females.

The city has been known as the economic and industrial capital of Uttar Pradesh. Kanpur is also the divisional headquarter of the Kanpur Commissionary consisting of Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Etawah, Auraiya, Farrukhabad and Kannauj districts (Kanpur City Development Plan, 2006). Administratively, city is divided into 6 zones and 110 wards (the inner core area of Kanpur constitutes 67 wards) with an average

ward population ranging between 20,000 to 25,000 persons. The municipal area of Kanpur city is about 605 km².

Database and Methodology

The present study is based on primary source of data generated through a comprehensive field survey in the Kanpur city carried out during 2012. Having identified the houseless households in prior visits in each ward, the individual slips were used to ease the task of survey in the city. Among the total 110 wards of the Kanpur city, the houseless population was found only in the 96 wards and Cantonment area. Houselessness was not found in remaining 14 wards.

Ward is the smallest administrative unit in the city. Houseless household has been taken as the smallest unit for data collection. Initially, it was planned to select 30 per cent houseless households randomly from each ward. However, the three pilot surveys were carried out in the city during May, August and November in 2011, which reflected that the number of houseless households used to vary with time during the day and from place to another place in an area. Thus, the four periods of time in a day i.e. early morning (6 am to 9 am); noon (12 pm to 3 pm), evening (6 pm to 9 pm) and late night (9 pm to 12 midnight) were taken to record the number of houseless households. However, during the two periods (early morning and late night) large number of houseless people were found due to availability of space for living after closing of markets while during the other two periods (i.e. noon and evening) small number of houseless people were found due to opening of markets, and the working hours as most of the houseless people go for work during day time. However, some houseless people were very difficult to be identified due to lack of their fixed abode. Moreover, it was also difficult to distinguish

