



## HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES OF DAILY LABOUR MARKET WORKERS: A MICRO-LEVEL STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

*The present paper attempts to examine the housing and household amenities of daily labour market workers in the Aligarh city. The research work is based on primary source of data collected through the direct questionnaire to the respondents in the city carried out during 2015. The analysis of the study reveals that the ratio of daily labour market workers living in own house exceeded those who are living in the rented house and as houseless persons in the city. Majority of these workers have kutchha houses. More than ninety percent workers fulfilled their food requirements by self-cooked food. About two-third person fetched drinking water from the public sources. Only two-third share of the daily labour market workers have been enjoying some recreational activities. More than ninety seven workers have been received basic government services like voter identity cards, ration cards, BPL cards, UID cards, etc.*

**Key Words:** Daily Labour Market Workers, Housing, Household Amenities, Aligarh city.

### Introduction

Present age is an age of urbanization, where villages are fast growing into towns and towns into cities, therefore, it becomes necessary to assess the impact of development of both rural and urban areas in order to conserve as well as exploit the resources, especially land (Okafor&Onokerhoraye, 1986). The rapid growth of urbanization exerts strong impact on the peripheral areas in the wake of continuous urbanization and modernization, they affect significantly in the peripheral areas through the increased demand in land, housing, physical

infrastructural development, transportation and communication (Mabogunje, 1993). Factors affecting these changes are as a result of the improvement of infrastructural facilities (Olujimi & Bello, 2009) as well as housing conditions, associated with socio-economic development (Mitchell, 1971; Macpherson, 1979; Farming, 1967; and Riaz, 1978).

After food, housing is the basic need of the mankind (Hussain, 2012 and Smith, 1973). Because, it performs main functions of shelter, space, safety, address and protection of health (Grunfeld, 1970, Hopkins, 1970, Salau, 1981, Baer, 1977). Housing and household amenities are serious problem of daily labour market workers especially in rural areas because most of the daily labour market workers do not have the access to these facilities. House is a machine for living and an aggregation of resources (Oniboku, 1976, Onokerhoraye, 1984); it is also a physical symbol of social structure (Pahl, 1970 and Morris & Winter, 1978). In other words, house denotes all the human structures where they are meant to live in, work in, or to store things in (Barayan, 1933). Hirway, (1987) divided house into three categories, namely, pucca house, semi-pucca house and kutchra house (made up of mud-thatched roof). Therefore, the housing standards help in determining the degree of current housing deprivation and estimating housing needs (Salau, 1981). Nubi (2003) incorporated infrastructure as the aggregate of all facilities that allow a village, town and a city to function effectively. They include housing, electricity, pipe borne water, drainage, waste disposal, roads and sewage among others. The importance of infrastructural facilities in a residential property and indeed human life cannot be overemphasized. According to Babarinde (1998), the efficiency of any form of human activity system largely depends on the provision of adequate infrastructural facilities.

