

## ABSTRACT

Existence of slums has become a universal phenomenon and at present nearly one billion populaces resides in slums. Developing countries carry its vast share, where probably more than fifty percent of the population lives in slum conditions and this share is expected to be double after fifteen years. Lahore is one of the developed and most populated cities, there are 308 slums in the city and most of them are ancient ones and are swelling with the passage of time to cope with increasing urban population and inadequate housing. The present study aimed at assessing constrained socioeconomic opportunities of slums and how these constraints could be tapped to improve these areas socioeconomically. Questionnaire survey was conducted to find the socio-economic conditions of nine of the Katchi Abadis of Gulberg Town by applying proportional to size sampling technique. Data was analyzed statistically and by using geo spatial techniques. Results showed that most of the households of Katchi Abadis were deprived of secured land tenure, their dwelling conditions were in need of major repair, insufficiency of living space, congested housing, multifamily houses and mostly households had medium family size. Employment rate was significantly high in Katchi Abadis and mostly inhabitants were engaged with informal sector of economy. A significant ratio of women and children were found to be working to support their families. Under-wage employment forced the households of study area to take debts to meet their subsistence needs and they were in need of more and secured employment opportunities. Irregular pattern was found in the physical configuration of the Katchi Abadis as some of the houses were single story and some of them had two or more levels above ground. Mostly streets were in bad conditions, bad sanitation conditions, haphazard dumping and uncovered gutters dripping out water in front of houses were found in some of the Katchi Abadis. Households with high income group had renovated their dwellings made up by concrete material. Most of the houses in study area were built with the mix material i.e. concrete and nonconcrete. Pricy medical facilities were found in abundance in the surroundings of study area but people with low income group could easily avail them. Study suggested upgrading measures to tap the hidden potential of Katchi Abadis and improve their quality of life. Katchi Abadi's dwellers need to be provided with the security of tenure and stable and formal economy that would incentivize them to invest and build. Study concluded that these areas were filled with creativeness, drive and informal economy, they should be seen as an asset with an abundant untapped potential to be unleashed.

**Key Words:** Constrained Socioeconomic, untapped potential, upgrading measures