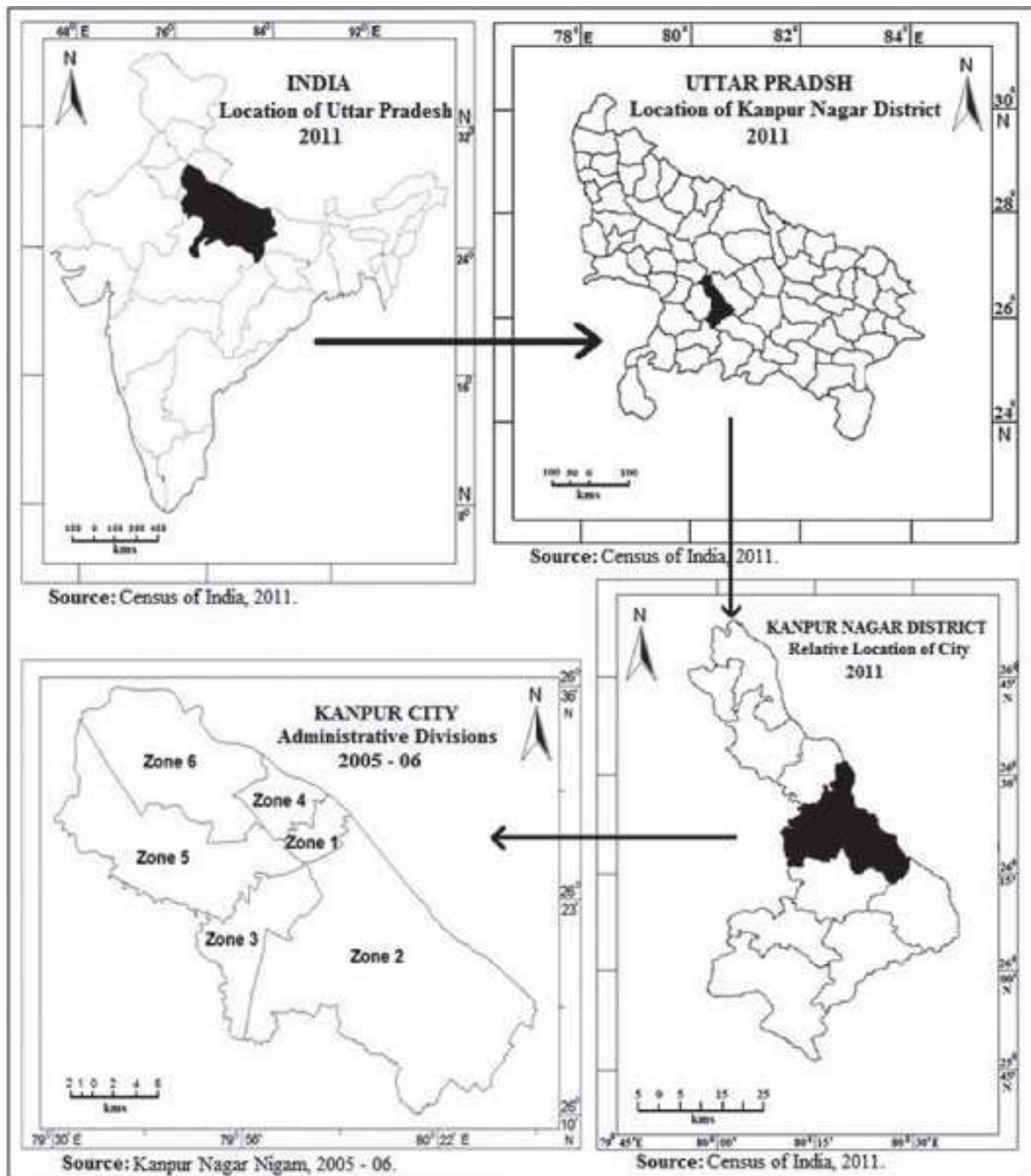


Fig. 1

Table 1
Kanpur City: Zone-wise Distribution of Surveyed Houseless Households, 2012

Zone	No. of Houseless Households			No. of Houseless Households with Families			No. of Houseless Households' Family Members			No. of Houseless Population		
	1			2			3			4 (1+3)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Zone 1	557	531	26	24	14	10	96	56	40	653	587	66
Zone 2	113	103	10	33	30	3	152	138	14	265	241	24
Zone 3	148	126	22	45	36	9	189	150	39	337	276	61
Zone 4	195	183	12	18	14	4	90	75	15	285	258	27
Zone 5	173	157	16	37	28	9	166	132	34	339	289	50
Zone 6	198	176	22	71	57	14	276	232	44	474	408	66
Total	1384	1276	108	228	179	49	969	783	186	2353	2059	294

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

houseless person among general public, therefore, 10 per cent of houseless population was considered as hidden. Keeping these things in mind, a sample of 25 per cent houseless households was randomly selected for the survey from each ward.

In the end, the sampled houseless people of all the wards lying in a zone were summed up zone-wise for spatial data analysis and

cartographic presentation. The survey consisted of 1384 houseless persons of the Kanpur city (Table 1).

Results and Discussion

Age Structure and Sex Composition of Houseless Population

Table 2 highlights that a huge chunk of houseless population lies in young working

Table 2
Kanpur City: Zone-wise Age and Sex Composition of Houseless Population

Zones	Male/ Female	Age-groups of Houseless Population				
		0-14	15-45	46-59	60 +	Total
Zone 1	Male	1	315	155	62	533
	Female	-	14	6	5	25
	Total	1	329	160	67	557
Zone 2	Male	1	62	27	13	103
	Female	-	4	2	4	10
	Total	1	66	29	17	113
Zone 3	Male	-	81	32	13	126
	Female	-	6	10	6	22
	Total	-	87	42	19	148
Zone 4	Male	1	96	44	42	183
	Female	-	5	4	3	12
	Total	1	101	48	45	195
Zone 5	Male	-	95	47	15	157
	Female	-	7	4	5	16
	Total	-	102	51	20	173
Zone 6	Male	-	115	46	15	176
	Female	-	5	9	8	22
	Total	-	120	55	23	198
Total	Male	3	764	350	160	1277
	Female	-	41	35	31	107
	Total	3	805	385	191	1384

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

age-group (15-45 years of age, 805 persons) and mature working age-group (46-59 years of age, 385 persons), respectively. On the other hand, a very little fraction of the houseless population was found in children age-group, 0-14 years (3 persons) and old age-group of 60 and above age (191 persons), respectively in the city. In other words, nearly 86 per cent houseless persons belong to the adult age-group (15-59 years of age) while old age-group (60 years and above) and 0 to 14 years of age-group accounted for 13.81 and 0.22 per cent, respectively. There is high proportion (29 per cent) of houseless females in the old age-group whereas not a single houseless female is witnessed in 0 to 14 years of age-group because, they can neither work due to biological age and sex constraints nor earn money from any source except begging for their survival in the city. However, most of the old age-group houseless females were mentally and physically disabled, divorced, separated, widow, run-aways and thrown-aways, who rendered as houseless on the footpaths for two square of meals in a day.

Zone-wise analysis of age-structure of houseless population reveals that zones like 1, 2 and 4 individually recorded only 1 person in children age-group, while, larger number of the old age-group population was witnessed in zone 1 (67 persons), followed by zone 4 (45 persons), zone 6 (23 persons), zone 5 (20 persons), zone 3 (19 persons) and zone 2 (17 persons). Data given in Table 2 disclose that the largest number of dependent houseless respondents (i.e. 0 to 14 years of age-group and old age-group population) were confined to zone 1 (68 persons) while the lowest in zone 2 (18 persons). On the other hand, a huge proportion of houseless population falling under the working age-group (15-59 years of age) is located in zone 1 (489 persons) and the lowest number was registered in zone 2 (95

persons) in comparison to other zones of the city.