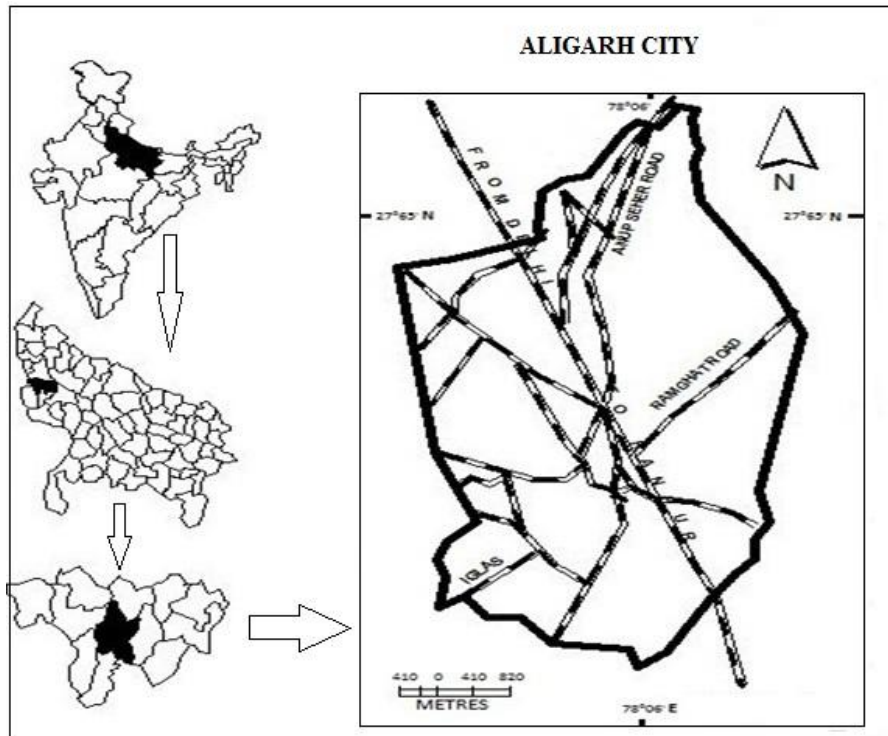
With the availability of housing and household amenities, the components of housing and infrastructural facilities, namely, modern household amenities, assets, and modern infrastructural facilities, also have paramount significance in the human life. It is conventionally believed that housing conditions, availability of drinking water, sanitation facilities, transportation and communication facilities, durable goods etc. might contribute to the health improvement of the people (Nayar, 1997) and determine the quality of life of the society. The term 'housing and household amenities' refers to housing types, drinking water supply, sanitation, electricity, toilet and bathroom facilities, transportation and communication facilities, roads connectivity, quality of durable goods, etc. The absence of these facilities or their inadequate availability in an

area or region is not only the outcome of demand-supply gap but also it has been due to the lack of financial aids, political interests, inefficiency of institutions, etc. (Shaw, 2003).

Hence, the present study has been taken to analyze housing status and house types of daily labour market workers, sources of food, fuels used for cooking, frequency of food, types and sources of drinking water, availability of durable goods, status and type of recreational activities and government services received by daily labour market workers in the Aligarh city.

### **The Study Area**

Aligarh city as a whole has been chosen as study area for the present research work. The city extending from  $27^{\circ} 52'$  to  $27^{\circ} 56'$  north latitude and  $78^{\circ} 3'$  to  $78^{\circ} 6'$  East longitude, lies in the western part of the Uttar Pradesh and has a geographical area of about 50.54 sq. km. It comprises of 70 wards, accommodates residential population of 8, 72,575 of which 4, 63,123 are males and 4, 09,452 females (Indian Census, 2011). According to the 2011 Indian Censes, in the Aligarh city, 70.36 percent population was literate. The literacy rate among males was 75.50 percent and among females it was 64.55 percent. The general sex ratio of city was 884 females per 1000 males while child sex ratio of girls was 875 per 1000 boys. The population density of the city was 17,265 persons per square kilometers. Muslims constitute more than one-third of the total population of Aligarh city. Since independence, Aligarh city has grown from a small town to an important centre for industry and education. There are particularly three factions of the city, which have contributed to the development of Aligarh city, i.e., the establishment of Aligarh Muslim University in 1920, development of light industries and its demarcation as district headquarters or commissioner. Moreover, in the last two decades, a number of new schools, colleges and institutions have been also established in the city and become an education city.



**Figure 1**

**Source:** Nagar Nigam Aligarh, 2015.

### **Data and Methodology**

The present study is based on the primary source of data generated through field survey in Aligarh city. The survey was carried out during the month of September 2015. Having identified the daily labour market workers in prior visits on each identified places, the individual slips were used to ease the task of survey in the city. Among the total 70 wards of the Aligarh city, the daily labour market workers was found only on 10 places namely, Ramghat Road Purani Chungi, Kela Nagar *Chauraha*<sup>1</sup>, Dodhpur Chauraha, Jamalpur Petrol Pump, Company Bagh Circle, Sasni Gate Circle, Upar Fort , Sahjama*Eidgah*<sup>2</sup>, Kisanpur Road *Bijlighar*<sup>3</sup> and Chourpur Chauraha.

