

Evolution of Slum Huts in Tamluk Town, W.B., India (A Case Study of Iswar Colony)

Subhendu Bikash Maity

*(Part-Time Teacher, Department of Geography, Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya,
Tamluk, Purba Medinipur, India)*

ABSTRACT: *Iswar colony is nearly thirty-five years old slum settlement. Once it was made of mud, polyethylene and straw. But now almost all the houses are made of bricks and cement. All these development have been done by the people, the municipality and through the projects of the Government. Objectives: i) To study working status of working population in Iswar Colony. ii) To study migration from their native place and daily migration. iii) To study decadal change of households of the slum. Methodology: Out of thirty slums only Iswar Colony has been proceeded for the study. Primary data have been collected by schedule survey of households. 30% households of Iswar colony has been randomly selected for the study. Findings: i) 86.05% working population is engaged in informal sector. ii) 8.33 % of families migrated from their native places in last 10 to 20 years. 29.17 % of families migrated in last 20 to 30 years and 62.50 % of families migrated to the slum before 30 years or more. iv) 83.78% of working population serves their potential to Tamluk town. v) At present 50% of the total sample houses are CTC (wall Cemented, roof Tiles and floor Cemented) in nature.*

KEYWORDS: *Decadal Change, Formal Sector, Informal Sector, Migration, Slums, Working population*

I. INTRODUCTION

Tamluk town is an ancient town. The area of the town is 17.86 sq. kilometers. Tamluk Municipality has 20 wards. There are thirty identified slums (identified by Tamluk Municipality) spread over the town. Some of them are in utterly wretched condition. A substantial number of poor people from rural areas migrate to Tamluk town looking for employment, stability and better livelihood. They serve their potential to the town and present themselves as slum dwellers and as persons serving in informal sector. The gathering of huts in slum creates poor quality of living condition. It results in narrow and dirty roads, dimly lighted huts, queue in water-supply tap and a regular quarrel among slum dwellers. Municipality is finding it increasingly difficult to provide and maintain adequate water supply, sanitation, sewage systems, housing, roads, transportation, power supply and other basic amenities for slum dwellers.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mondal (2000) discussed about “Slums and Squatters Upgrading in Third World Countries” in his book ‘Urban Geography a Text Book’ [1]. **Husain** (2002) discussed about decadal increase of slum population in India from 1981 to 2001 in his book ‘Human Geography’ [2]. **Singh** (1994) discussed “Rural Dwellings” in a chapter in his book ‘Geography of Settlement’. He discussed about rural buildings and several types of houses in rural settlement [3].

III. A BRIEF GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF TAMLUK TOWN

‘Tamluk is the district head quarter of Purba Medinipur district. Archeological remains show continuous settlement from about 3rd century BC. It was known as Tamralipti (in Purans and Mahabharata) or Tamralipta (in Mahabharata) or Tamalika (in historical documents) or Tamralitti (in foreigners’ descriptions) or Tamoluk (in British Raj)’[4]. The latitudinal and longitudinal extension of the town is 22°14’30’’N to 22°19’30’’N and 87°54’10’’E to 87°56’45’’E respectively. The altitude is 6.5 meter from MSL.

3.1 General Geography:

Tamluk town is situated on the right bank of Rupnarayan River. But geographically speaking the area is situated in between Rupnarayan and Kasai River. The rock formation of the area is unconsolidated sedimentary rocks. The area enjoys Monsoon climate. The average annual temperature is 26.5°C to 27.0°C and average annual rainfall is 1400 mm to 1600 mm. Young alluvial (Entisols) soil is present all over the study area.

3.2 Human Resources:

As of the 2001 census of India, Tamluk had a population of 45,826. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. The density of population was 2566/sq km. Tamluk had an average literacy rate of

77% higher than the national average of 59.5%. Male literacy was 83%, and Female literacy was 72%. Town had 11% of the population under 6 years of age. But in the case of 2011 census of India, Tamluk has a population of 65,312. Population density is 3657/sq km. Now, male and female constitute 50.97% and 49.03% respectively.

3.3 Slums:

There are thirty slums spread over the town.

