

A Report on Destitute Families of Urban Slums of Surat

Context & Background:

Surat is known as the textile capital of India as well as the diamond city. The city provides countless opportunities to work in various occupational places/spaces. The temptations of job opportunities attract people from the various sections of the society and they land up settling down in slums. One can come across two types of people in Surat city, one which have and another which have nots.

Surat has more than 300 slum pockets. People from different states of India as well as from within Gujarat are reaching Surat in search of employment avenues. Surat slums have a diverse population. The slum communities are multilingual, multicultural, and multi-religious.

Surat slums have the big force of young population upon whom the single/ elderly people or elderly couple depend on them. Often dependency of the old folk on young folk places the old in awkward positions due to their illiteracy. Also, when young tend to neglect the old

they are put off to speak about their needs. The organization came across their critical situation and the basic need such as lack of enough clothing, food, and healthcare. The organization decided to intervene in their lives.



Need of Survey

NXCHD works in the 30 slums of Surat. NXCHD has been doing the relief in these slums since the out break of COVID-19 Pandemic. During the fieldwork the team of NXCHD observed, due to lock-downs, many families were struggling to manage their livelihood. It disturbs the minds and hearts of the NXCHD staff. From this restlessness, the idea of a survey of needy families evolved.

The team had several meetings to define the meaning of “Needy Family.” Unanimously the team concluded the following meaning of ‘needy families’:

Definition 1: “Any person or couples who are elderly and dependent or begging/ doing whatever work she/he gets/ sweeping roads or domestic work.”

Definition 2: “Any person or family whose members are suffering from chronical / terminal disease or multiple diseases where the major part of a family income is expended on medicines of such a member.”

Objectives:

The objectives of the survey:

- ♦ To understand the Health/ Economic status of a family.
- ♦ To understand the primary needs of a family
- ♦ To identify various categories of people in dire need in the slums of Surat City.

Strategies

- ♦ Training of the staff to conduct the survey.
- ♦ Entrusting roles/responsibilities to conduct the survey.
- ♦ Division of related tasks among the staff/community leaders.

Methodology:

- ♦ Deciding the universe for the survey (35 slum pockets of NXCHD)
- ♦ Designing a participatory survey questionnaire.
- ♦ Explaining the questionnaire in detail.
- ♦ Designing the Google Form (online)/sharing the link to staff.
- ♦ Accomplishing the survey process online.

The survey of Needy Family in all 30 working areas was completed within 7 days. NXCHD team visited every house to fill up the google form information as per the questionnaire. The detailed information of the total 283 respondents has been recorded.

The data analysis took 5 days. The data/ finding of the survey is as follows:



Findings of the Study:

