

Impact on Quality of Life of Employee in Munger due to Their Big Gun Factory suffering from its worst times

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Abstract

Quality of life (QoL) is a comprehensive concept used to assess a society's standard of living in all aspects of life. This research aims at developing an objective measurement of urban QoL by considering the Employment of the aspect at the neighborhood level and applying the geographic information systems (GIS) technology to extract the employment characteristics. The paper also aims to address the notion of sustainable development and tries to understand its relationship with the notion of quality of life. On the other hand, this paper discusses contemporary urban planning theories and approaches in order to provide a high and sustainable quality of life and protect the natural environment. Finally, a matrix concluding the relationship between the principles of these contemporary urban planning theories and approaches and urban quality of life dimensions is developed, in order to achieve a set of principles that address, Employment, employment especially in Gun factory Munger, physical, mobility social, psychological, economic and political concerns called urban quality of life principles. These principles represent a guide useful for participants of the design process and for policy makers.

Keywords: *Quality of life, Sustainable development, urban quality of life, Employment, Gun Factory Munger.*

I. Introduction

Munger is not a big city. It is a very ordinary city situated on the southern bank of the river Ganges and a Municipal Corporation situated in the Indian state of Bihar. It is 53 Meters high from sea level. It lies between 21°58'10" North Latitude and 83°19'50" East Longitude and is 60 km west of Bhagalpur, and 180 km east of capital city Patna. It is the administrative headquarters of Munger district and Munger Division. It is the 11th largest city of Bihar by population.

The slum population in Munger is 13723 and its consist not of rural migrant of two kinds of people some of them are in slum because of their caste , the untouchable and schedule cast are not allowed to leave in the heart of the city

Quality of life' as any other concept in social science has been defined in a number of ways. In order to know the level of living people in a given geographical area one has to know the overall consumption types and levels, housing, health, education, social status, employment, affluence, leisure hour, social security and social stability etc. The rapid rate of urbanization during the 20th and 21st centuries has created not only socio-economic problems but also an unprecedented concern of the physical environment degradation. Abyssal poverty, social desirability and lack of proper opportunity in rural areas force men to migrate to urban areas. All these have made the quality of life quite miserable.

Employment Opportunities in Munger: Most people come to cities seeking jobs and that many of these people end up living in-with rickety homes, mounds of refuse, and inadequate water supplies-could become key sources of employment. If industry could be revamped can help people to provide both food and jobs. Cities could also revamp their policies on employee, and small- scale credit to improve the ability of poor people to make a living.

Many factories in Munger from Ancient time are main source of Employment in Munger and its neighborhood like Munger Gun Factory, ITC Munger, and Eastern Railway Workshop Jamalpur, Munger.

Munger was about 5 yards high, 20 yards long with a little tower at each end, and each wall is a fortification to place the gun on it. Towards the close of the 18th Century we find that Munger was merely station of "Power Magazine" established there...." For most vivid lightning often about Munger attracted by the iron ore which abounds in the neighboring hills and if it fell upon the magazine. The City even is known as iron city and is famous for its skills of making arms and ammunition from scratch

GUN MANUFACTURING Industry at Munger: The factory has the capacity to produce at least 13,000 guns or even more annually but it merely produces little over 2000 or even less currently, if capacity was enhanced both skilled labor like engineers as well as unskilled labor could earn a handsome amount which might have enhanced the quality of life in Munger .

Munger's soil is locally known as kharwa mitti, which is rich in **sorra** (potassium nitrate). In the past, it was used by kings to make explosives." Kumar himself owns a rifle, a double-barrel gun, and a pistol.

Guns, a part of local culture: For over two centuries, Munger (Monghyr under the British Raj). Owning a gun has always been a part of the local culture, so much so that parts of Munger town are named after weapon components — Chuabagh ('chua' is the wood from which the butt of a rifle was made), Belan Bazar ('belan' was used to stuff explosives in guns), and Topkhana Bazar (tank market). The town chowks are named after revolutionaries, and feature revolver-wielding statues of Chandrasekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, and Abdul Hamid. "In Munger, it is easier to find a gun than a pen"

Historical records tell us that it was Mir Qasim Ali; the Nawab of Bengal (1760-1763), who on seeing the "explosive potential" of the soil shifted his capital from Murshidabad to Munger and established gun factories in the area. Now the workers had no skills other than gun making. Some of their descendants have continued with their traditional occupation, mostly on the outskirts of town, on the riverbank.