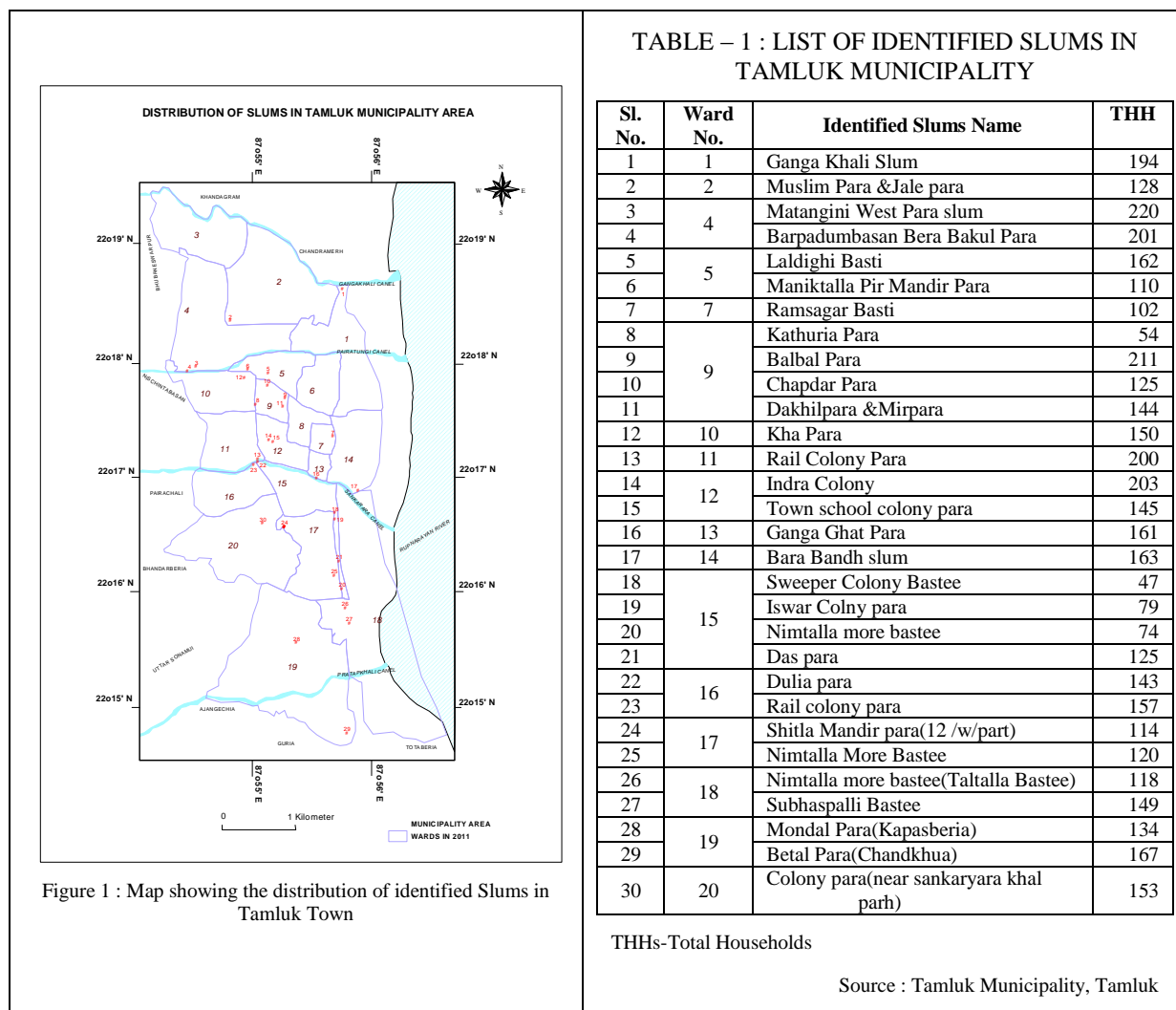


Figure 1 : Map showing the distribution of identified Slums in Tamluk Town

IV. STUDY AREA

Iswar Colony lies between 22°17'25''N and 87°55'45''E latitude and longitude respectively. The area lies at ward no-15 under the Municipality. The area of slum is 7840.77 Sq. Meters. There are 79 households present in the slum. Total population of the slum is 382. The density of the slum population is 48719/Sq km. In the east a branch of Sankarara Canal is present. In the west Nimtala-Mechobazar road is present. Municipality constructed (for town supply mainly) a water project in the west of the slum. In northern part Sweeper colony is situated. In the south a newly built auditorium (used by the town people mainly) is present.

V. OBJECTIVES

- i) To study working status of working population in Iswar Colony.
- ii) To study migration from their native places and daily migration of working population.
- iii) To study decadal change of households of the slum.