1. Number of Slums:

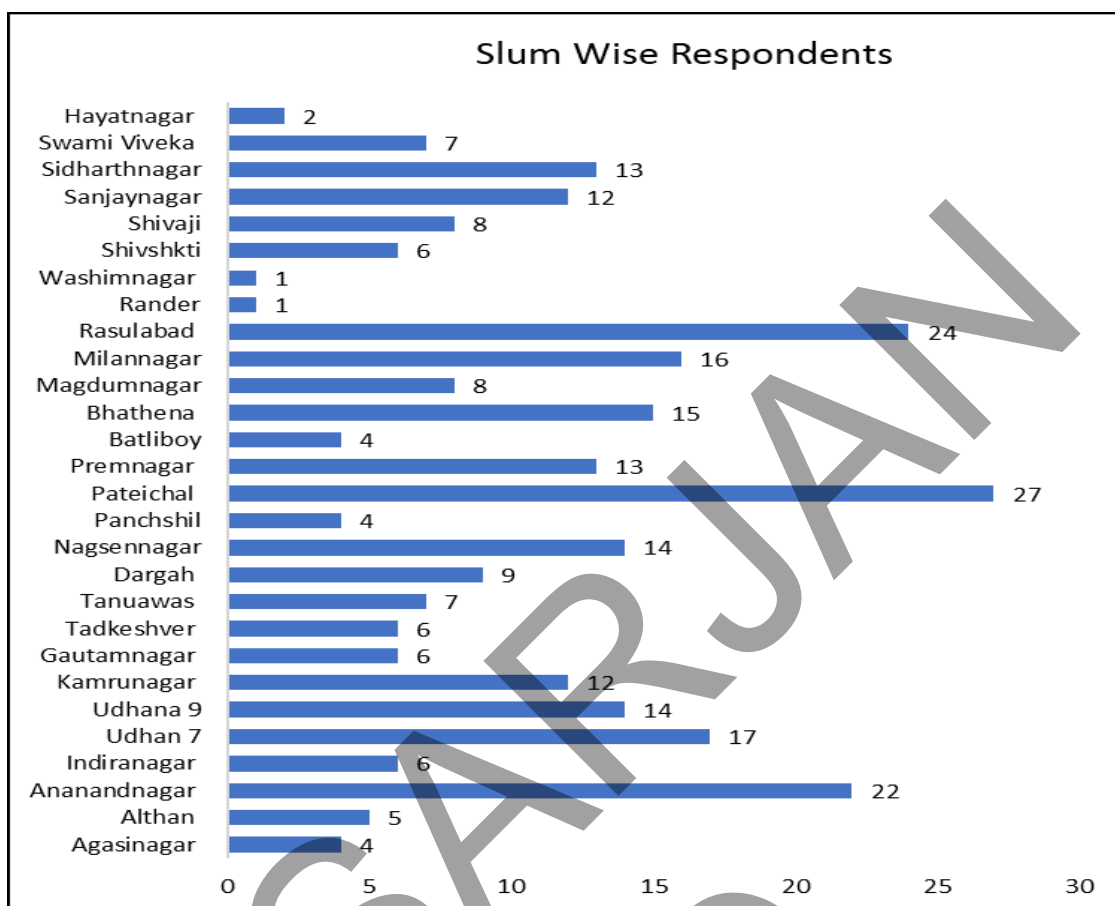


Figure 1: Area covered under study:

Figure 1: represents the details of the area of the respondents undertaken for the study. The study comprises 35 slums/working areas of NXCHD in Surat city. out of 30 slums 28 slums have destitute families. The table represents the details of 283 respondents interviewed during the survey. Big numbers of needy families are found at *Partichawl*, *Rasulabad*, and *Anandnagar* while a few families are found in *Washimnagar* & *Rander*.

2. Age of the Respondent:

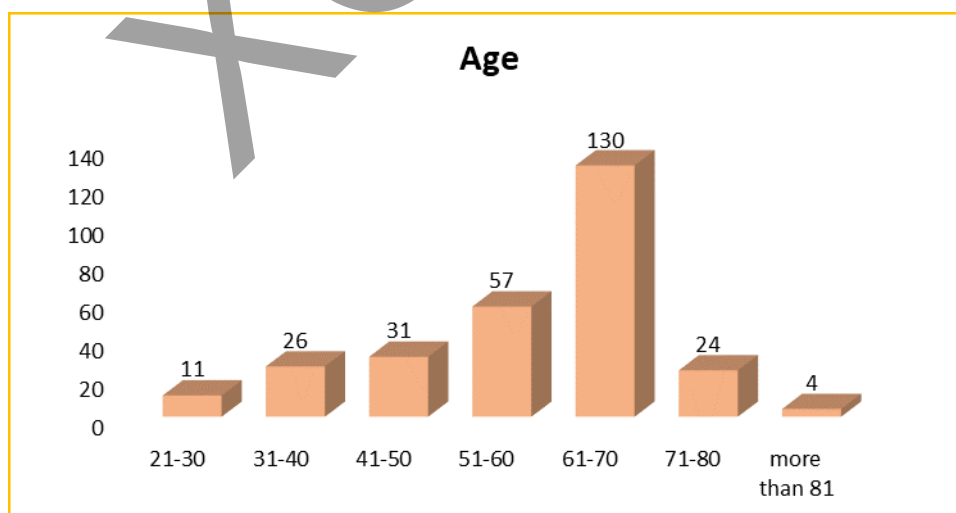


Figure 2: Area covered understudy

Figure 2: represents the details of the age of the respondents. It reveals that the highest number of Needy families are between the age of 61 to 70 years. From 51 to 70 age, it covers 66% of the total respondents. Elderly persons in these areas were much in this unsafe situation of COVID.19.