The analysis of the Table 2 further reveals that the largest (557 persons) houseless population is residing in zone 1, because, it is the old part of the city which is characterised by high concentration of commercial and industrial activities, high population density and existence of railway station attracting petty workers in large numbers. On the other hand, zone 2 although the largest zone of the Kanpur city in terms of area, yet witnessed the smallest houseless population (113 persons) because, excluding wards like Zazmau North and Zazmau South, most of the wards of this zone are newly created having characteristics of both the rural as well as urban land use. The Cantonment area, Aerodrome and C.O.D. (Central Ordinance Depot) too are the parts of this zone.

Literacy and Educational Status of Houseless Population

Illiteracy is widely prevalent among the houseless population as 61.42 per cent of it is illiterate (Table 3). As far as the difference of literacy status between male and female is concerned, the ratio of illiteracy among the houseless females is exceedingly much higher (92.52 per cent) than the houseless males (58.81 per cent). The prevalence of mass illiteracy among the females is due to the existence of the patriarchal system, which is still in practice in several sections of Indian society where males use to get all social and economic entitlements more preferably than females.

Table 3 reveals that in all the zones of the city, the ratio of illiterate houseless population is higher than the literates. In male-female population too, the share of illiterates transcends the literates in the whole city, barring zone 5 in which the male literates marginally exceed the illiterates. However, the

Table 3
Kanpur City: Per cent Distribution of Literacy and Educational Status of Houseless Population

Zones	Male/ Female	Literacy-status			Levels of Education					
		Literates	Illiterates	Total	Primary	Secondary	Senior Secondary	Graduation	Diploma	Total
Zone 1	Male	41.35	58.65	100.00	68.64	22.27	5.45	3.64	-	100.00
	Female	4.00	96.00	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	39.68	60.32	100.00	68.78	22.17	5.43	3.62	-	100.00
Zone 2	Male	31.07	68.93	100.00	70.00	16.67	13.33	-	-	100.00
	Female	-	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	28.32	71.68	100.00	70.00	16.67	13.33	-	-	100.00
Zone 3	Male	44.44	55.56	100.00	69.09	27.27	3.64	-	-	100.00
	Female	9.09	90.91	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	39.19	60.81	100.00	70.18	26.32	3.51	-	-	100.00
Zone 4	Male	37.70	62.30	100.00	84.06	8.70	7.25	-	-	100.00
	Female	25.00	75.00	100.00	66.67	-	33.33	-	-	100.00
	Total	36.92	63.08	100.00	83.33	8.33	8.33	-	-	100.00
Zone 5	Male	50.96	49.04	100.00	55.13	34.62	7.69	2.56	-	100.00
	Female	6.25	93.75	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	46.82	53.18	100.00	55.70	34.18	7.59	2.53	-	100.00
Zone 6	Male	39.20	60.80	100.00	73.02	14.29	7.94	3.17	1.59	100.00
	Female	4.55	95.45	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	35.35	64.65	100.00	73.44	14.06	7.81	3.13	1.56	100.00
Total	Male	41.19	58.81	100.00	69.32	21.55	6.60	2.33	0.19	100.00
	Female	7.48	92.52	100.00	87.50	-	12.50	-	-	100.00
	Total	38.58	61.42	100.00	69.60	21.22	6.69	2.29	0.19	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

percentage difference between literates and illiterates among the female houseless population is much higher than the male houseless population, and not a single literate female has been found in zone 2. The highest literacy rate has been observed in zone 5 (46.82 per cent). The houseless population is the poorest section of the urban population and is deprived from one of the basic needs of life i.e. housing, not to speak of education. Education still is a distant dream for them. The people revealed that “Government schools are taking money for admission and books from our children, how can we send our children for education” (Shafique: 32, Kanpur Nagar). “Principals of schools demand the ID proof to admit our children into schools” (Pappo: 38, Kanpur Dehat). “We do not have ID cards because, who will take the responsibility of the pavement dwellers that they know us as a witness” (Bachchan Sonkar: 32, Bihar).

Further, among the total literate

houseless population in the city (38.58 per cent); nearly seventy per cent houseless persons have the education upto primary level, followed by secondary (21.22 per cent), senior secondary (6.69 per cent), graduation (2.29 per cent) and diploma (0.19 per cent). The high proportion of houseless population having primary education is due to the fact that the primary education is free and compulsory for all the children of 0-14 years of age-group. However, houseless people in general are discouraged to send their children to schools, because they find no scope of employment even after higher education.

Zone-wise examination of the data on levels of education also depicts that the magnitude of primary education is registered greater in proportion in all the zones of the city, followed by the secondary, senior secondary (in all zones), graduation (zones 1, 5 and 6) and diploma education (zone 6). Gender-wise analysis reveals that the highest percentage is

accounted by houseless males in primary, secondary and senior secondary education in each zone of the city, and zones 1 and 5 observed male literates upto the graduation level while there is no diploma holder male in the city, except in zone 6. While, females' educational level is solely limited to the primary level education in the city barring few exceptions.