In the present work, the daily labour market workers have been taken as the unit of enquiry. Prior to the survey, firstly a Pilot Survey was made to identify the main areas of concentration of daily labour market workers in the Aligarh city. During which the 10 places were recognized where the daily labour

<sup>1</sup>. Fourways Crossing.

<sup>2</sup>. Open-air gathering place usually outside the city to perform the Salat al Eid.

<sup>3</sup>. Electricity Station.

**Table 1: Selected Places and Percent of Samples of  
Daily Labour Market Workers in the Aligarh City, 2015**

<b>Selected Places</b>	<b>Total Households</b>	<b>Sampled Households</b>
Ramghat Road Purani Chungi	140	07
Kela Nagar Chauraha	400	20
Dodhpur Chauraha	520	26
Jamalpur Petrol Pump	440	22
Company Bagh Circle	1300	65
Sasni Gate Circle	360	18
Upar Fort	100	05
SahjamalEidgah	400	20
Kisanpur Road Bijlighar	100	05
Chourpur Chauraha	100	05
<b>Total</b>	<b>3860</b>	<b>193</b>

**Source:** Based on primary survey, 2015.

market workers used to sit and wait for the works/employment, on these selected places, the total 3860 daily labour market worker households were recorded, wherein 5 percent (i.e. 193 daily labour market workers households) samples of daily labour market workers were randomly interviewed (see Table 1) for the collection of information about housing and households amenities etc. After the field work, the data collected by using individual slips were scrutinized and were processed in tabular forms according to the requirements of the various facts of the study.

## **The Results and Discussion**

### **Housing Status and House Types**

Shelter is one of the basic needs of the human being. The percent distribution of data about housing status of daily labour market workers is given in the Table 2. An analysis of the data shows that about two-third proportion (66.33 percent) of the daily labour market workers live in own houses, followed by rented houses (31.08 percent) and (2.59 percent) as houseless

persons(having no home), living in the open sky and roads dividers, parks, streets, in front of markets, railway tracks etc.(Shamshad, 2015).

**Table 2: Housing status and House Types of**

**Daily Labour Market Workers in Aligarh City**

<b>Housing Status</b>	
Own House	66.33
Rented House	31.08
Houseless	02.59
Total	100.00
<b>House Type</b>	
Pucca	18.13
Semi-kutchha	36.76
Kutchha	45.07
Total	100.00

**Source:** Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

The percent distribution of data about housetypes of daily labour market workers is also given in the Table 2. The findings of the data show that more than two-fifth share (45.07 percent) of the daily labour market workers lives in the kutchha houses, followed by semi-kutchha (36.76 percent) and pucca (18.18 percent) in the city.

**Sources of Food&Fuels usedfor Cooking and Frequency of Food taken per day**

The percent distribution of sources of food for the daily labour market workers has been given in the Table 3. The data clearly depicts that majority of daily labour market workers (95.34 percent) fulfill their food requirements by self-cooked food while only 4.66 percent eat the purchased food in the Aligarh city.

**Table 3: Sources of Food&Fuels used for Cooking and Frequency of Food taken per dayby****Daily Labour Market Workers, Aligarh City,**

<b>Sources of Food</b>	
Self-Cooked	95.34
Purchas food	04.66
Total	100.00
<b>Sources of Fuels used for Cooking</b>	
Wood	29.53
Cow-dung	54.43
Kerosene oil	04.14
Coal	06.21
LPG	05.69
Total	100.00
<b>Frequency of Food taken per day</b>	
One-time	01.55
Two-time	59.08
Three-time	37.30
More than three-time	02.07
Total	100.00

**Source:** Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

Further, the examination of the table exhibits that the daily labour market workers, who eat the self-cooked food, used wood, cow-dung, kerosene oil, coal and LPG gas as different sources of fuel for cooking. Wherein, cow-dung is occupying the first place (54.43 percent), followed by wood (29.53 percent), coal (6.12 percent), LPG (5.69 percent) and kerosene oil (4.14 percent).

