



# A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF ADULT WOMEN IN NIGHT SHELTER FOR URBAN HOMELESS

(SPONSERD BY MEMPA & SOCIETY FOR RURAL AND ECO DEVELOPMENT (SRED) NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION) KAMALA NAGER, ANANTAPURAMU,(A.P).

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## Abstract

Relying on field observation women who have to travel during the nights are often at risk of not finding a place to stay. Taking into consideration the number of women who arrive in the city for travel and other emergencies, Unlike men who generally migrate to big cities in search of livelihood and use shelter homes, women end up using these spaces as the last resort for survival. Women in these shelter homes are either deserted by their husbands or are escaping domestic violence and abuse in families and/ or have been abandoned in old age homes to fend for themselves. A woman shared her ordeal of escaping the traffickers in one shelter. There is no denying that these spaces have offered a roof over head but certainly have failed to link them to a sustainable livelihood option. As these women are illiterate and unskilled they get work only as a domestic worker in neighbouring quarters or end up living on mercy from charity by nearby holy temples or mosques. If nothing avails, a 65-year-old remarked that they are 'forced into beggary' for seeking subsistence. The Non Governmental organization (SRED)&MEPMA provide shelter for these women. , this study reveals 21 case studies of adult women how the bureaucracy and institutionalization within a homeless shelter. This study aims at Women's experiences as shelter residents.

*Key words: Socio, Economic & Health Conditions, Gender, Shelter, NGO, MEPMA*

## Introduction:

In all thirteen Districts of Andhra Pradesh, 52 NIGHT SHELTERS is ther In Anathapur, NIGHT SHELTER was established in 2014 March 17<sup>th</sup>. The building was constructed by anantapuramu municipal corporation .This night shelter home is being sponsored by the central Government provide 75 percent , state government providing 25 percent aid being given by local NGO - SRED And the grant will be disbursed by local NGO to NIGHT SHELTER . The District government officials and the several NGOS Visit the organization. District Judge, Municipal commissioner, collector, MEPMA TPO (Town Planning organization) MEPMA Project Director and SRED organization Director Visit and supervision of the organization frequently. In march 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 the municipal corporation minister Narayana garu declared to provide Biometric facilities in all night shelters in A.P. In NIGHT SHELTER who is residing one, if they did not get Adhar card . The MEPMA will find out those and help to get the Adhar card. To begin with, the shelter will have a capacity to accommodate 20 persons at a time. If needed, there is room for further expansion in the future. Children accompanying women will also be allowed, There is no age bar for girls, except boys and men. They have separate accomdation for them.

## MEPMA: MISSION FOR ELIMINATION OF POVERTY IN MUNCIPAL AREAS

DEPARTMENT OF MUNCIPAL ADMINISTRATION & URBAN DEVELOPMENT:

*The main motto of MEPMA is that socio economic development of urban poor shouldbe done through a participative model. Shelter for Urban homeless (SUH)*

**Areas of implementation: 1.Kurnool, 2.Anantapur , 3.Gooty - Andhra Pradesh.**

**Supported by : AP State MEPMA & Dist Municipal corporation.**

**Mission for elimination of poverty in municipal areas component of National urban livelihood mission.**

The purpose of this project was to ensure availability and access of urban homeless population to permanent shelters including basic infrastructure, including facilities like water supply, sanitation, safety and security.

## VISION

*All urban poor families will have improved quality of life by accessing services from all organizations through their own strong self reliant and self managed institutions.*

## MISSION

**To enable the urban poor particularly the poorest of the poor to eliminate poverty and vulnerability in a sustainable manner and improve their quality of life in urban areas.**

## OBJECTIVE

*To promote, strengthen and nurture self-sustainable institutions of the poor and through them, address all poverty issues like access to credit, financial freedom, health, disability and vulnerability.*

**SRED Organization :-** (Society for Rural and Eco Development)





Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi



## Animal Husbandry Department Government of Andhra Pradesh

These are the partners of the organization.

SRED organization was established in Kurnool District. Organisation Director is Dhamodhar Reddy garu. This is one of the NGO. This organization provides free food, medicines and shelter. registered as a Society at Kurnool of state Arunachal Pradesh with Ngo unique registration ID 'AP/2010/0024310'. The NGO registration is done by Registrar of Societies with registration number 796 on the date of **25-12-1996**, Its parent Organisation is PaulFoundation. Promoters are G Haritha, H Lakshmana, A Uma Devi, T Nagaraju.