3. Categories of the family:

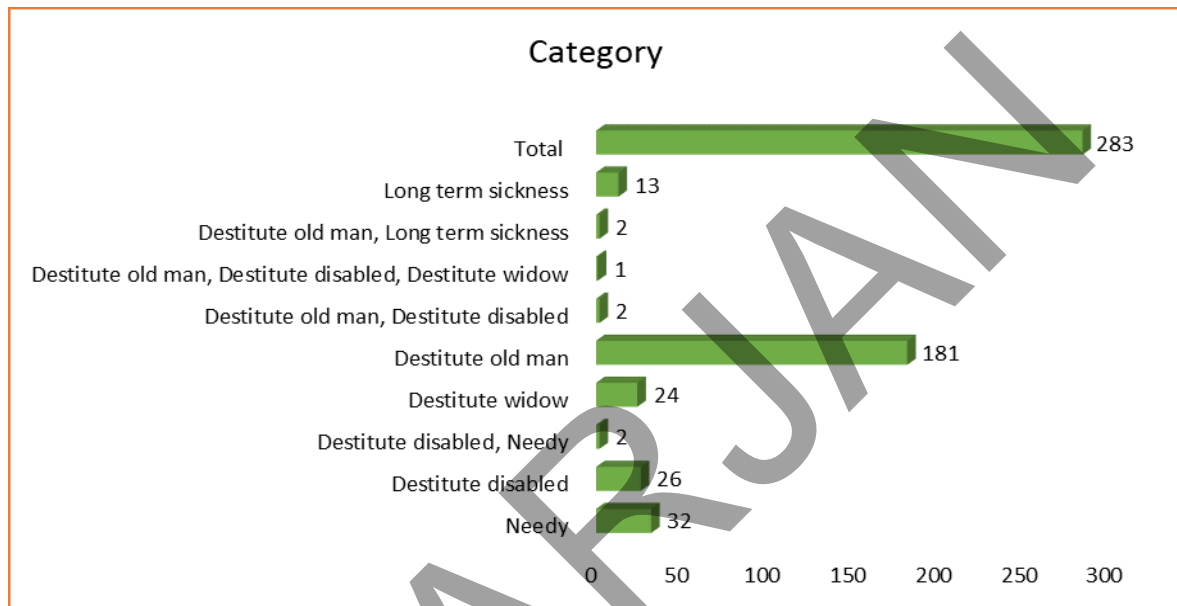


Figure 3: Categories of Respondents

Figure 3: represents the details of categories of the respondents: 181 responded out of 283, 64 % of respondents are destitute/old people. As destitution and old age catch the person, physical ailments and disability gradually take control over them and they suffer from multiple difficulties and disadvantages. They are unable to work. Their mobility is restricted. The source of income becomes low or nil. Most of the time they have to depend upon others. The main problem of senior is the neglect of indifference by the young. Others also ignore their care and concern. It becomes a major problem of their human dignity as senior citizen.

