

Section 5

Urban Poor and Housing Situation

5.1 HOUSING

Urban Development and Housing Department, is the nodal agency for providing individual urban housing in the State. The present trend is that the Department allots housing sites on lease to individuals who are essentially from Sikkim, or to people who are domicile holders of Sikkim. Apart from allotting housing sites the UDHD also provides social housing for the urban poor. In Gangtok social housing of 24 units (1st Phase) was recently constructed at Lingding. 40 more units have been proposed in the 2nd phase. The units have not been allotted to any individual yet & the process for allotment of these units is underway by the Department.

Sikkim Housing & Development Board has provided for urban housing for all income groups in the past but the Board is now defunct. On 26th November 2002, the Cabinet of Government of Sikkim decided to wind up the Sikkim Housing & Development Board in a phased manner. The activities of Sikkim Housing & Development Board enlist dispersing cash loans to individual house building and recovering the loans and advances from the earlier years. The difficult terrain and inaccessibility are some of the causes that have led to individual housing rather than collective housing.

According to census 2001, number of households in Gangtok Notified Town Area (NTA) is 6202.



5.1.1 The Urban Housing Delivery System

The various ways urban housing is delivered in Gangtok is listed in the given table.

Housing Type	Suppliers
Employee Housing	<p><u>A Government of Sikkim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sikkim PWD (Buildings and Housing Department) ▪ Agriculture Department ▪ SNT ▪ Police Department ▪ Education Department ▪ Forest Department ▪ Power and Energy Department <p><u>B Government of India</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All India Radio ▪ Central Public works Department ▪ Sikkim Meteorological Board ▪ ICAR
Ready HIG, LIG, MIG Housing Apartments	State Housing Development Board (Defunct organization)
Social Housing	UD&HD
General Housing for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Owner Builder's Pvt. use ▪ Commercial use ▪ Rental use 	Private Individual

Table 5.1: Statement of Housing Flats constructed /disposed off by Sikkim Housing & Dev. Board during 1980 - 2001

Sl No.	Year of Construction	No. of Bridges./Flats/Shops under SHDB				Amount spent (Rs. In lakhs)	Disposal of Buildings				Amount realised from the disposal of bldgs. (Rs. In lakh)
		LIG	MIG	HIG	SHOP		LIG	MIG	HIG	SHOP	
1	1980-81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1981-82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1983-84	84	128	-	22	81.09	35	124	-	5	-
4	1984-85	-	17	-	6	14.76	-	8	-	-	0.02
5	1985-86	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.67
6	1986-87	-	24	-	-	18.60	-	24	-	-	3.15
7	1987-88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31.82
8	1988-89	-	8	-	-	8.15	-	8	-	-	39.6
9	1989-90	6	27	3	-	52.60	6	27	-	-	28.56
10	1990-91	-	12	13	9	87.55	-	12	13	-	12.53
11	1991-92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.9
12	1992-93	28	20	-	-	105.69	28	20	-	-	15.65
13	1993-94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27.62
14	1994-95	-	18	-	-	52.67	-	16	-	-	23.99
15	1995-96	54	12	-	-	126.69	54	12	-	3	132.26
16	1996-97	36	6	10	28	195.15	18	6	-	-	70.98
17	1997-98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44.45
18	1998-99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97.35
19	1999-2000	6	6	-	-	38.97	6	6	-	-	70.62
20	2000-2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.99
	Total:	214	278	26	65	781.92	147	263	13	8	671.16

Source: Building and Housing Department, Govt. of Sikkim.

5.1.2 Housing Demand

It is a known fact that most people who do not own land in Gangtok, apply to the UDHD for housing sites, which enables them to construct buildings and rent out the premises while retaining a floor for their own accommodation. With a high growth rate of the MIG and HIG in Gangtok, not restricted to the Government sector alone, pressure on the UDHD for allotment of housing sites is mounting. Experience has shown that this practice has led to encroachment of and overcrowding on Government land and caused heavy burden on the infrastructure.

The UDHD has provided social housing in several urban areas as shown under, but the numbers are negligible and some of their locations unsuitable for the urban poor. Under the housing programme for the EWS, housing units have been built for BPL families. Post

2001, the following are the numbers and locations where housing has been provided for the urban poor all over Sikkim.