### key Issues

*This SOCIETY FOR RURAL AND ECODEVELOPMENT NGO charity is working on Key Issues of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Agriculture, Children, Disaster Management, Dalit Upliftment, Drinking Water, Education & Literacy, Environment & Forests, Health & Family Welfare, HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, Legal Awareness & Aid, Labour & Employment, Land Resources, Micro Finance (SHGs), Minority Issues, Right to Information & Advocacy, Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation, Sports, Tribal Affairs, Vocational Training, Water Resources, Women's Development & Empowerment, Youth Affairs*

### Slowly receding

The state schemes for homeless women are designed with a framework of providing 'shelter support' only and lack an inter-disciplinary approach. This can again be clearly ascertained from the fact that although women in shelter homes reported being victims of violence and sexual abuse, there is no process for their continued counseling or legal aid.

A caretaker at the home narrated how through her resources she had once supported a woman in a shelter to seek property rights usurped by her family members. This is one of the cases, but

most homeless women end up becoming more and more vulnerable and dependent on services at shelter homes. All are not willing to engage, they stay withdrawn and aloof. Some even attempt to hide their true identity. Perhaps, life first on roads and later in shelter homes has made them withdrawn to shells where they see no light.

### **Silent sufferers**

The state provides for mobile health van twice a week with the basic medical kit and paramedic staff at all shelters. Occasionally health camps are also organized by the NGOs. However, these measures have largely failed to take note of the needs and profiles of women using their aid.

The average age of a woman in shelter homes is around 45-50 years or more. And there is no denial that with age, the need for specialized health care including correct diagnosis of the ailment and continued support mechanism increases. But there is no design in the plan to take notice of this aspect. Women reported suffering from orthopedic issues, kidney stones, and skin diseases etc. All of which requires specialized healthcare service, which as one of them remarked in 'private hospital was way too expensive' and in public 'out of their bounds and knowledge'. As a result, they end up enduring the pain silently. The situation of pregnant and lactating mothers is no different. There is a lack of awareness about the benefits of immunization and nutritious food. Although institutional delivery is encouraged however some women reported delivery in shelter homes by local ideas as well.

Twenty confidential, personal interactions with female residents were asked by the first author within private rooms of the shelter. After answering basic demographic questions, the woman were asked to describe how they became homeless, the ways in which they had sought help for their homelessness, and the circumstances that brought them to the shelter. Of particular interest were their life conditions prior to and during the process of becoming homeless, such as instances of domestic violence, job loss, or illness. We were also interested in their experiences with obtaining assistance from various social entities, including the police/justice system, shelters, counselors, and social service agencies.





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I have observed the inmates; most of the inmates are forty above age.

Some case studies are discussed hear:

1. **S. Obulamma:** She has 55 Years old, she belongs to Anantapuramu. 25 Years back she seperated her husband for the cause of harassment. Her husband married other women and her children died. That's why she came to night shelter. In the Day time she went to hotel work and getting the amount 3000Rs/- every month.
2. **B. Akkamma:** She has 80 Years old and she is a widow, her husband died in 20 Years ago. She has two daughters and one son. One daughter was suffering from cancer. Daily she is going to temple for begging. She takes pension Rs.1000/- every month.
3. **P. Anjanamma:** She has 63 Years old, 4 Years ago her husband was died. She has 4 Sons and 3 Daughters. They did not look after her. That's why she came to the shelter and living there from 2 months. She is getting pension every month.
4. **Neelamma:** She was 70 years old. She belongs to Kurnool district. Her house no:21/183, Hear date of birth was 1/7/1954. Adharno:877005991226. Her husband died, her sons and daughters are not seeing. That's why she came and stay the night shelter. She was a poor that's why she got a white ration card. Every month she gets a ration and utilizes these. She is getting oldage pension amount 1000 Rs for every month. In the day time she went to the temple and begging. She is getting 20 Rs daily in begging. She is suffering B.P. , is residing in the night shelter from one year.
5. **Suvarna:** She has 13 years old age her mother is suffering from cancer, Father was died. Her mother went to Hyderabad for her cancer treatment. That's why she came to the shelter. Now she is studying 8<sup>th</sup> Class in K.R school in Anantapuramu. She is residing nightshelter from one month.
6. **Rangamma:** She belongs to gooty town. She has one daughter, and one son. She has 65 years old. She has illiterate. Her son and daughter did not look after her. That's why she came the shelter. In the day time she goes to the hotel work and earns Rs.120 daily. Everyday she went to the hotel early morning