4. Family Income:

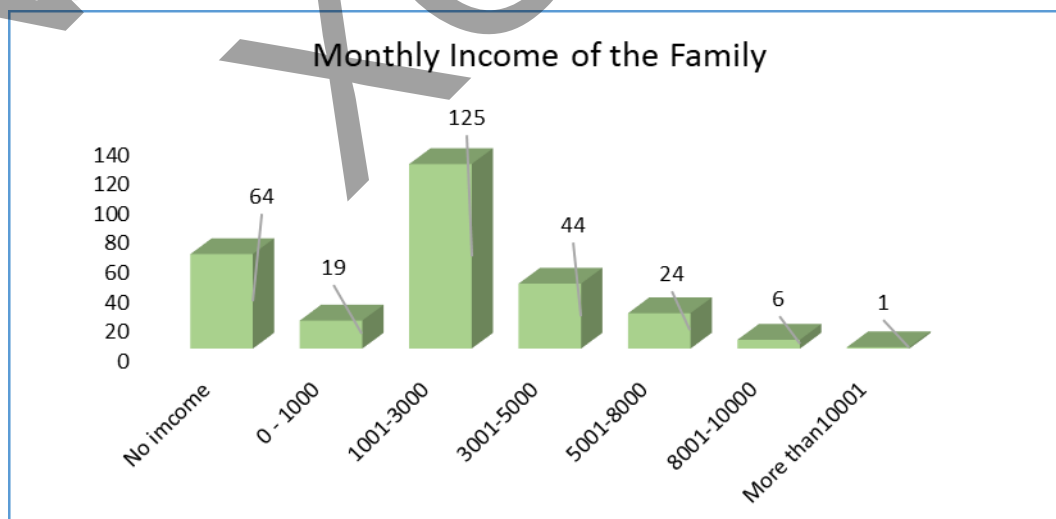


Figure 4: Monthly Income of Respondents Family

Figure 4: represents the details of the family income of the respondents. One hundred twenty-four (124) out of 283 respondents, i.e. 44 % respondent families earned between Rs.1001 to 3000 and 22 % families without any income. Due to the minimum income of the family, their priority becomes to earn the maximum for the family on food safety.

5. Comparison of Respondents' Age & income of Family

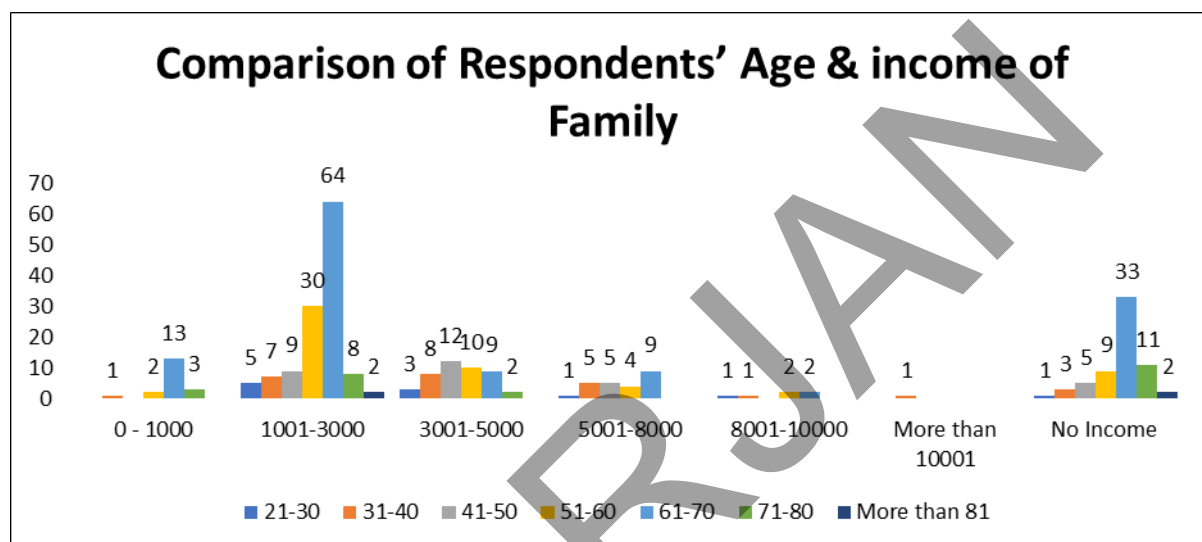


Figure 5: Comparison of Respondents Age & income of Family

Income In INR	Age							Grand Total
	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	More than 81	
0 - 1000	1	2	13	3	0	0	0	19
1001-3000	5	7	9	29	64	8	2	125
3001-5000	3	8	12	10	9	2	0	44
5001-8000	1	5	5	4	9	0	0	24
8001-10000	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	6
More than 10001	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
No Income	1	3	5	9	33	11	2	64
Total	11	26	31	56	130	24	4	283

Figure 5: represents the details of a comparison of respondents' age & income of the Family. This comparison gives a clear picture i.e. 64 respondents between the age group of 61 to 70 had income between Rs.1001-3000 per month, while 33 respondents between the age group of 61 to 70 had no monthly income. In this survey, one can conclude that when people are getting older, they get lesser income due to inability to work or unable to find work or a long-term illness confined them to a dwelling place. Hence, they have to depend on others for their sustenance.