Location	No. of units
Rongli	8 units
Chandey	4 units
Sisney	6 units
Tashiding	4 units
Lingding	24 units 1st phase
	40 units 2 nd Phase

On analysis of the trends and demands in the housing sector, it is inferred that the demand for housing in the urban areas is highest from the Middle and Lower income groups. Most land in Sikkim is privately owned and this intensifies the pressure on the Government to provide housing and suitable sites to people, especially to the marginalized section. Moreover with soaring land prices in urban areas, the MIG and LIG are finding it increasingly difficult to avail of permanent housing. This has led to a high demand for rental housing in the urban areas, which in many parts of the city is as high as 79%. In a recent study in Gangtok (2004-05), as many as thirty two families live in a five storied building in one roomed apartments in localities like Arithang and Tathangchen. Access to basic amenities like water supply and sanitation is a great challenge for them, especially in rental housing, as the landlords' best interest is definitely not in the tenant's quality of living. In such situations it is the women and children who suffer the most. Defecation in the open is to the tune of 4% in these areas where the population is around 10,000 - 12,000 people.

5.2 SLUMS AND URBAN POVERTY - IMPACTS OF URBANIZATION & THE EMERGENCE OF URBAN POOR

Urbanization is a rapid phenomenon, and along with the increase in urban population, there has been an upsurge in the absolute numbers of the urban poor, as is the trend, engaged in informal services. This has also led to the formation of squatter settlements and there is a steady emergence of urban slums where people have little or no access to basic amenities such as water and sanitation facilities.

Gangtok's BPL households are vulnerable from economic, social and physical standpoints. Most of the poor depend upon work as unskilled or semi-skilled hired for labour on daily wages, or small business such as fish or egg vending. The poor are less literate than the general population, and more vulnerable to suffer from communicable diseases.

The slums in Sikkim differ from the slums in the plain areas due to topographical conditions. The definition of urban poverty requires to be studied in the light of the following indicators that may be altered to suit local conditions.

- Housing condition: area of house, household size, type of structure, condition of house type, and neighborhood features such as location and physical environment;

- Access to basic amenities like water supply, toilets, drainage facilities;
- Health situation: Incidence of diseases, type of diseases, general level of consciousness and food habits;
- Education: Level of basic education;
- Income: Average household income, family head, type of employment;
- Expenditure habits;
- Social Status: SC, ST, OBC etc.

5.2.1 State Initiatives For Urban Poverty Reduction

In the absence of an urban local body, the implementation of the poverty alleviation schemes of the central and state governments is done through the UDHD. Slum up gradation also falls within the purview of the UDHD. The UEPA cell deals with SJSRY and NSDP, the only two programmes being availed of by the state. Neighbourhood Committees (NHCs) are formed as per the SJSRY programme which was launched in Gangtok in 1999.

At present several registered self help groups have been formed in the notified slums. The primary roles of these groups include:

- Identification of beneficiaries
- Identification of issues and priorities of people
- Project preparation and forwarding the same to the UDHD
- Monitoring of projects

5.2.2 Estimate of Slum Population

About 8% of Gangtok's population live in the nine notified slums and squatter settlements, all on Government land. Yet more live in areas that depict slum like characteristics but have not been notified as slums yet because they have developed on private land. Pani house, Gairigaon, area adjacent to ICAR and above Manipal Hospital, area below Tadong School are some areas that have not been notified as slums, yet exhibit slum like characteristic. The slums are located mostly on low lying land, lack infrastructure and have traces of landslips etc. Although some of them have been provided with community taps and footpaths, most houses depend on spring sources for their water needs.

Table 5.2: Population of Notified slums

Sl No.	Slum	Population (persons)
1	Old Slaughter House (Arithang Area)	723
2	Diesel Power House(DPH) + Bhanugram (Arithang Area)	1339
3	Munshi Colony (Development Area)	916
4	Area Between Kazi Road and Tibet Road	149
5	Namnang (Adjacent to Lal Bazar, Gurung Gaon)	355
6	Tathangchen	791
7	Chandmari, Below Ganesh Tok	1031
8	Burtuk	1334
9	Ranipul (3 pockets)	1355
	Total	7993

Source: Urban Development and Housing Dept., Govt. of Sikkim

Most of the residents in slums depend upon either dry pit latrines, or bucket flush toilets with the effluents getting discharged directly into the jhoras. Many have not registered as BPL households as they lacked knowledge of poverty alleviation programmes.