Houseless Workers and Non-workers

Table 4 exhibits that 84.48 per cent of houseless population in Kanpur city is categorised as workers. While, sex-wise 87.75 per cent males and 45.28 per cent females were recorded as workers. It has been mainly due to the male selective migration from the rural country-sides to the city for employment opportunities.

Out of the total houseless households

surveyed, more than ninety per cent houseless households have been found migrants in the city. Further, out of the total migrant houseless households, males and females accounted for 92.36 and 7.64 per cent, respectively. Out of the total migrants, 70.18 per cent were from rural areas. These rural migrants try their best to get some work and can do any kind of work, even the petty jobs like cycle rickshaw pulling, load rickshaw pulling, construction works, rag picking, etc. They can work as waiters, cooks, street venders, loaders and un-loaders, cobblers, maid servants, etc.

More than 90 per cent of houseless male population in zones 3, 5 and 6 was recorded as working, while zones 1, 2 and 4 also accounted for 86.84, 88.38 and 80.33 per cent houseless male workers, respectively. On the other hand, 50 per cent and 66.67 per cent of houseless

Table 4
Kanpur City: Per cent Distribution of Working Status of Houseless Population

Zones	Male/Female	Workers and Non-workers		
		Workers	Non-workers	Total
Zone 1	Male	86.84	13.16	100.00
	Female	32.00	68.00	100.00
	Total	84.38	15.62	100.00
Zone 2	Male	88.35	11.65	100.00
	Female	40.00	60.00	100.00
	Total	84.07	15.93	100.00
Zone 3	Male	92.06	7.94	100.00
	Female	40.91	59.09	100.00
	Total	84.46	15.54	100.00
Zone 4	Male	80.33	19.67	100.00
	Female	41.67	58.33	100.00
	Total	77.95	22.05	100.00
Zone 5	Male	91.72	8.28	100.00
	Female	50.00	50.00	100.00
	Total	87.86	12.14	100.00
Zone 6	Male	91.28	8.72	100.00
	Female	66.67	33.33	100.00
	Total	88.60	11.40	100.00
Total	Male	87.75	12.25	100.00
	Female	45.28	54.72	100.00
	Total	84.48	15.52	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