- 7<sup>0</sup> clock and returns 1<sup>0</sup> clock. She is getting old age pension every month Rs 1000 from A.P Government. She is residing the night shelter from 5 months.
7. **K.Channamma:** She has 63 years old. She belongs to Prasanayanapalli. She has no children and separated her husband. She faced so many problems for her husband. That's why 35 years back she came anantapuramu and did the house hold work for 20 years. She has 63 years age. During this age factor and her health condition was poor. That's why she will not do any work. She is residing the night shelter from 6 months till now. She is getting old age pension amount 1000 Rs for every month.
8. **Alivellamma:** She has 45 years old. Her husband and son died. Only one daughter and got married. Her son in law did not look after her. That's why she came to the night shelter. She is residing the shelter from 4 months. She is getting widow pension for every month of Rs.1000/- through A.P Government.
9. **T. Sakunthamma:** She was 76 Years old. In those days her husband earns the money from Tea Vendor in Bangalore. Suddenly he was died. She has one daughter, she has married and living in Anantapuramu. But her daughter did not look after her. So she came to the night shelter and living there from past 9 months. She is suffering with Asthma from past 5 Years. She is getting Old Age pension in every month Rs. 1000/-.
10. **Dasari Naga Lakshmi:** She has 55 Years old. She was doing house hold work. She left her husband and her son. She faced so many problems from them. That's why she came to the night shelter. She was staying in night shelter from 8 months. She is getting Rs. 1000/- as Old Age pension.
11. **D. Peeramma:** She belongs to Bellary, her husband was died. She has no children and getting widow pension every month. In day time she went to begging. She was staying in shelter from last year.
12. **N. Nagamani:** she has 50 Years old, 8 Years ago her husband was died. She has doing catering work. She is living in shelter from last 6 months. Every month she is getting pension.
13. **R. Salamma:** She belongs to Uravakonda, Sessionpalli thanda. She belongs to tribal (Scheduled tribe). Her husband was died. She has 65 Years old and she has two sons and one daughter before she came to the shelter. She has doing Sheppard. Now she is begging in temple premises daily. She is getting pension every month.
14. **Nallabothula Veeramma:** She belongs to Boya community. She has 70 Years old. She came from Bukkarayasamudram village. 5 Years ago her husband was died. She has Sons and Daughters. She is living with one of her daughter. Then her daughter doing householdwork in their village and she came to night shelter. She has faced vision problem from eye. Daily she is begging in streets. She is getting pension every month.
15. **Gujjala Venkatamma:** She has 66 Years old and she belongs to Navodaya colony, Anantapuramu. She is residing in the night shelter home from one year. She has one daughter. But her Son-in-Law did not look after her. That's why she came to the shelter. She is working in hotel and cleaning the utensils. Per day she is getting Rs.20/-. She was suffering from diabetes. Every month she is getting pension, the pension amount would help to purchase medicines for diabetes.

16. **S. Ravanamma** : She belongs to Nallacheruvu(V), Kadiri(M). She has 66 Years old, 7 years ago her husband was died and she has 3 Sons and 1 Daughter. She was suffering from diabetes but her children did not look after her. That's why 5 months back she came to night shelter and she is getting pension every month.
17. **Jayamma**: She has 65 Years old and she belongs to Veerannapalli(V), Pamidi(M). 20 Years ago her husband was died and she is getting pension every month for the amount of 1000 Rs every month. she has two sons. But they did not look after her. That's why she came and staying to the night shelter from one month. she got a white Ration card and getting ration for every month.
18. **N. Sabitha**: she has 30 Years old. 6 months back she came to shelter why because her husband harassing her. So she left the house. She belongs to old town, Anantapuramu. Day time she has doing packing work. Every month she got Rs.1200/-. She has no children.
19. **K. Rajeswari**: Narayana is her husband; two months back her husband was died. She has 3 Daughters and she belongs to Kadapa. She has 50 Years old and living in shelter from last two months. Day time she has doing house hold work and getting Rs. 2000/- every month.
20. **C.H.Nagasubamma**: She has 35 Years old her husband was a drinker and he did second marriage. That's why she came to the night shelter. In the Day time she went to hotel work and getting Rs.3000/- every month.
21. **N. Rahamathbee**: She has 60 Years old and her husband was died. Every month she is getting widow pension. One year back she came to night shelter. In the day time she went to the hotel work and getting Rs. 1000/- every month.

### **Conclusion:**

I observed that all inmates are enjoyed in night shelter. The shelter provides free food like Raagimuddha in the morning, evening Tea and night meals. Some medicines are also available in shelter. Television facility is also available and they were utilizing that. I observed the inmates that they feel very happy and develop their friendly nature. Some inmates are sending their earning money to their children. They Feel happy to earn money through self-employment.

### **Suggestions:**

There are a lot of women are there in the society, especially domestic violence cases, harassment of the children, Trafficking women. This type of women faced lot of problems. So the various organizations and NGO's will take the necessary action and arrange more facilities for more number of women.

So many people did not know these organizations. The government should take initiative to create awareness about the night shelters through Media and posters.

We hope various organizations will help to provide training facilities like tailoring, candles, Agarabathis making and stitching the jute bags these are use full for self-employment.

In that cause so many women's will benefit and utilize these facilities who is needy.

**Appreciation:**

To appreciate the SRED organization and MEPMA to provide these facilities.

We hope the government, several NGOs and various sponsors will increase the funds to provide the night shelters for women in various aspects. Finally we thank to the central government and state government to providing these facilities.

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