

**ANALYSIS OF CONTROLLING VARIABLES OF COPING STRATEGIES BY CORRELATION MATRIX: A STUDY ON SLUMS OF MIDNAPORE MUNICIPALITY, WESTBENGAL**

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**Abstract:**

Coping strategy is the approaches that people use in order to deal with stresses, pain and natural changes that experiences every day in their life. It is conscious or instinctively choice of adaptation to phenomenon stresses that that enhances control over behaviour or gives psychological comfort. It leads to either cohesion in the community/society or can also be misery and/or crucial life that include migration, begging, child labour, violence, prostitution, even selling organs etc. Most of the cases poor neighbourhoods in each urban area are having overcrowding and congestion, extremely poor sanitation, lack of civic amenities and deviant behaviour, overcrowding, poor housing, choked drains, lack of garbage disposal facilities, poor personal hygiene, and hygienic conditions that are specially hall marks of urban slums in India. Likewise, slum dwellers are comprises diverse group of people with different interests, means and background. Slum dwellers in every urban area willingly or unwillingly try to solve or cope with the existing problems or adopt some strategies that could effective or harmful.

The study is an attempt to measure the degree of coping strategy and its relation with major variables that impact on adapting such type of coping strategies of the inhabitants over different slums in Midnapore Municipal Area, West Bengal by simple composite index & correlation matrix using SPSS-20 statistical software. In order to do the same, all slum neighbourhoods have

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been identified through in depth field survey with the help of earlier collected slum related information from municipality of Midnapore town. Relevant questionnaires used to collect the related information from households using appropriate sampling techniques.

Key words: Slum, Survival skills, Standard of living, Composite index, Correlation Matrix

### **Introduction:**

The strategies adopting during stress, pain or critical situations which we experiences in our daily life or span of life is known to be coping strategy. It is conscious or instinctively choice of adaptation to the natural changes of the people which controlled our behaviour or provide some strength by which we overcome some critical situation, stresses and pain and/or also gives psychological comforts. Coping Strategy is two types-Positive coping strategy leads to positive changes in the society i.e. cohesion in the community/society, intention of development of economic status etc. and negative coping strategy can be misery and/or crucial life that include migration, begging, child labour, violence, prostitution, even selling organs, crime etc.

A rural or urban household settlement has a significant influence on the choice of coping strategy. **Lokshin and Yemtsov (2004)** find that urban households are less likely to adopt active coping strategy than those in the rural areas. The urban slum chronically poor are characterised by food insecurity every year, poor children's school attendance and low level of assets. It has been observed however, that chronic poverty is mostly considered as an outcome of shocks or stresses such as climatic, economic, Political/social/legal, Crime ,Health shocks (e.g. death and illness) and miscellaneous shocks (e.g. conflicts and disputes with other family members, neighbours or other residents regarding access to land or other assets) etc.(**Dercon et al., 2005**). However, different sufferers of shock/ stresses adopt different strategies in coping with the crises. When households suffer shock/stresses, they do not stay on inactive but adopted different coping strategies. These coping strategies are substitute mechanisms for when habitual / daily needs are interrupted. In this situation, the first attempt households do is that to minimize risks and administer losses to ensure some minimal level of sustenance. It also appears that most people use coping strategies that are not effective. Hence, there are some variables which have been significant role behind adapting coping strategies of the households.

**Objectives:**

- To measure the degree of coping strategy of the slum dwellers.
- Find out the variables that impact on coping strategies of the slum dwellers.

**Methodology:**

**Sampling Techniques:**

The study is being mostly both subjective and analytical. Therefore for this purpose, 20 slums were randomly selected. From each selected slum, 10 households were again randomly selected. Purposive sampling was adapted to some degree in choosing the opinion of those households together who are participated in group discussion personally.

**Design of the Study:**

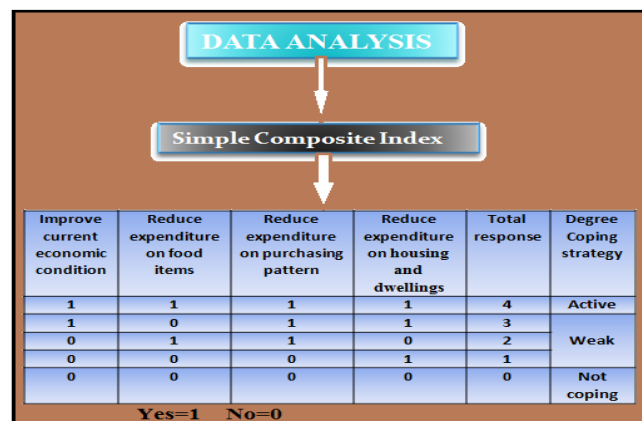
Key questions	Data
1. Standard of living	Total number of assets per household.
2. Degree of coping strategy	Improve current economic condition, Reduce expenditure on food items, purchasing pattern, housing and dwellings.