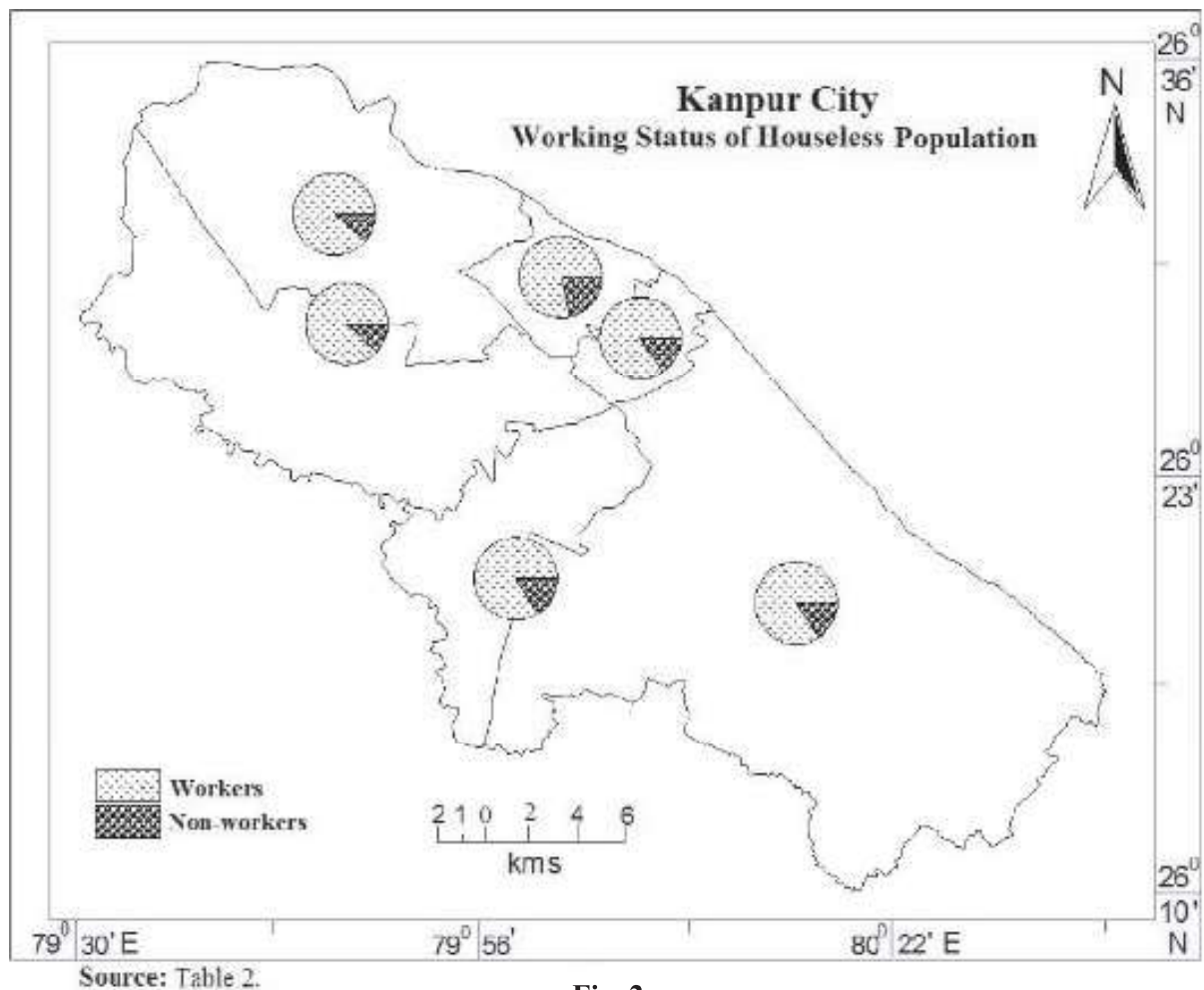


Fig. 2

females were found to be working in zones 5 and 6, respectively. It is because, in these two zones, pavements along the roads and streets are broad and spacious enough to allow the houseless migrants to bring their families along with them. Females also do work as maid servants and rag pickers to support the family. However, the percentage of houseless female non-workers in zones 1, 2, 3 and 4 is much higher than houseless female workers (Table 4).

Skill Status of Houseless Workers

Out of the total houseless workers, 87.39 per cent are unskilled (Table 5), therefore, most of the houseless workers are daily casual workers and labourers doing petty

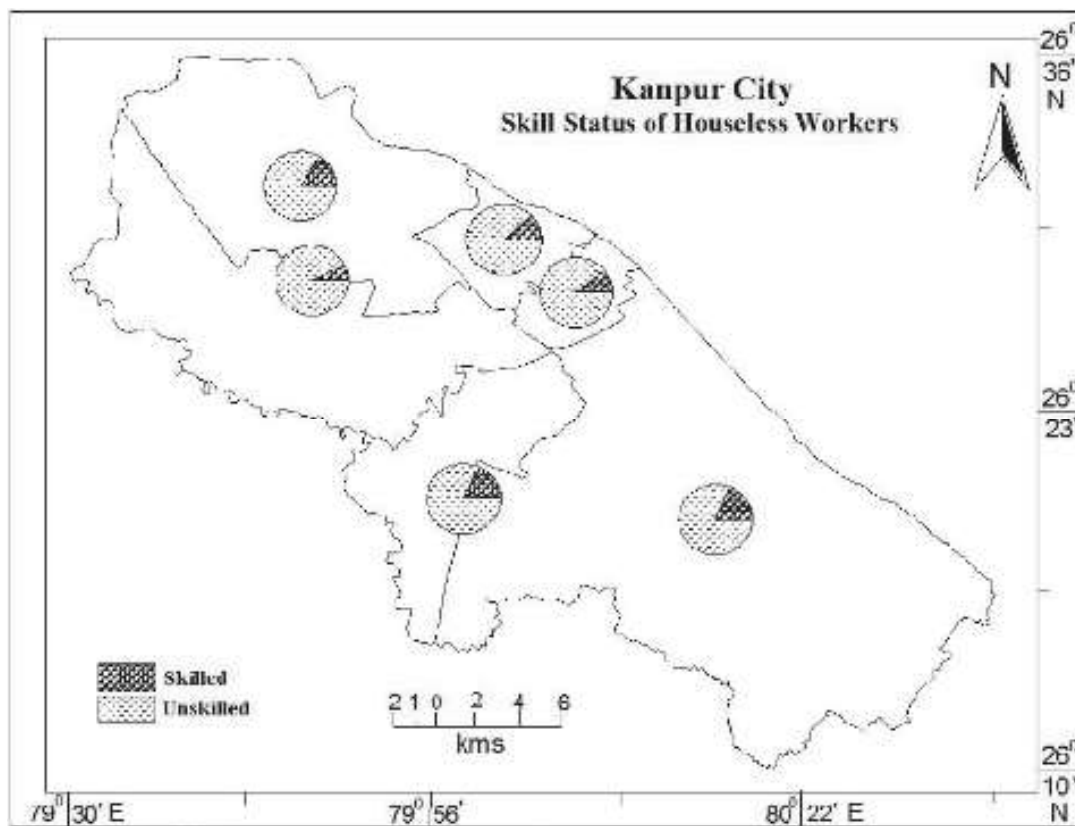
works (rickshaw pulling, loading and unloading, construction workers, rag pickers, street vendors, etc.) which do not require any technical know-how. However, there are some skilled workers among the houseless like Dewaker Saini who said “I need service in driving line because I have driving licence”.