VI. METHODOLOGY

The study has been done by the help of both primary and secondary data. Out of thirty identified slums only one slum (Iswar Colony) has been proceeded for the study. Primary data have been collected by schedule survey of households. Out of 79 households 30% (i.e. 24) households of Iswar colony has been randomly selected for the study. Latitudinal and longitudinal location has been recorded by GPS Receiver (Germin HCx). Secondary data has been collected from Tamluk Municipality office. Google Image is also considered for making the map of the town and calculation of area of the slum. District Statistical hand book and Municipal Hand book are also studied.

VII. GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF ISWAR COLONY

This slum settlement is more than thirty five years old. Gradual up gradation of the slum is being carried out by the Government and Municipality through their current projects and planning. Presently, a noticeable quality of livelihood is visible. Until few years ago the huts were made of mud, polyethylene and straw. But, now almost all the houses are made of bricks and cement. Physically the area is quite clean. All these developments have been done by the slum dwellers, the municipality and Government projects. An unmetalled road has been made into cement-plastered road. Once it was dark at night. But now streetlights are present. Every home gets electricity connection. Sanitation is hygienic to an extent.

7.1 Religion, Caste, Family Type:

In the slum, there are two types of Religious communities present. Families belong to Hindu and Muslim are 95.83% and 4.17% respectively. In Iswar colony 75% families belong to General category. SC and ST community constitute 20.83% and 4.17% respectively. It is revealed through the field survey that 37.50% families are joint in nature. Rest 62.50% families are in nuclear format.

7.2 Age-sex Structure:

Age-sex composition comprises an important role in demography. In the surveyed slum male and female percentage is 48.72% and 51.28% respectively.

TABLE – 2 : AGE-SEX STRUCTURE

Age Group	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total
0-4	4	3.42	3	2.56	7
4-16	15	12.82	10	8.55	5
16-35	19	16.24	23	19.66	42
35-60	16	13.68	18	15.38	34
>60	3	2.56	6	5.13	9
Total	57	48.72	60	51.28	117

Source : Field Survey, Dec,2012

7.3 Educational structure:

Out of the total sampled population, 28.21% is illiterate. 49.57 % got the primary education. 17.95% got the Secondary education, 3.42% got Higher secondary and 0.85% completed Graduation.

TABLE– 3 : EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURE

Education Level	No. of Person	Percentage
Illiterate	33	28.21
Primary	58	49.57
Secondary	21	17.95
Higher Secondary	4	3.42
Graduation	1	0.85
Total	117	100.00

Source : Field Survey, Dec,2012

VIII. OCCUPATION AND MIGRATION

Formal Sector of economy gives family security. Because, it is stable and it always endows with increased monthly income. But informal sector has no such security to steady income.

8.1 Occupational Sector:

13.95% of working population is engaged in Formal sector. A major percentage i.e. 86.05% working population is engaged in Informal sector.

8.2 Occupation in Informal sector [5]:

27.03% of working population is engaged in primary sector (agricultural labour). 8.11% of working population is engaged in secondary sector (industrial labour). A major part (64.86%) of occupation in informal sector worked in tertiary sector of economy. They are serving their services as Rickshaw puller, Daily Shop Worker, Truck unloader, Truck Driver or helper, House maid etc.

TABLE – 4 : OCCUPATION IN INFORMAL SECTOR

Occupation	No. of Person engaged	Percentage
Primary	10	27.03
Secondary	3	8.11
Tertiary	24	64.86
Total	37	100.00