An estimated 49% of the population of Greater Gangtok Planning Area (GGPA) is from the city itself, but generally the population Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Marginally Poor (MP) come from outside Gangtok. According to the census data on migration, a very high level of in-migration (upto 35%) was recorded between 1971-81.

According to the Planning Commission estimates, based on the Expert Group Recommendations, the percentage of people below the poverty line in Sikkim has continued to be lower than the national average except in the year 1993-94. Though, Sikkim recorded a decline in the incidence of poverty in the decade 1977-87, it suddenly increased from 36 per cent in 1987-88 to 41.43 percent in 1993-94. While the decrease in urban poverty has been constant, rural poverty decreases have alternated with increases. In 1993-94, 45.01% of rural population was below the poverty line, while in urban areas only 7.73% of the population was below the poverty line. This is the result of the push factors due to weakening of rural economy and pull factors from the urban areas due to economic opportunities.

The overall trend in poverty HCR for Sikkim, which stagnates and even records a small increase between 1987-88 and 1993-94 does not seem to indicate any significant impact of government programmers to reduce income poverty levels. Urban poverty results in creation of slums and population taking shelter in less facilitated housing. Although the issue of slums in the city is not unprecedented as in the case of Gangtok, it is however, pertinent to address these issues at this stage itself. Slum or squatter settlements as generally understood in other parts of India, are not visible in Gangtok.

5.2.3 Criteria for Slum Demarcation

“A slum is a cluster of compact settlements of 5 or more households which generally grow very unsystematically and haphazardly in an unhealthy condition and atmosphere on government and private vacant land. Slums also exist in the owner based household premises.”

The criteria adopted for demarcation of slums in Sikkim include:

- Areas that are generally unfit for human settlement due to subsidence, steep slope, landslide prone, etc., but are occupied by people below the poverty line, including the relocation of such people in other stable areas and providing them low cost housing including distribution of building materials.
- Areas that are by reason of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangements and poor structure of houses, narrowness or faulty arrangements of avenues, streets and setbacks, lack of ventilation or light or any composition of these factors which are detrimental to safety, health and morals/social and has sheds/tenements requiring standardization and up gradation.
- All under serviced settlements, owing to unauthorized occupation of Government land, congested back streets and areas surrounding them, which require introduction of skill development programmes, health care, child care programme including adult literacy and poverty alleviation programmes preferably through area-specific community development.
- Any area where the residents or those in the neighborhood are prone to health hazard due to poor waste management, lack of inadequate or proper infrastructure, public amenities, utilities, or conveniences due to overcrowding, unsanitary and unhygienic conditions.
- Any area where the construction are not regulated in accordance with Sikkim Building Construction Regulation, 1991.
- Any area where the sanitation provisions relating to toilet, waste management, drainage maintenance etc. are not in accordance with the Sikkim Sanitation Rules.
- Area without proper water supply and electricity connection.
- Any area where the sanitation provisions relating to toilet, waste management, drainage maintenance etc. are not in accordance with the Sikkim Sanitation Rules.



Taking into consideration the local conditions and environment as is prevalent in the state and for the purpose of implementation of the National Slum Development Policy and Other allied programmers, the Government of Sikkim under the Notification No. 394/GOS/UD&HD/5(8)97-98 Part II Dated 17-06-2003, declared “ Urban Slum Area” in Sikkim. These include slum localities in three districts. Earlier there were only three slums notified in Gangtok Notified Town Area (NTA), but number has increased to 18 in the study area.

In order to assess the existing situation in some of the notified slum areas within NTA of Gangtok, a few sample studies were carried out.

5.2.4 Case Study 1: Arithang (Bhanugram+Dph+Old Slaughterhouse)



Arithang is a fast growing suburb of Gangtok. Due to its proximity to the Central Business District, it has been expanding rapidly and faces problems related to a typical urban conglomeration, such as water shortage due to a shortfall in the distribution system, sewerage inadequacies and glaring solid waste disposal problems. Since it does not fall under the purview of the Urban Development and Housing

Department (UDHD), Government of Sikkim, there are no institutional arrangements for urban management and development. This transformation to an overcrowded semi urban area is the outcome of the urbanization of Gangtok with a large influx of migrants from other parts of Sikkim and India who mostly are employed in the private and service sector. Most houses are multi storied to make provisions for housing tenants as there is a very high demand for rental housing in Arithang due to its location. In an earlier departmental survey conducted in September 2004, 79% of the total households are tenant households.