6. Type of Disease:

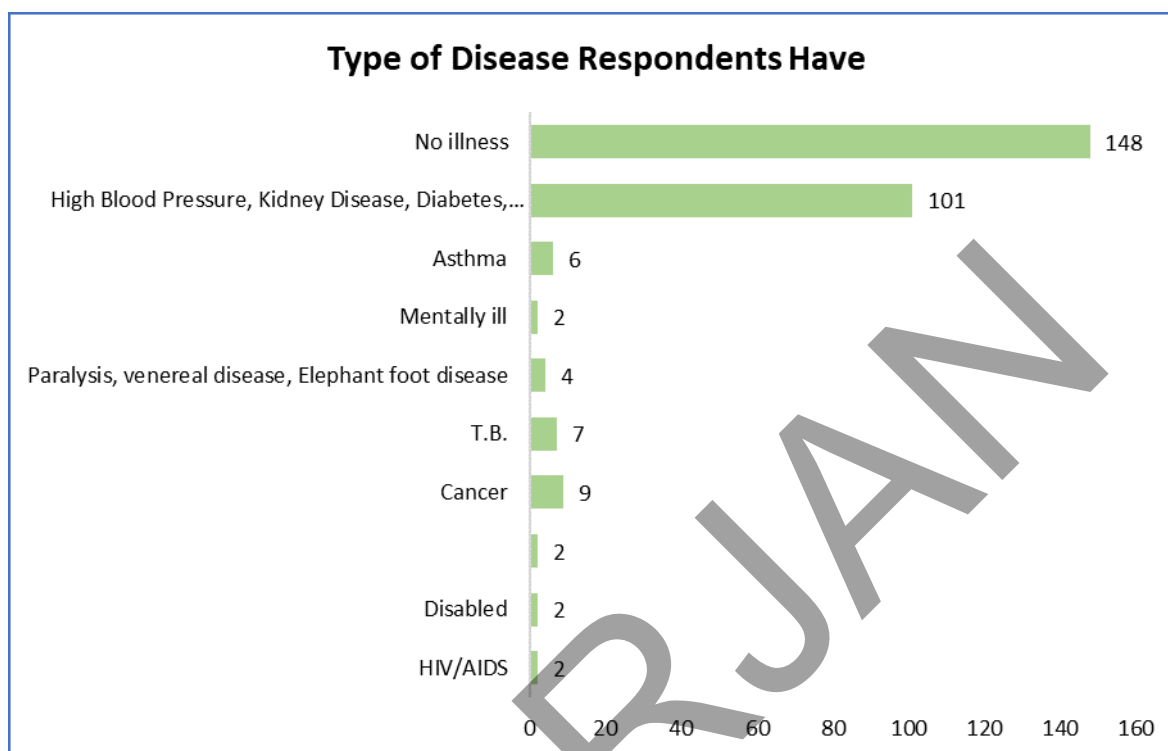


Figure 6: Type of Disease Respondents Have:

Figure 6: represents the details of various diseases of the respondents or its family. In the analysis of health and diseases, 101 respondents out of 283 i.e. 36 % had diseases related to heart, kidney, 9 respondents have cancer. Only 148 respondents i.e. 53 % indicated good health or no chronic disease.