It is interesting to note that the ratio of female skilled workers (17.65 per cent) is more than male skilled workers (12.38 per cent, Table 5). The high volume of female skilled workers is due to the fact that houseless females possess various skills like weaving (chairs, mats, baskets, stools, and decorative items), carving out or chiselling the marble and stones (to make idols of God and Goddesses, grinding the slabs

Table 5
Kanpur City: Per cent Distribution of Skilled and Un-skilled Houseless Workers

Zones	Male/Female	Skilled and Un-skilled Houseless Workers		
		Skilled Workers	Unskilled Workers	Total
Zone 1	Male	11.04	88.96	100.00
	Female	-	100.00	100.00
	Total	10.81	89.19	100.00
Zone 2	Male	18.48	81.52	100.00
	Female	20.00	80.00	100.00
	Total	18.56	81.44	100.00
Zone 3	Male	17.24	82.76	100.00
	Female	22.22	77.78	100.00
	Total	17.60	82.40	100.00
Zone 4	Male	10.88	89.12	100.00
	Female	60.00	40.00	100.00
	Total	12.50	87.50	100.00
Zone 5	Male	6.94	93.06	100.00
	Female	-	100.00	100.00
	Total	6.58	93.42	100.00
Zone 6	Male	15.43	84.57	100.00
	Female	21.43	78.57	100.00
	Total	15.91	84.09	100.00
Total	Male	12.38	87.62	100.00
	Female	17.65	82.35	100.00
	Total	12.61	87.39	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.



Source: Table 3.

Fig. 3

of flour and spices) and black-smith, etc. which are lacking among males. In fact, biologically females have more skill in carrying out light works than their male counterparts and vice-versa. Further, analysis of the Table 5 highlights that the highest percentage (18.56 per cent) of skilled workers has been registered in zone 2 and the lowest (6.58 per cent) in zone 5 (Fig. 3).

In all the zones, the percentage of female skilled workers exceeds male skilled workers barring zones 1 and 5 wherein no female skilled worker has been found. In other words, the ratio of male un-skilled workers is higher than the females in whole of the city excluding zones 1 and 5, which accounted for hundred per cent female un-skilled workers working as rag pickers, maid servants and performing household duties.

Types of Houseless Workers

Table 6 demonstrates that more than ninety per cent of houseless workers were working as daily casual workers because, they have no regularity in job either in same type of work or in number of continuous working days, as they are working in unorganised sectors. Only less than one per cent houseless workers were found working in organised sectors like mills, factories, etc. Therefore, houseless daily casual workers have to go every day to the labour markets¹, waiting there for customers to hire them for some casual works.

The permanent houseless workers accounted only 6.68 per cent of the total workers. The term 'permanent workers' here does not mean that they were permanent employees of some organisation or government sectors. Permanency in this case is associated

Table 6
Kanpur City: Per cent Distribution of Types of Houseless Workers

Zones	Male/Female	Types of Workers			
		Daily Workers	Permanent Workers	Seasonal Workers	Total
Zone 1	Male	93.51	6.49	-	100.00
	Female	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	93.64	6.36	-	100.00
Zone 2	Male	97.73	2.27	-	100.00
	Female	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	97.85	2.15	-	100.00
Zone 3	Male	81.03	18.97	-	100.00
	Female	77.78	22.22	-	100.00
	Total	80.80	19.20	-	100.00
Zone 4	Male	91.16	8.16	0.68	100.00
	Female	40.00	60.00	-	100.00
	Total	90.00	9.34	0.66	100.00
Zone 5	Male	97.92	2.08	-	100.00
	Female	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	98.03	1.97	-	100.00
Zone 6	Male	96.25	1.88	1.88	100.00
	Female	92.86	7.14	-	100.00
	Total	95.98	2.30	1.72	100.00
Total	Male	93.20	6.45	0.36	100.00
	Female	88.24	11.76	-	100.00
	Total	92.98	6.68	0.34	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

with self-employment of workers as cobblers, weavers, hair dressers, blacksmiths, artisans, etc. wherein they remain engaged throughout the year. Merely 0.34 per cent of houseless workers were identified as seasonal workers. Some investment of money is required to begin the seasonal business like sugarcane juice corner, selling of watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, mango sellers, etc. The return of income in the seasonal business is higher than daily casual works and permanent works, but these houseless people do not have enough money to initiate such business activities. That is why, the share of seasonal houseless workers to total houseless workers is very less and also confined to only two zones, namely 4 and 6.