While Arithang’s tenant population continues to grow, the prevalent infrastructure is inadequate. This has led to emergence of squatter settlements and slums in Arithang with a very poor environment. The most obvious problems faced are the inadequacies of public land, water supply, sewerage and solid waste management systems. Sewerage lines in some parts are yet to be laid. Septic tanks are usually constructed in the backyards where space is available. For the majority of the population in Arithang, the most convenient and obvious choice for disposal of waste water, garbage and sewage are the jhoras or natural drains.



The other glaring reality in Arithang is that several jhoras running through the area that bring down waste from upper reaches of Gangtok, causing serious pollution and major risks of blockage and overflow during the peak monsoon season. In the absence of a proper solid waste management system people are obliged to live in a garbage littered landscape with accompanying threats to their health and well being. To mitigate this problem the community has got together several times in the past to clean up the jhoras and has tried to introduce door to door collection. These initiatives have not been sustainable due to lack of support, either at the institutional level or within the community itself.

The Gangtok Water Supply and Sanitation Project (GWSSP), funded by the Australian Government aid agency identified Arithang as a target area for carrying out various activities, including a demonstration project to improve water and sanitation system with active focus on the poor and women. Sikkim Development Foundation (SF), a local NGO, was entrusted the work of forming ward committees by the name of Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) committees and over time they have emerged to be very effective. Being a neighborhood group, they have a very good knowledge of ground situation and have already started building linkages with two service providing institutions i.e. Water Resources and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and the Urban Development and Housing Department (UDHD).

5.2.5 Case Study 2: Old Slaughterhouse, Diesel Power House and Munshi Colony

The second case study includes Old Slaughterhouse, Diesel Power House and Munshi Colony. A total of 2978 persons live in these slums.

A sample survey of the three slums mentioned above was carried out to understand their profile in terms of several key components such as house type, access to infrastructure, vulnerability to natural hazards and accessibility. Table 5.3 gives the features of these slums.



Of the three slums, two slums are located in landslide prone/sinking area. The basic reason is availability of land on low prices or for free. Besides this, these areas also lack basic infrastructure facilities. A slum rehabilitation programme is under implementation by UD & HD, in which a resettlement colony has been constructed, but these have not been occupied, therefore slum up gradation and area improvement is the solution for the situation.

Table 5.3: General Condition of Slums

Sl. No.	Components	Old Slaughter House (Arithang Area)	Diesel Power House + Banugram (Arithang Area)	Munshi Colony (Development Area)
1	General House Type	Wooden/Tin Sheets	Tin Sheets	Tin Sheets
2	House Rent (in Rs.)	1500 Approx.	Varies (300-700)	Not known
3	Native Status	Mostly Nepalese	Mixed	Sikkimese
4	Economic Activities	Daily Wage Labor		
5	Hazard	Certain Areas near Jhoras prone to landslide	No Hazard Area	Designated Sinking Area
6	Water Supply	Spring Water	Spring Water	PHE Public Tap
7	Distance of Water source	100-125 m	200 m	50 - 100
8	Accessibility	Earthen Track	Cement Staircases (footpath)	Earthen Track
9	Waste Disposal	Near Jhoras		
10	Condition of Toilet	Poor	3 Non functional community toilets as water is not supplied by the PHE	Poor
11	Garbage Bins	Nil	3, but Non functional	Nil

5.3 KNOWLEDGE ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES (KAP) OF THE URBAN POOR

A KAP study of the urban poor in Chanmari, Tathanghen and Old Slaughter House was undertaken and the following was revealed.

5.3.1 Knowledge

All are aware of the ill effects of long house water supply connections (pipes running in clusters along jhoras and storm drains), and their impacts on health. The table below suggests their perceptions on the quality of water.