7. Years of Illness of Respondents:

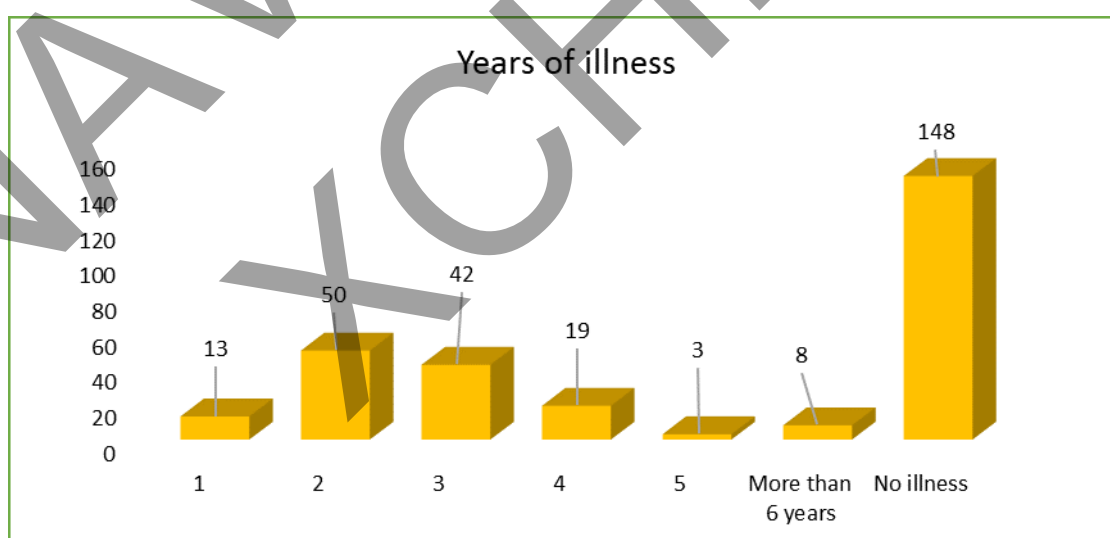


Figure 7 Years of Illness of Respondents

Figure 7: represents the details of years of Illness of Respondents. 148 respondents i.e. 53 % had good health and had no chronic disease. 92 respondents had a disease for 2-3 years i.e. they must have been in the first stage or initial stage of the disease. If they had received proper treatment or guidance from doctors, they might have recovered from these diseases.

8. Members:

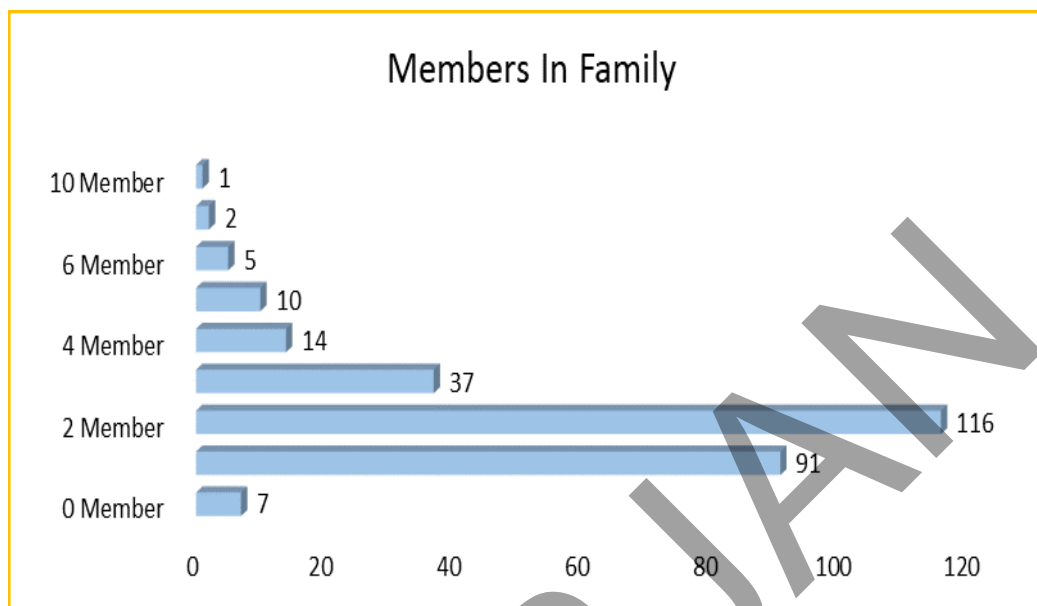


Figure 8: Numbers of Members in Family

Figure 8: represents the details of members of the family of respondent family. Seven(7) respondents are alone. Two hundred & seven (207) respondents i.e. 73% had 1 or 2 members in their family.