After Independence, the Indian government provided licenses to 37 manufacturers to make guns under its supervision. During the China-India war in 1962, Munger's gun factories supplied the much sought-after .410-bore Muscat (single barrel model) guns to the defense forces. "The craftsmanship of the Munger gunsmiths was unparalleled in the country. Subsequently, some of these workers were shifted to other places, including Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, where gun manufacturing units were set up," "But the 'Made in Munger' shotguns (double and single barrel) continued to be the most sought-after ones."

The changing face of Munger's gun trade: Making a gun needs 10-12 workers, as it is a complicated process from start to finish. Of the nearly 60 legal gun factories in the country, there are 36 gun-manufacturing units in Munger and of them; four have already downed their shutters while several others are on the verge of closure

From larger work force in 90's and earlier Munger's gun-making units has come down from 22,000 Employee in the year 1985 to 150 in 2005. From a total of 1,200, the workforce in the industrial campus at Karnchauda Fort area housing the gun factories has come down to a meagre 230.

Inside the compound, the sounds of specialised lathe machines, hammers, woodcutters, and ovens are missing. Amid the deafening silence, factory owners and workers pass the time playing cards, soaking the sunlight on a winter afternoon. Until 2005, there were 37 gun-making units in this compound. In 2011 Now there are only 29 as the rest have not renewed their licence

The production quota allotted by the government for Munger's manufacturing units is 12,500 guns a year. However, not more than 2,000 are being manufactured here and further the nosedive continue. If this state of affairs continues, all units will have to shut down.

Decline in demand: When I met the owners of the gun companies, they said that this big factory is now suffering from its worst times. The government policy is such that many of the gun companies are not in a condition to manufacture gun. The owners and the workers are living in miserable condition. The State and Central taxes are very high, the renewal of the license is very tough, and recently the license to manufacture guns has been passed by after four years. Further, in Bihar, the government does not easily provide arms license and hence the demand has declined a lot.

Today, in India, 97 privately owned gun-manufacturing units have a license from the Home Ministry. These are spread over States including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh. "But nowhere can you see 37 of them in one place. On June 5, 1969, for "security reasons", the gun factories scattered all over Munger were shifted to one location, spread across 10 acres of land in Fort area.

The gun factory compound, located next to the famous Munger Yoga University, has high boundary walls and an imposing blue gate manned by State special branch police officials. The gate, however, has no signboard.



The Central government issues licenses to these gun manufacturers, while the State government looks after the security.

In addition, one of the reason for decline is due to the government mess, as the district magistrates are not issuing arms licenses. As a result, people are not able to buy our guns. If nobody can buy for want of a license, where will the demand come from? “The government should ease the licensing process and genuine applicants must be given licenses in a time-bound manner.”

Obtaining a gun license is indeed a cumbersome, time-consuming process. It is mandatory to complete all the formalities of issuing a license to an applicant within 80 days. However, the authorities keep applications pending for years, citing some reason or the other. The application form is long and complicated, requiring the services of a lawyer, and an array of documents, from a medical certificate to police verification. Above all, the authorities have to be fully satisfied with the credentials of the license seeker.

If genuine buyers are given licenses, it will generate employment, as unemployed youths could then find jobs at least as security guards. The Owner who owns three guns shop runs his family on the income generated by a hotel he owns. In addition, says keep the gun shops open just to clear the stocks. How can anyone survive by selling one or two guns a year?”The profit margin has come down from ₹2,500 to just ₹500 per gun. However if the government eases the licensing process, things might look up.

Skilled but unemployed:Many Factory owner have shut down their units and are working as security guards in Gurugram and Noida, near Delhi. More tragic is the plight of workers who used to be employed in Munger’s gun factories. “When there is no demand for guns and no production, who will employ them? They know nothing except how to make guns,” Most of the skilled workers are pulling rickshaws, working as construction labourers, selling ice cream, or doing odd jobs outside the district. They don’t want to be seen doing such jobs in Munger town,”



(Mahabir Pandit, 70, has been making guns at one of Munger’s gun manufacturing units since he was 20. Pandit son not taken up his father’s profession he is into carpentry and doing brisk business –Source: Google Picture)

The workers who are still around do not get a salary. They are paid as per their contribution to the making of a gun, on a piece rate basis. “They get payment on the pieces they make. It could be as low as ₹40 per day

Making a gun needs 10-12 workers, as it is a complicated process from start to finish, different workers specialize in different processes such as forging, drilling, lapping. One person does the forging work for a gun barrel. Another worker makes the trigger guard, and so on. In addition, some visually challenged workers are on the rolls.