Perceptions: Quality of Water

Water in taps	Percent
Clean enough to drink	74%
Muddy Water	22%
Does not taste good	4%

- All are willing to connect to PHED water supply as they are aware that this water is treated and of better quality, henceforth safe for drinking.
- Awareness levels regarding solid waste management is very high as all sections of the society believe that there should be better management by the UDHD.
- The people are not aware of separation at source for solid waste management and awareness levels regarding this have to be built and put to practice.
- The people are aware about the hazards of disposing raw sewage and solid waste into the jhoras.
- Knowledge about the water quality of RDD and spring sources was high, but the issue of bacterial contamination was shocking to the people.
- In several areas such as Bishalgaon, Chandmari and Munshi Colony the community has got together and built temples in the upper reaches of the spring sources to protect the catchment area from defecation and pollution so as to safeguard the water quality.

5.3.2 Attitudes and Practices

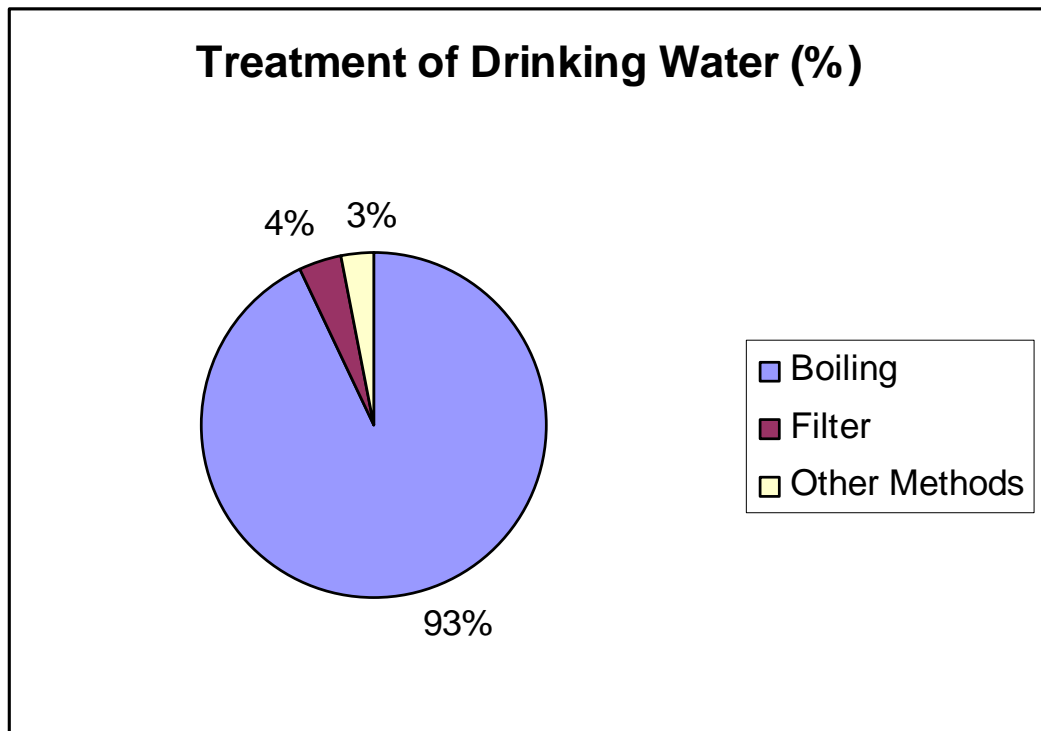
- The common attitude to most issues was that the Government should come forward and bring about the changes. This is the common mindset of people all over Sikkim. A lot of blame was put on PHED and UDHD for not being able to manage the systems properly. “The concept of people’s participation is lacking and more stress needs to be given to IEC”
- Tenants are usually dependent on their landlords for provision of water and sanitation services and their general attitude is that the house owners or the PHED should pay for improvement in services which is reflected in the table below.

Perceptions: Who should pay?

House Owner should pay	61%
PHED is responsible	26%
We can pay	13%

- The present practice of disposing waste and sewage into the jhoras is an outcome of absence of alternatives.
- The instance of public toilets being used in Old Slaughter House is very low, 0.5% only. Otherwise the practice of defecating in other places and jhoras is done by 4% of the people of the study area.
- There is a high level of awareness with regards to water borne diseases and all respondents treat water before drinking as the table below suggests.