9. Earner's Details:

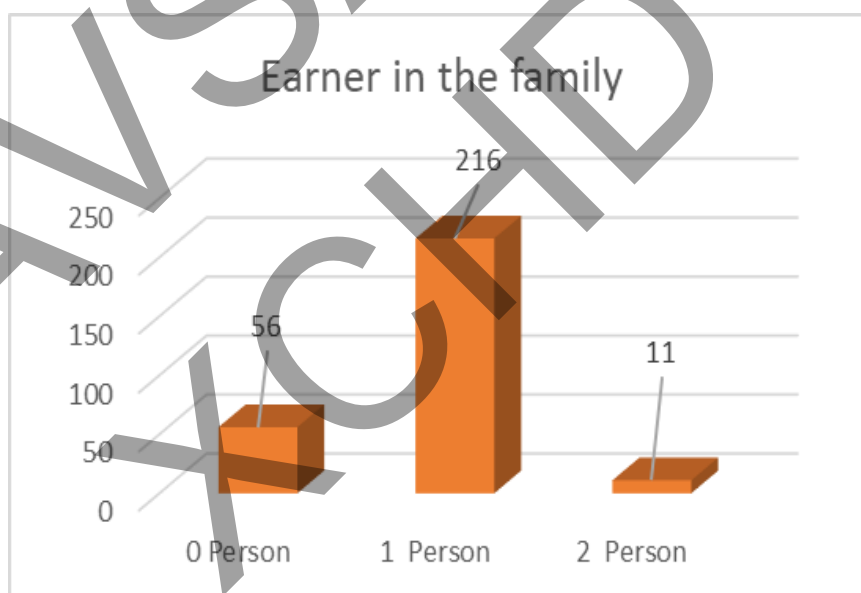


Figure 9: Numbers of Earner in Family:

Figure 9: represents the details of earning members in the respondent's family. Fifty-six (56) out of 283 respondents had no earning member in the family, 216 respondents had only one earning member in their family i.e. the entire family is dependent on one person.

10.Sources of Income in Family:

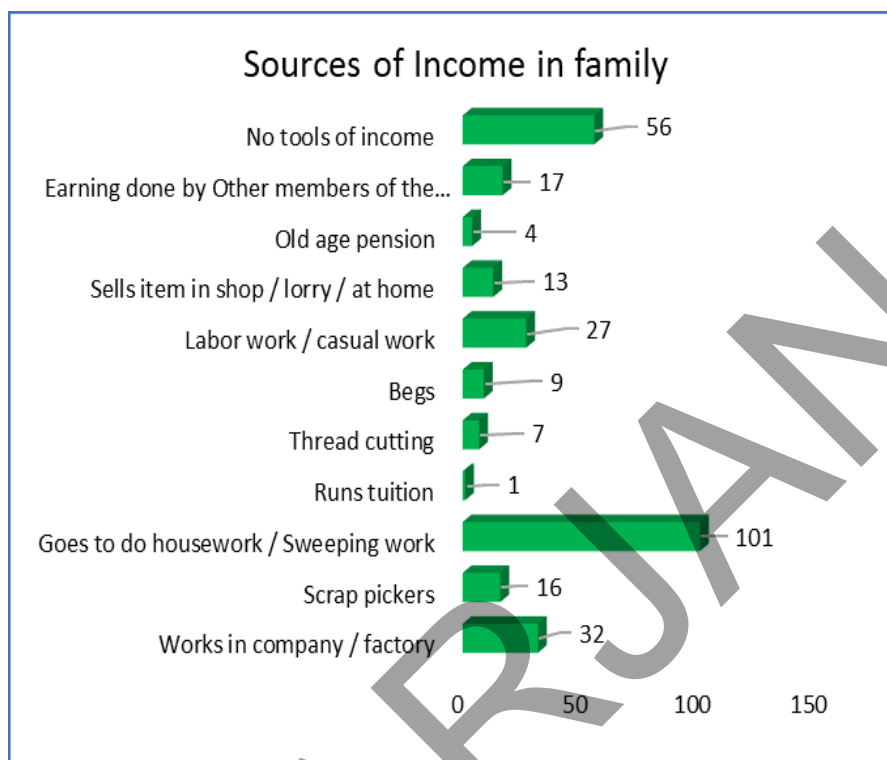


Figure 10: Sources of Income in Family

Figure 10: represents the details of sources of income in the family of respondents. A hundred & one (101) out of 283 respondents go for domestic work or sweeping. Thirty-two (32) work in the industry, 27 work as daily wages labourers wherever they get work.

11.Correlation of different variables:

The correlation of different variables is done to understand the influence of one of the variables affecting the other. It also gives clarity to understand and plan interventions among the respondents or their communities.

11.1: Family monthly income Vs Respondents Age

Income In INR	Age							Total
	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	More than 81	
No income	1	3	5	9	33	11	2	64
0 – 1000.00		1		2	13	3		19
1001-3000.00	5	7	9	30	64	8	2	125
3001-5000.00	3	8	12	10	9	2		44
5001-8000.00	1	5	5	4	9			24
8001-10000.00	1	1		2	2			6
More than 10001		1						1
Total	11	26	31	57	130	24	4	283

Table 11.1: presents the income of the family and the age of respondents. It gives a pictures of 64 respondents between the age group of 61 to 70 had income between Rs.1001-3000 per month. Thirty-three (33) respondents between the age group of 61 to 70 had no monthly income. Further, the table indicates that, as people are getting older, they are getting lower income due to their inability to work or cannot find work, or they have contracted some long-term illness. As a result, they are dependent on others.

11.2 Income v/s Number of family members



Income In INR	No. of Families	Members								
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10
No income	64	6	46	8	4					
0 - 1000	19		9	8			2			
1001-3000	125	1	30	76	12	4	2			
3001-5000	44		5	19	12	6	2			
5001-8000	24		1	5	8	3	3	2	2	
8001-10000	6				1	1	1	3		
More than 10001	1									1

Table 11.2: presents the income of the family and the number of family members who are dependent. The table clearly states the condition of the financial status of the family and their struggles in maintaining its basic needs. Most of the families belong to low-income groups. Earn less & sustain their family, so they are dependent on others.

11.3 Members in Family Vs earning members in Family.

Earning mem- bers in Family	Members								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10
0	6	42	5	3					
1	1	49	107	31	14	9	3	2	
2			4	3		1	2		1
Total	7	91	116	37	14	10	5	2	1

Table 11.3: presents the earning members in the family and the number of family members who dependent. The table clearly states that 216 families have only one earning member. One earning member finds it hard to Support a family of 3 members.

12. Possible Interventions:

The survey was conducted to know the numbers of needy families in 30 slums of Surat City. It is our priority to find out their living condition, economical and health status. Based on our experience below are the possible intervention Navsarjan can initiate with these families.

- ♦ The need of assisting them to enrol their names in various central/state government schemes is vessential. Schemes such as an old-age pension, and widows' pension where the organization can help them access their rights.
- ♦ Need of assisting them to enrol them under "Maa Card" to get access health benefit as their right.
- ♦ Need of providing immediate ration relief to save them from hunger/starvation caused by the earning family members or loss of loved one by COVID-19 pandemic.

13 Conclusion:

The survey reveals the need for availing quality of life to the Needy, destitute disabled, destitute widows, destitute elderly persons, and persons with chronic illness in 35 slums of Surat City. The findings of the income of the family are also alarming. Besides, it reveals the enormous issues and problems the respondents are facing today at various levels. The survey strongly suggests that a wide range of possibilities are existing in the working areas for the organization to intervene in the lives of the marginalized. The consistent efforts and accompaniment through the work towards the quality of life of the poor will bring social change from grass roots to upward.





“Unity in Diversity”
“વસુધૈવ કુટુંબકમ”