The table also presents data regarding the frequency of food taken per day by daily labour market workers. The table reveals that about sixty percent (59.08 percent) of the total daily labour market workers has been recorded to have two times food per day, while only 1.55 percent of the daily labour market workers were having food only once in a day. The about thirty

seven percent (37.30 percent) share of daily labour market workers is registered, who are able to have three times per day and 2.07 percent in more than three times in a day.

### Availability of Durable Goods

The data about durable goods for the daily labour market workers has been set out in the Table 4. It would be seen clearly from the table that more than three-fifth proportion (63.21 percent) of daily labour market workers have possessed cots as a durable goods, followed by cookers and pots (40.81 percent, pots like bowls, glasses, plates, cups, spoons, buckets etc.), cycle (34.17 percent), mobile phones (24.48 percent), wrist watches (23.31 percent), chairs and tables (22.79 percent), radios (22.53 percent), televisions (16.32 percent), beds (14.50 percent), gas cylinders& stoves (11.91 percent) and others (4.14 percent). In the categories of others, various durable goods are combined like sewing machine, bike, scooter, electric fan, freezing machine, and Auto rickshaw.

**Table 4: Durable Goods for Daily Labour Market Workers in Aligarh City**

Availability of Durable Goods	
Cots	63.21
Beds	14.50
Chair and Table	22.79
Cooker and Pots	40.81
Cycle	37.17
Mobile	24.48
Wrist Watch	23.31
Radio	22.53
Television	16.32
Gas Cylinder and Stove	11.91
Other	04.14

**Source:** Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

### Types and Sources of Drinking Water

A detailed account of percent distribution of the types and sources of drinking water for the daily labour market workers has been reported in the Table 5.



**Table 5: Types and Sources of Drinking Water for Daily Labour Market Workers in the Aligarh City**

<b>Types of Drinking Water</b>	
Public	67.87
Private	32.13
Total	100.00
<b>Sources of Drinking Water</b>	
Hand-Pumps	65.28
Water-tapes	20.72
Water-tankers	11.40
Tube-wells	02.60
Total	100.00

**Source:** Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

An examination of the data given in the table exhibits that among the types of water, more than two-third share (67.87 percent) of the daily labour market workers fulfill their needs for the drinking water from the public sources, while, about one-third proportion (32.13 percent) of the labour market workers use the drinking water from the private sources. Further analysis of the table reveals that among the sources of water, the nearly two-third shares (65.28 percent) of the daily labour market workers fulfill their needs for the drinking water from the hand-pumps, followed by water-tapes (20.72 percent), water-tankers (11.40 percent) and tube-wells (2.60 percent).

### **Recreational Activities**

The percent distribution of recreational activities among the daily labour market workers is given in the Table 6. An analysis of this table indicates that about two-third share (61.66 percent) of the daily labour market workers has been enjoying some recreational activities at certain points of time while, remaining proportion (38.34 percent) of daily labour market workers were found to be deprived from any kind of recreation in their lives.

**Table 6: Recreational Activities among Daily labour Market Workers in the Aligarh City**

<b>Status of Recreational Activities</b>	
No recreation	38.34
Recreation	61.66
Total	100.00
<b>Types of Recreational Activities</b>	
Television	23.16
Radio	14.53
Cinema	05.82
Card play	14.53
Others	03.62

**Source:** Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

Further examination of the data listed in the table exhibits that among the daily labour market workers who have were enjoying some recreational activities (61.66 percent) in the city, wherein, 23.16 percent persons used to see televisions for their recreation. On the other hand, 14.53 percent daily labour market workers listening radios for recreation, whereas, 5.82 percent people went to see the cinemas for recreation and 14.53 percent people interested in playing cards for recreation. Similarly, 3.62 percent people have various other recreational activities for recreation like picnics, play carom, etc.

