

Review of: "Women in Slum, Risking Their Safety to Access and Usage of Basic Sanitation Facilities-A Literature Review"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

A Scientific Revision for the research work Titled: Gendered Impacts of Inadequate Sanitation in Urban Slums: A Critical Review

1. INTRODUCTION:

The introduction provides a comprehensive overview of the definition of slums according to the UN and highlights the five key amenities lacking in slum areas. It effectively sets the stage for discussing sanitation and its implications for women in developing nations.

However, it might be beneficial to include recent statistics or data (if available post-2021) to emphasize the ongoing relevance and urgency of the issue.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Strengths:

- The literature review effectively synthesizes existing research on the relationship between inadequate sanitation and sexual assault against women in urban slums. It highlights the various challenges and risks women face, thoroughly examining the issue.
- Including specific studies and their findings adds credibility and depth to the review.

Weak Points and Areas for Improvement:

- While the review is comprehensive, it could benefit from a more structured organization. For example, grouping studies or findings based on common themes or factors could enhance the flow and coherence of the review.
- There is a need for more recent studies or data (if available) to ensure that the review reflects the current state of the issue. This would also demonstrate the evolving nature of research in this area.
- Analyzing the methodologies used in the studies cited critically would be helpful. This could include discussions on sample sizes, data collection methods, and potential biases, adding depth to the review.

Additionally, it may be valuable to consider incorporating the following points:

- **Policy Interventions:** Discuss any existing or proposed policies aimed at addressing sanitation issues in urban slums,

particularly with a focus on their effectiveness and potential areas for improvement.

- **Community Perspectives:** Consider including insights from interviews, surveys, or focus groups with individuals living in slums. This would provide a more holistic understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by women.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Explore how sanitation issues in urban slums compare across different regions or countries. Are there commonalities or unique challenges that arise in specific contexts?

3. METHODOLOGY:

Strengths:

- The methodology section clearly explains how the review was conducted, including the selection criteria for the reviewed papers and the final sample size. Using a sample size of 6663 households enhances the robustness of the review.
- The inclusion of Tables 1 and 2 provides a concise summary of the reviewed papers, highlighting locations, sample sizes, indicators, and effects, which aids in visualizing the data.

Weak Points and Areas for Improvement:

- While the methodology is clear, it could benefit from additional information on the criteria used to select the 12 indicators and how they were determined as relevant.
- It might be helpful to elaborate on the inclusion criteria for the reviewed papers, such as publication dates or geographical focus, to provide context for the selection process.

4. Data Analysis:

Strengths:

- The data analysis section effectively presents the findings, using Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 1 to visualize the percentages of various forms of Violence against women.
- The discussion on the causes and indicators of Violence against women provides valuable insights and context for the data presented.

Weak Points and Areas for Improvement:

- It would be beneficial to include a more detailed discussion on the implications of the data, such as the practical significance and potential policy implications.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Strengths:

- The results and discussion section provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges women face in slums regarding sanitation, supported by evidence from the reviewed papers.
- Including images and maps adds visual context to the discussion, enhancing the reader's understanding.

Weak Points and Areas for Improvement:

- While the section is well-structured, it might benefit from more explicit links between the results and their broader implications for policy and practice.
- Providing specific policy recommendations based on the findings would further strengthen this section.

6. CONCLUSION:**Strengths:**

- The conclusion effectively summarizes the key findings and emphasizes the urgent need for action to address the issues women face in urban slums regarding sanitation.
- The section provides a clear call to action and highlights the importance of considering gender-specific needs in policy development.

Weak Points and Areas for Improvement:

- Specific policy recommendations could be provided based on the identified challenges to enhance the conclusion. This would offer concrete steps for addressing the issues raised in the review.