Source : Field Survey, Dec,2012

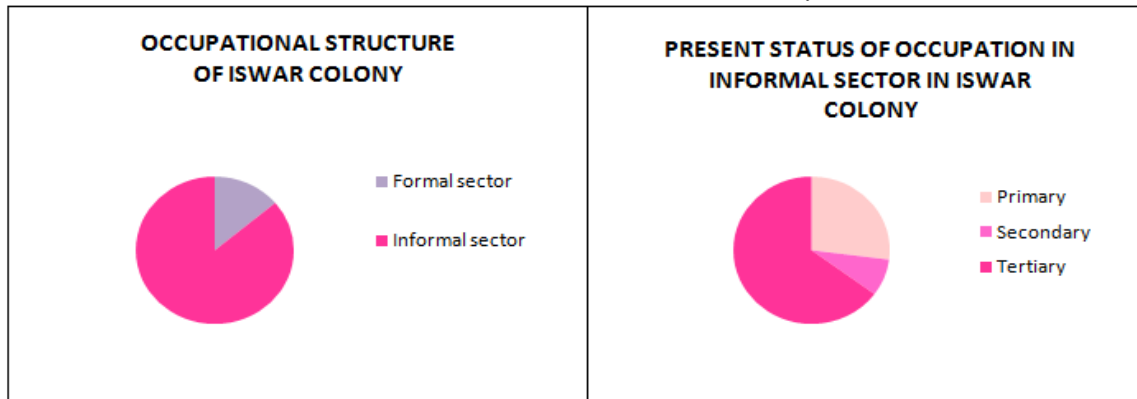


Figure 2 : Occupational Structure in Iswar Colony

8.3 Migrated from Native place:

25.00 % of families migrated from their native places in last 10 to 20 years. 41.67 % of families migrated to the slum in last 20 to 30 years. Rest 33.33 % of families migrated to the slum more than 30 years before.

TABLE– 5 : MIGRATED YEAR BEFORE

Year Before	No. of families	Percentage
<10	0	0.00
10-20	2	8.33
20-30	7	29.17
>30	15	62.50
Total	24	100.00

Source : Field Survey, Dec,2012

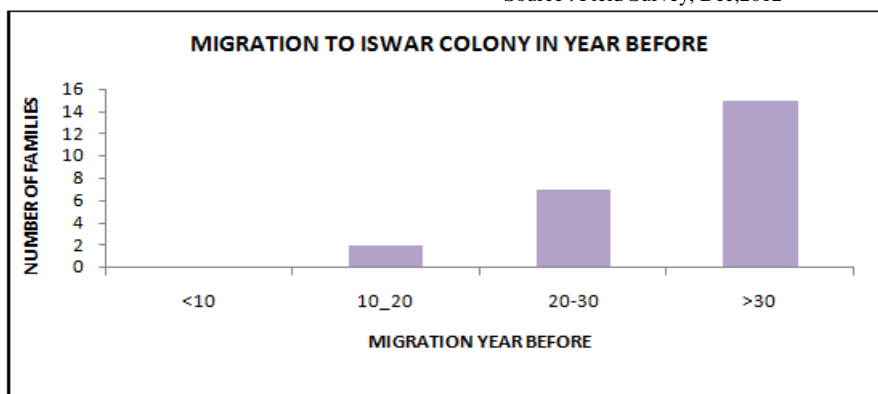


Figure 3 : Migration to Iswar Colony in Year before

8.4 Migrated from distance:

8.33% of families migrated from out of West Bengal. Major migration (91.67%) happened within 40 kilometers distance. 29.18% of families migrated from within ten kilometers. 20.83% of families migrated from 10 to 20 kilometers. 20 to 30 kilometers and more than 30 kilometers migration happened to 20.83% and 20.83% of families respectively.

TABLE-6 : MIGRATED FROM DISTANCE

Distance in Km.	No. of families	Percentage
<10	7	29.18
10-20	5	20.83
20-30	5	20.83
30-40	5	20.83
Out of W.B.	2	8.33
Total	24	100.00

Source : Field Survey, Dec,2012

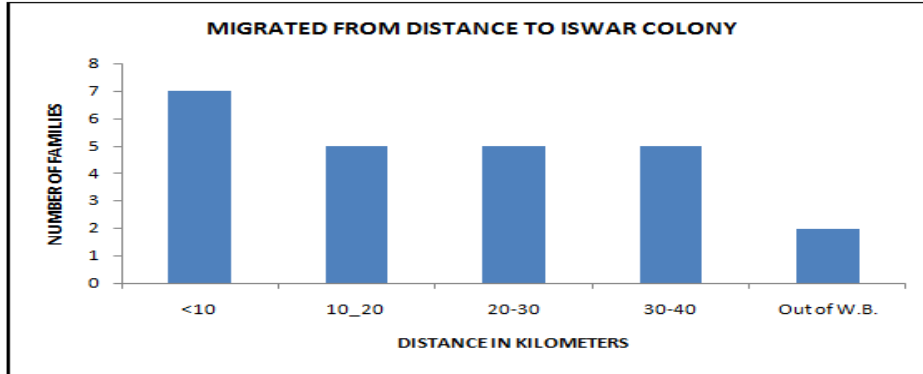


Figure 4 : Migrated from Distance to Iswar Colony

8.5 Daily Migration for work:

83.78% of workers serve their potential to Tamluk town. And 16.22% of working population serves their working potentiality to out of Tamluk town.