**Data Collection:**

Division	Data	Procedure of data collection
Standard of living	Total number of assets per household, Income, Expenditure, Housing.	Household survey through structured Questionnaire
Degree of coping strategy	Improve your current economic condition, Reduce expenditure on food items, purchasing pattern, housing and dwellings.	Household survey through structured Questionnaire & Focus group discussion.

**Data Analysis:**

The study was conducted based on primary data collected from the respondents. The data were analyzed using SPSS (20.0 version) for Windows 7. Descriptive analyses were conducted by calculating the frequency distribution of variables. Both descriptive (Composite Index) and inferential analyses



(Correlation Matrix) were used to achieve the objectives of study.

### Result & Discussion:

Different variables are responsible for adapting coping strategies of the households. These variables are instinctive or inefficiency of the households that hindrances and/or influences to cope with poverty. Occasionally these variables is significant or insignificant for the adapting coping strategies .Therefore, controlled variable i.e. Status of coping is tested against the 35-controlling variables by Pearson correlation matrix with 0.25-0.02 level of significance and results are given in the table-1, as below:

Table-1.: Correlations Matrix (Pearson Correlation)			Remarks
Controlling Variables	Controlled variable- Status of coping		
1. Sex of Head of the Household	Pearson Correlation	.001	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.986	
2. Age of Head of the household	Pearson Correlation	-.079	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.265	
3. Marital Status of Head of the household	Pearson Correlation	.063	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.373	
4. Marriage Age of Head of the household	Pearson Correlation	-.036	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.617	
5. Educational status of Head of the household	Pearson Correlation	-.100	Significant*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.157	
6. Occupation of Head of the household	Pearson Correlation	-.083	Significant*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.241	
7. Total No. of family member	Pearson Correlation	.113	Significant*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.112	
8. Total No. of male of the family	Pearson Correlation	.022	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.758	
9. Total No. of female of the family	Pearson Correlation	.151	Significant**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.033	

10. BPL status of the head	Pearson Correlation	-.035	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.621	
11. No. of earning members	Pearson Correlation	.002	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.981	
12. Type of family	Pearson Correlation	-.051	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.478	
13. years of current place of residence	Pearson Correlation	.025	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.728	
14. Religion	Pearson Correlation	.048	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.498	
15. Caste	Pearson Correlation	-.084	Significant*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.239	

16. Bank or post office account	Pearson Correlation	-.045	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.523	
17. Average monthly savings	Pearson Correlation	-.125	Significant*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.112	
18. Type of house	Pearson Correlation	-.112	Significant*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.115	
19. Sources of drinking water	Pearson Correlation	.232	Significant***
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
20. Toilet facility	Pearson Correlation	.056	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.433	
21. Separate bathroom	Pearson Correlation	-.011	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.643	
27. Years of Living in current place of residence	Pearson Correlation	0.033	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.643	
29. Medicine Expenditure	Pearson Correlation	0.052	Not significant

	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.486	
30. Smoking cost	Pearson Correlation	0.029	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.753	
31. Monthly savings	Pearson Correlation	-0.157	significant**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.046	
32. Total family member	Pearson Correlation	0.1	Significant*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.16	
33. Total Earning members	Pearson Correlation	0.018	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.801	
34. Total Family Income	Pearson Correlation	-0.045	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.525	
35. Room Density	Pearson Correlation	-0.022	Not significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.752	

\*\*\* Correlation is Significant at the 0.02 level (2-tailed)

\*\* Correlation is Significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

\*Correlation is Significant at the 0.25 level (2-tailed)

Table-1 indicates the correlation coefficient (Pearson's) value & significance level of the controlling variables by applying Two-tailed test. Three significance levels are considered for the inclusion of the controlling variables as 0.02, 0.05 & 0.25 indicating by \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* respectively. It is found the little bit of controlling variables are between 0.02 and 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, it signifies that there are some variables which need to be included for significant statistical analysis and results also.

### Conclusion:

Slums are crowded and families in slums are struggling to overcome poverty. As regards the influence of household characteristics on coping strategy, the results indicate that household with types of house, single earning members, large family size, low level of education, less amount of assets, family income, illness, female headed and less than 18-years marriage etc have moderate

influences on coping strategies. However, the results also find that monthly family expenditure, family planning, child education and marriage, child labour, family aspects etc. of a household head does not have any significant influence on the ability of a household to adopt active coping strategies. But surprisingly, drug and alcohol intake, skill and strength of work, unconsciousness about job opportunity, expanding money on social ceremonies, political work and biasness, women violence, quarrelling, social unrest and crime increasing day to day rather than taking any strategy to cope with poverty. Therefore, the possibilities for improving the environment through individual action are very limited. However the study observed that the Government has formulated various policies to address poverty vulnerability. Nevertheless, there is still inadequate institutional mechanism and capacity at the grassroots to ensure implementation of the formulated policies and strategies, and in most cases, people at the community level are not aware of the presence of these policies.

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