Among the total houseless male workers 93.51, 6.45 and 0.36 per cent, respectively have been registered as daily, permanent and seasonal workers. But among the houseless female workers, 88.24 per cent were found to be working as daily casual workers and 11.76 per cent as permanent workers, whereas not a single female was found to be working as seasonal worker in the city.

The analysis of Table 6 exhibits that zone 5 has the highest percentage (98.03 per cent) of daily casual workers and the lowest percentage (1.97 Per cent) of permanent workers while no seasonal worker has been noticed in this zone. In all the zones of the city, about 90 per cent of houseless workers were daily casual workers. The gender-wise analysis of data indicates that all female workers were daily casual workers in zones 1, 2 and 5 while in the remaining three zones (3, 4 and 6), the percentage of female daily casual workers was less than male daily casual workers. The share of permanent workers as a whole, as well as for males, is maximum in zone 3, whereas for females, zone 4 (60.00 per cent) has the maximum share. The seasonal workers have been found only in two zones and that too in

negligible proportions of 0.66 per cent in zone 4 and 1.72 per cent in zone 6 (Table 6).

Kinds of Works of Houseless Workers

Table 7 clearly indicates that nearly fifty per cent (48.45 per cent) of the total houseless workers were engaged in cycle rickshaw pulling and construction works in the study area. The second largest proportion (14.51 per cent) of houseless workers in the city was found to be engaged in begging due to mental and physical disabilities, old-age, social persecution, stigmatisation, orphanage, etc. The other prominent areas of work are load rickshaw pulling (5.20 per cent), loading and un-loading (3.47 per cent), rag-picking (3.03 per cent) serving as waiter in hotels (2.67 per cent), street vending (2.53 per cent) and owing *Khokha*² (2.31 per cent), white washing and painting (1.95 per cent), cobbling (1.30 per cent), working in factories (1.23 per cent), shop assistants (1.23 per cent), black smiths (1.23 per cent), cycle repairing (1.16 per cent), cooking (1.01 per cent) and maid servants (1.01 per cent). The category of others works in which 7.73 per cent houseless workers were found to be absorbed includes tea-shop keepers, handicraft makers, garage workers, tailors, laundrymen, prostitutes, hair dressers, *cabada*³ purchasers, masons, *silpkars*⁴, labour managers, fuel wood sellers, *bhad bhujas*⁵, security men, drivers, *band baja people*⁶, weavers, carpenters and electrician. All the activities listed in Table 7, in which, houseless workers are engaged, require no technical know-how, no identity proof and no accountability. Being un-skilled and illiterate, they easily get engaged in such kind of activities.

Table 7 shows that more than fifty per cent (53.00 per cent) houseless female workers were engaged in begging, followed by maid servants (12.00 per cent), working at their own *khokhas* (6.00 per cent), and street vending

Table 7
Kanpur City: Zone-wise Per cent Distribution of Kinds of Engagements/Works of Houseless Population

Zones	Male/Female/Total	Kinds of Engagements/Works of Houseless Population																	
		Cycle Rickshaw Pulling	Construction Works	Begging	Load Rickshaw Pulling	Loading and Unloading	Rag-picking	Serving as Waiters	Street Vending	Owing Khokha	White Washing and Painting	Cobbling	Working in Mills/Factories	Shop Assistants	Black Smiths	Cycle Repairing	Cooking	Maid Servants	Others
Zone 1	M	26.15	24.86	12.52	7.18	6.08	2.03	5.71	0.74	0.74	2.76	1.10	1.66	0.74	-	0.55	1.10	-	6.08
	F	-	-	68.18	-	-	-	-	4.55	13.64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.55	9.09
	T	25.13	23.89	14.69	6.90	5.84	1.95	5.49	0.88	1.24	2.65	1.06	1.59	0.71	-	0.53	1.06	0.18	6.19
Zone 2	M	38.24	14.71	11.76	8.82	2.94	-	1.96	1.96	0.98	-	0.98	1.96	0.98	8.82	1.96	0.98	-	2.94
	F	-	-	66.67	-	-	-	-	11.11	-	-	-	-	-	11.11	-	-	-	11.11
	T	35.14	13.51	16.22	8.11	2.70	-	1.80	2.70	0.90	-	0.90	1.80	0.90	9.01	1.80	0.90	-	3.60
Zone 3	M	14.84	34.38	7.81	4.69	1.56	-	0.78	5.47	2.34	2.34	1.56	-	0.78	-	3.13	1.56	1.56	17.19
	F	-	-	65.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.00	10.00
	T	12.84	29.73	15.54	4.05	1.35	-	0.68	4.73	2.03	2.03	1.35	-	0.68	-	2.7	1.35	4.73	16.22
Zone 4	M	43.09	12.15	19.34	3.31	2.76	3.31	0.55	1.66	1.10	0.55	2.76	0.55	1.66	-	1.10	0.55	-	5.52
	F	-	-	58.33	-	-	-	-	-	8.33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.33
	T	40.41	11.4	21.76	3.11	2.59	3.11	0.52	1.55	1.55	0.52	2.59	0.52	1.55	-	1.04	0.52	-	7.25
Zone 5	M	16.13	41.94	8.39	7.10	3.23	2.58	-	3.87	4.52	3.23	1.29	1.94	1.29	0.65	0.65	0.65	-	2.58
	F	-	6.25	43.75	-	-	-	-	6.25	-	-	-	6.25	6.25	-	-	-	18.75	12.5
	T	14.62	38.6	11.70	6.43	2.92	2.34	-	4.09	4.09	2.92	1.17	2.34	1.75	0.58	0.58	0.58	1.75	3.51
Zone 6	M	33.52	15.34	5.68	0.57	-	10.23	1.14	4.55	5.11	1.70	1.14	0.57	2.84	2.84	2.27	1.7	-	10.8
	F	-	-	23.81	-	-	14.29	-	9.52	9.52	-	-	-	-	4.76	-	-	14.29	23.81
	T	29.95	13.71	7.61	0.51	-	10.66	1.02	5.08	5.58	1.52	1.02	0.51	2.54	3.05	2.03	1.52	1.52	12.18
Total	M	28.17	23.97	11.52	5.60	3.74	3.04	2.88	2.33	2.02	2.10	1.40	1.25	1.25	1.17	1.25	1.09	0.16	7.08
	F	-	1.00	53.00	-	-	3.00	-	5.00	6.00	-	-	1.00	1.00	2.00	-	-	12.00	16.00
	T	26.14	22.31	14.51	5.20	3.47	3.03	2.67	2.53	2.31	1.95	1.30	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.16	1.01	1.01	7.73