8.6 Migration for work (in Tamluk town):

Only 12.90% of population serves their potentiality within ½ Kilometer only. 41.94% working population migrates only ½ to 1Kilometer for their earnings. 29.03% of working population has to migrate 1 to 1.5 Kilometer for their work. 2 to 2.5 Kilometer daily migration happens to 9.67% of working population and 3.23 % of population has to move daily 2.5 to 3 Kilometers for their earnings.

TABLE NO. – 7 : MIGRATION FOR WORK(IN TAMLUK TOWN)

Distance in Km.	No. of persons	Percentage
<0.5	4	12.90
0.5-1.0	13	41.94
1.0-1.5	9	29.03
1.5-2.0	1	3.23
2.0-2.5	3	9.67
2.5-3.0	1	3.23
Total	31	100.00

Source : Field Survey, Dec,2012

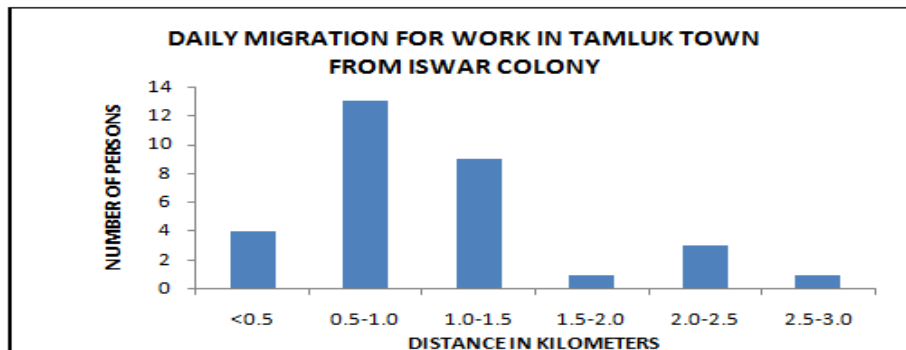


Figure 5 : Daily migration for work in the Town

8.7 Migration for work (out of Tamluk town):

A small number of working population has to go out of Tamluk town daily. 50% of the working population serves their service within 3 to 30 km from Tamluk town. 16.67% working population serves potentiality within 60 to90 km radius of the town. And 33.33% serves within 90 to 120 km.

TABLE NO. – 8 : MIGRATION FOR WORK (OUT OF TAMLUK TOWN)

Distance in Km.	No. of persons	Percentage
<30	3	50.00
30-60	-	-.--
60-90	1	16.67
90-120	2	33.33
Total	6	100.00

Source : Field Survey, Dec,2012

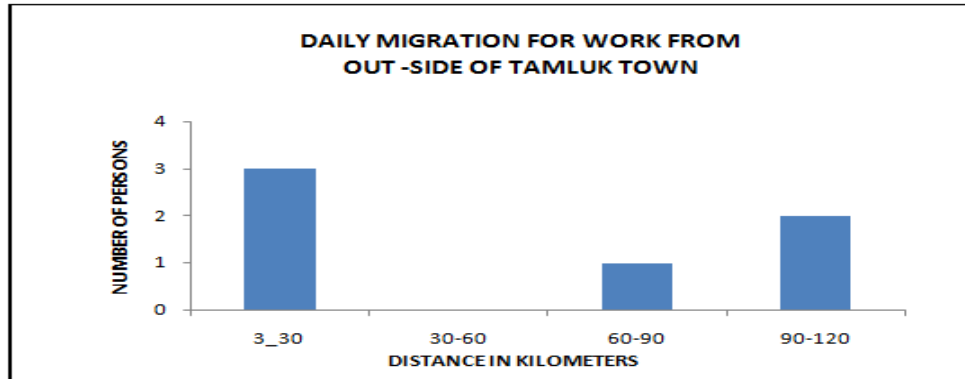


Figure 6 : Daily migration for work out-side the town

IX. EVOLUTION OF HOUSES

Every slum formed with polyethylene, straw, mud and bamboo. This slum is also no exception from this impression.

9.1 Decadal Change of Housing condition of the Slum:

The following table takes as three letter indexed table. First letter is taken for wall, second for roof and third for floor. At present 50% of the total sample houses are CTC in nature. 29.17% houses are CTM. MTM and MSM are 12.50% and 8.33% respectively. But in the case of 1980 CTC and CTM are absent. MTC, MTM are 33.33% and 26.67%. MSM, MPM, BPM, BSM are also present. CTC making is the present tendency of slum dwellers. Decadal data of CTM reflects that it is also acceptable by the slum dwellers. MTC and MTM types are not popular to them. MSM, MPM, BPM, BSM types are already rejected by them.