Figure 5.1: Treatment of Drinking Water



Water Borne Disease

Disease	Percentage
None	35%
Diarrhea	31%
Others	25%
Dysentery	9%

Frequency of diseases

Time	Percentage
One Year	14%
Last Six Months	9%
Last Three Months	10%
Recently	31%
None	36%

5.3.3 Water Usage Pattern

A KAP study for water usage pattern was undertaken amongst the tenant groups where only the tenant women were present. The following table illustrates the per capita requirement of water amongst the tenant groups.



Table 5.4: Per capita requirement of water based on practices

	No. of Women	Daily	Occasionally	Consumption per day
Washing Clothes	20	12 women	8 women	3 buckets
Washing Vessels	20	5 women	15 women	1 bucket
Cooking and drinking water	-	-	-	20 litres
Mopping the house	20	3 women	10 alternate days 13 occasionally	Half bucket
Cleaning drains	20	12 women	8 women	1 bucket

5.3.4 Suggestions on improved services

Responses from community based on their perceptions and needs.

- The people at large feel that there should be improvements in the present system, 70% of the households were of this opinion.
- Satisfaction levels were questioned and the responses are in the following table.

Table 5.5: Satisfaction levels

Improvement required in services	70%
Satisfied with all services	13%
Any other remark	17%

- The focus of improvement of services was widely for water supply and solid waste management systems, which is illustrated below.

Table 5.6: Perceptions: Improvement in Water and Sanitation

Desired Service	Percent
Increased Water Supply	41%
Good solid waste mgmt system	40%
Others	15%
Sewerage	4%

- 74% households were willing to pay if there is improvement in the services. This is a good sign as the apprehensions about people not paying for services can be mitigated.

Table 5.7: Ranking of priorities of slum dwellers

Priorities	Percent
Improvement of water supply (longer hours for a minimum of 2 hrs morning and evening)	85.4%
Improvement of sewer system	48.2%
Provision of public toilet facilities	40.5%
Improvement of roads, footpaths, street lighting	34.7%
Improvement of solid waste disposal system	29.9%
Improvement of drains, catch water drains	26.1%

5.4 A CASE STUDY OF THE URBAN POOR

Devi Shivakothi at Munshi Colony

The family



Devi belongs to the Nepalese Brahmin community and is 26 years old. She came to Gangtok from Nepal where her family lives, about 13 years ago. She is married to Kumar Shivakhoti, a local taxi driver. They have two children, a son 5 years old and daughter 10 months. Her husband's family too hails from Nepal, but he has been born and grown in Gangtok and has voting rights. Devi has been living in Munshi Colony in rental accommodation.

Expenditure and Asset Ownership

Devi's husband is the only earning member in the family. The family monthly income ranges from Rs. 5000-6000. Their assets include one LPG stove and a radio. On an average the family spends Rs. 600 on house rent, Rs.1500 on food, Rs. 200 for clothes, and Rs. 100 to150 on her son's education and Rs. 500-1000 for her children's medical treatment. They have very little or no saving at the end of the month but take solace in the fact that they have enough to eat and can send their son to school. Education is free in Government schools.

House and Living Conditions

The family lives in a room in an ekra house with tinned roof. The ekra house is two storeyed and 7 other families are accommodated in the same building. The roof is of GCI sheet. Their room has been divided into two areas; the smaller one is used as kitchen and the larger one as sleeping area. There is no water connection in the house. There is no individual toilet and they share the common toilet with the other families.

Water Supply

The land lord has provided them with the PHED water connection outside the building premises. Water is supplied between 6:30- 7:00a.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m. The family stores water in five buckets of 20ltr capacity. As Devi has two small children she usually boils the water used for drinking. The family is not happy with the water situation as she has to divide her time between her small child and water collection each day. Her husband is away at work from early morning and comes back at night. Devi bathes twice a week and her children are bathed twice a week during summer and once a week during winter.

Sanitation

A toilet has been provided outside the building premise which is shared by 4 other houses. Since they do not have a tap in the toilet they store water in buckets. Water is used for cleaning and hands are washed with soap after defecation. Devi regularly cleans the toilet which is connected to the sewer line. The four families collect money to maintain the toilet. The toilet does not have electricity so they use candles at night.