### **Government Services received by Daily labour Market**

Table 7 provides the percentage of government services received by the daily labour market workers in the Aligarh city. It would be seen from the table that more than ninety seven (97.40 percent) daily labour market workers has been received government services like voter identity cards (ID), ration cards, below poverty line cards, unique identification cards (UID), bank account, pension, mid-day meals in schools, colony (IAY- Indira Awas Yojana) and only 2.60 percent daily labour market workers have not get any government services. The place wise analysis depicts that more than ninety percent daily labour market worker has received the governmental services in all places of the Aligarh city.

**Table 7: Government Services for Daily labour Market Workers in the Aligarh City**

<b>Status of Government Services availed</b>	
Received Services	97.40
No Services	02.60
Total	100.00
<b>Types of Government Services</b>	
Voter ID cards	77.65
UID cards	36.70
Ration cards	61.17
BPL cards	11.70
Bank accounts	24.46
Others	03.19

**Source:** Based on Primary Survey by authors, 2015.

An examination of the data exhibits that among total daily labour market workers, who availed governmental services, more than three-fourth proportion of daily labour market workers (77.65 percent) has the voter ID cards in Aligarh city. Likewise, more than one-third share (36.70 percent) of daily labour market workers has UID cards. Moreover, the daily labour market workers who have ration cards are accounted more than sixty percent (61.17 percent) and workers who have BPL cards are found only eleven percent (11.70 percent) in the Aligarh city. In addition, the daily labour market workers who have bank accounts are recorded about one-fourth (24.46 percent), and only 3.19 percent daily labour market workers are found who have others governmental services in the city. Thus, the categories of others, various governmental services are combined like passport, pen cards, bank ATM cards, etc.

### **Conclusion**

The analysis of the study reveals that the ratio of daily labour market workers who were living in owned houses exceeded person who were living in the rented house and as houseless in the city. More than two-fifth share of daily labour market workers have kutchra houses, followed by semi-kutchra and pucca. Majority of daily labour market workers fulfilled their food requirements by self-cooked food and remaining proportion ate the food by purchasing. Daily labour market workers, who were taking self-cooked food, used fuels, wherein, cow-dung is occupying the first

place, followed by wood, coal, LPG and kerosene oil. About sixty percent of daily labour market workers has been recorded, who have two times food in a day, more than one-third share of daily labour market workers were able to have three times per day, while, only two percent have food only once in a day. More than three-fifth of daily labour market workers possessed cost as a durable goods, followed by cookers and pots, cycles, mobiles, wrist watches, chairs and tables, radio, televisions, beds, gas cylinders & stoves and others. More than two-third share of the daily labour market workers fulfilled their need of water from the public sources while, remaining proportion of the labour market workers used drinking water from the private sources. About two-third share of the daily labour market workers has been reported to have some recreational activities at certain points of time while, remaining daily labour market workers were found to be deprived from recreation in their lives. More than ninety seven daily labour market workers has been received government services like voter identity cards, ration cards, below poverty line cards, unique identification cards (UID) etc. and only 2.60 percent daily labour market workers have not received any single government services.

From the above analysis, it is noted that the condition of housing and household amenities of the daily labour market workers was very poor and pathetic because majority of the daily labour market workers belonged to poorest sections of the society. Most of the daily labour market workers belonged to rural areas, they do not have enough money for good standard of living and they are passing their lives on the daily wages. If they are provided with good and regular job or employment, their standard of living and daily needs of life like, food, clothing, shelter, health, education, etc. will be better fulfilled. If there is no job security for them, their suffering of life will further increase in terms of hunger, malnutrition, under nutrition, fatigue, ill health, high morbidity etc.

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