TABLE NO. – 9 : DECADEAL CHANGE OF HOUSING CONDITION OF THE SLUM

Time	CTC		CTM		MTC		MTM		Total
	No. of House	%	No. of House	%	No. of House	%	No. of House	%	
At Present	12	50.00	7	29.17	3	12.50	2	8.33	24
In 2000			6	25.00	4	16.67	6	25.00	
In 1990			1	4.55	7	31.82	8	36.36	
In 1980					5	33.33	4	26.67	
Time	MSM		MPM		BPM		BSM		Total
	No. of House	%	No. of House	%	No. of House	%	No. of House	%	
At Present									24
In 2000	5	20.83	3	12.50					24
In 1990	4	18.18	2	9.09					22
In 1980	2	13.33	1	6.67	2	3.33	1	6.67	15

Source : Field Survey, Dec,2012

INDEX			
House Type	Wall	Roof	Floor
CTC	Cemented	Tiles	Cemented
CTM	Cemented	Tiles	Mud
MTC	Mud	Tiles	Cemented
MTM	Mud	Tiles	Mud
MSM	Mud	Straw	Mud
MPM	Mud	Polyethylene	Mud
BPM	Bamboo	Polyethylene	Mud
BSM	Bamboo	Straw	Mud

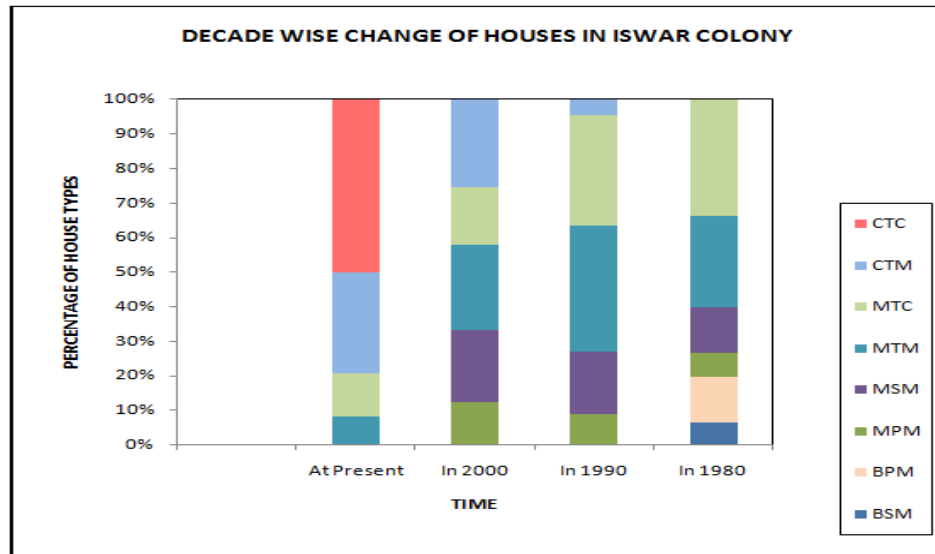


Figure 7 : Evolution of Slum huts in Iswar Colony



Photo 1 : CTC type of Houses



Photo 2 : MTM type House



Photo 3 : Narrow Road and Dark huts

X. CONCLUSION

10.1 Findings:

- i) 13.95% of working population is engaged in Formal sector. A major percentage i.e. 86.05% working population is engaged in informal sector.
- ii) 8.33% of families migrated from their native place in 10 to 20 years before. 29.17% of families migrated in 20 to 30 years before. Remaining 62.50% of families migrated to the slum more than 30 years before.
- iii) 83.78% of worker serves their potential to Tamluk town.
- iv) At present 50% of the total sample houses are CTC in nature.

10.2 Suggestions:

- i) Creation of slum is very basic feature of migrated population. Special attention from the municipality is sought for.
- ii) Government has to pay attention to informal sector of economy especially for slum dwellers.
- iii) Flow of migration towards town must be taken care of by the concerned authority. The government should pay attention to restrict the spread of slum.

The slum dwellers' making their permanent settlement on the Government land is a problem for future construction by the Government. As Multistoried buildings are on the rise in the town, the advancing single-storied slum settlements are making black bodies on the map of Tamluk Town.

XI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my thanks to Urban Planner (Surja Babu), Tamluk Municipality for supply me several maps and Demographic data about the slums.

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