Solid Waste

Devi disposes off her household waste daily in the UD&HD truck which to reach in the morning when the bell rings is a steep uphill climb for her. The main road is at a distance from her house. She is willing to pay for door to door collection and thinks Rs 10 per month can be spared by her.

Time Line and Water Usage Pattern

Devi's day begins at 6 a.m. After her morning tea she goes to fetch water and stores about 5 to 6 buckets. She washes utensils used at night in the morning and prepares morning breakfast comprising of rice, dal and vegetables. Once her husband and son leave for work and school, she cleans the house and her small child. Her husband comes back for lunch around 1.30pm after which he leaves to return at 8 pm. Her son comes back by 3pm and after feeding him she sends him for tutorial class. Devi starts preparing dinner by 7pm. Dinner is served at 8 pm and the family goes to bed around 9pm.

Health Status

The small child has been sick for about a month, she was admitted to STNM Hospital for 10days. The doctor has diagnosed her with asthma. The family reports fever, cough and cold as the common ailments. Devi feels this is due to the room which is rather cold and damp. The family is troubled by constant seepage from the wall. Devi feels this is the cause for cold, fevers and respiratory ailments that her family suffers from.

Aspirations

The family would like to shift to an RCC building with bigger rooms having an attached toilet. She would like her children to be highly qualified which would make their future bright. Since their income is low, the uncertainty and the high cost of living has prevented the family from making any major saving or investment. They do not foresee construction of a house in the near future. When asked if she wishes to go back to Nepal

she says that her children are better off in Gangtok where she foresees a brighter future for them.

5.5 POVERTY ISSUES AND INTERVENTION AREAS

Urban poverty in the city is primarily due to lack of economic diversification, heterogeneous mix of socio-cultural habits, fragile environmental conditions and non-access to basic urban services. The broad issues related to urban poverty are:

- a) The population is a heterogeneous mix exhibiting different need patterns.
- b) The poor are engaged in Low Return Economic Activities like cultivation of rice or vegetables where space is available. Due to their poor educational levels, they have limited skills to avail of income earning opportunities.
- c) Access to Piped Water Supply is low. Most of the poor rely on springs for water. This too is scarce in the dry season.
- d) Poor sanitation, hygiene and toilet facilities. Also due of unavailability of land, most of the toilets do not have septic tanks and dispose the sewage directly into the jhoras / drains.
- e) Settlements are usually located on steep, unstable and landslide prone slopes, thus increasing the vulnerability of the poor people in terms of health, natural hazards and safety.
- f) Solid Waste Management is a major issue within Gangtok. Garbage from the slum areas are generally thrown in the Jhoras and slopes creating environmental pollution.
- g) Spatial Characteristics of Poverty is that neither all BPL population are concentrated in the slum areas nor the notified slum areas constitute only BPL population. Prioritizing the areas for community upgradation and targeting of the poor for the poverty alleviation programmes, therefore, becomes a critical issue.
- h) Poverty Alleviation and Slum Upgradation programmes have so far had minimal impact on the poor.

Table 5.8: Sectoral Issues related to Poverty and Slums

Sector	Issues
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of people employed as informal workers ▪ Lack of skill development ▪ Lack of small scale industries for employment generation
Access to urban services and environmental status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to steep slopes, accessibility is a major issue ▪ Potable water supply is the most important issue; most rely on spring sources ▪ Sewerage system covers only a part of the slums; most dispose sewerage in the jhoras

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waste collection does not cover inaccessible areas; waste is thrown in the jhoras ▪ Lack of alternatives in the water and sanitation sector for most slum dwellers ▪ Occurrence of diseases amongst slum dwellers is common and a regular amount is spent on medicines each month
Slum Upgradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 out of 9 slums is located in steep, landslide prone and subsidence areas ▪ No public toilets; those present are non functional ▪ Water supply from spring sources ▪ Solid waste and sewerage disposal in the jhoras ▪ Accessibility by footpaths that require upgradation
Poverty alleviation programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poverty alleviation programmes have had little impact ▪ Identification and prioritization of problems have been half hearted
Institutional arrangement for poverty reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No ULB to address poverty issues ▪ UDHD overworked and understaffed to cover entire state ▪ Only one community organizer in every district ▪ NGO capacity building and involvement inadequate ▪ No holistic approach in implementation of poverty alleviation programmes