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

(5.00 per cent). More than fifty per cent houseless female workers in zones 1, 2, 3 and 4 were found in begging activity, followed by zones 5 and 6 where they happened to be less than fifty per cent but more than in any other kind of works. Thus, begging emerged to be a major means of earning livelihood among houseless females.

On the other hand, houseless male workers were found to be engaged in all sorts of activities, with larger proportion being recorded in the fields of cycle rickshaw pulling (28.17 per cent), construction works (23.97 per cent) and begging (11.52 per cent). Cycle rickshaw pulling emerged as most prevalent activity among male workers in zones like 1, 2, 3 and 6. However, in zones 3 and 5 most of the houseless male workers were employed in the construction works.

Conclusions

Major findings of the study are:

- About 86 per cent of houseless population in Kanpur city is registered in the young and mature working age-groups while a very little fraction is found in the 0 to 14 years of age-group as well as old age-group.
- Out of the total sampled houseless population, only 38.58 per cent was found to be literate.
- Among the literate houseless, more than two-third houseless people have the education only upto the primary level. They are not interested in education because they do not find any marked difference in the lives of literate and illiterate houseless people, as both have to face same kind of problems in their lives on the footpaths.
- Further analysis of the data reveals that the proportion of un-skilled workers has been recorded much greater in

comparison to the skilled workers in the working houseless population.

- The study further reveals that more than ninety per cent houseless workers were daily casual workers because, they have no regularity either in same type of work or in number of continuous working days in any type of work due to acute paucity of employment opportunities for these people. The permanent houseless workers accounted only 6.68 per cent out of the total workers and merely 0.34 per cent houseless workers were observed as seasonal workers.
- Among the various kinds of works it has been found that nearly fifty per cent houseless persons were engaged in cycle rickshaw pulling and construction works. However, 14.51 per cent houseless people were mainly engaged in begging.
- Rag-picking, serving as waiter, street vending and running petty shop are other important engagements among the houseless people.

Suggestions

- The root of the problem of houselessness in cities lies in the rural areas of the country because, more than seventy per cent houseless people come from the rural areas. Therefore, the employment opportunities in rural areas of the country must be developed to check the heavy influx of rural immigrants to the cities by developing small scale household industrial units, agro-based industrial units and agro-ancillary activities like animal husbandry, poultry farms, fisheries, horticulture, floriculture, dairy, piggery, apiculture, silviculture, sericulture, etc. during agricultural slack seasons.

- There should be provision of 'Micro Loans Scheme' at zero rates of interest for the poor marginalised people so that they may take some initiative towards self-employment according to their skill and knowledge.
- Free education, training and skill development programmes should be initiated for them in cities to ensure the regularity of jobs and good wages for these poor people.

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Notes

1. Labour markets are the places like street corners, main road-crossings, broad pavements, etc. where daily casual workers stand and wait for being hired for job work on daily basis.
2. A small structure made of wood used for selling basic goods (consumable goods as tobacco, cigarettes, breads, candy, etc.).
3. Scrap dealers.
4. Artisans.
5. Persons who prepare and sell roasted grains.
6. Bandsmen who play musical instruments as a profession.

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