II. Materials And Methods

Data had been collected both from published and unpublished sources. The published data had been collected from government offices, census handbook, and municipality and corporation offices besides resource persons of the area. The unpublished data available from filed work, map analysis and data available from office and town planning department in the city of Munger had been used.

The basic procedure in survey is that people are asked a number of questions on that aspect of behavior, which the sociologist is interested in. A number of people carefully selected so that their representation of their population being studied are asked to answer exactly the same question so that the replies to different categories of respondent may be examined for difference. One type of Survey relies on contacting the respondents by letter and asking them to complete the questionnaire themselves before returning it.

The alternate procedures have different advantage and disadvantage. Mail questionnaires are relatively cheap can be used to contact respondents who are scattered over a wide area. However, at the same time the proportion of people who return questionnaires sent through post is usually rather small. The questions asked in main questionnaires have also to be very carefully worded in order to avoid ambiguity since the respondents cannot ask to have questions clarified for them

The analysis has been done strictly based on the available data from the survey. The answers derived from the survey questionnaires were carefully tabulated ward-wise and as statistical analysis was done and percentages and percentage distributions calculated. These have been presented in the form of bar –graphs and pie charts, and the salient points highlighted.

For each Block, the following **general statistics** have been tabulated and included:

- Average Family size
- Sex Ratio (both of adults and children)
- Literacy Levels (Male/Female and Adult/children)

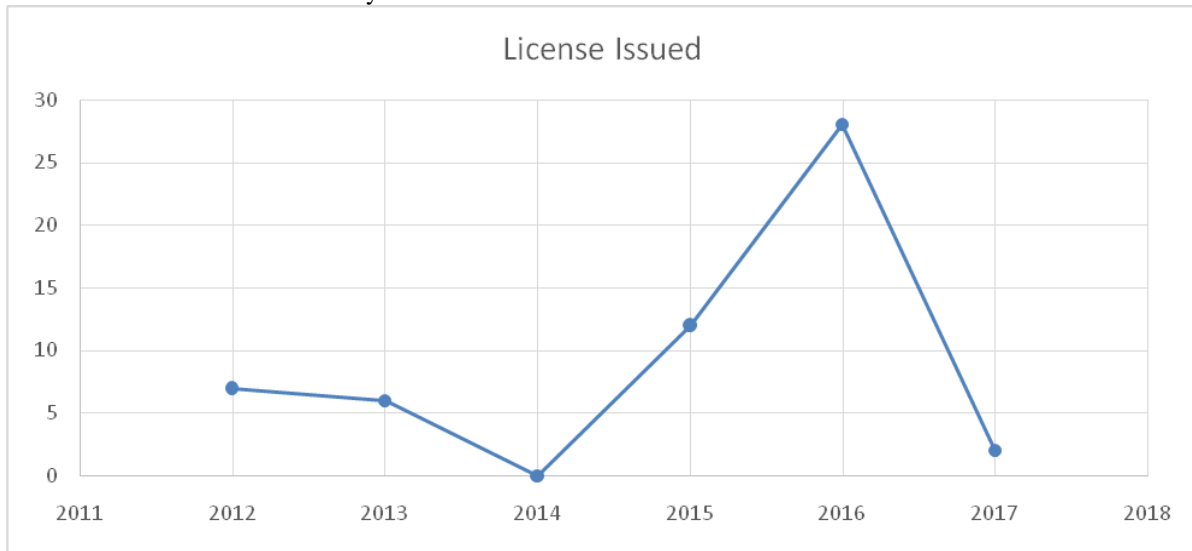
Population, Literacy Rate (Block wise)

CENSUS OF INDIA 2001									
State/District/ C.O.	Literacy rate								
Block	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
M UNGER DISTRICT	60.11	70.7	47.97	53.3S	6S.3	39.69	76.87	84	68.74
Munger	67.97	75.7	58.%	54.66	63.9	43.72	75.44	82.2	67.48
Bariapur	53.84	65.4	40.07	53.84	6S.4	40.07	-	-	.
Jamalpur	75.09	83.6	65.36	63.93	73.8	52.59	84.39	91.7	75.98
Oharllara	50.98	63.5	36.73	50.98	63.S	36.73	-	-	-
Kharagpur	51.39	64.4	36.74	S0.28	64.1	34.79	57.83	66.2	48.19
Asarganj	52.00	62.7	39.71	48.68	59.8	3S.88	81.44	88.6	73.34
Tarapur	53.34	66.1	39.44	53.34	66.1	39.44	-	-	-
TatiaSombar	51.00	64.9	34.75	51.00	64.9	34.75	-	-	-
Sangrampur	53.66	65.8	40.01	53.66	6S.8	40.01	-	-	-

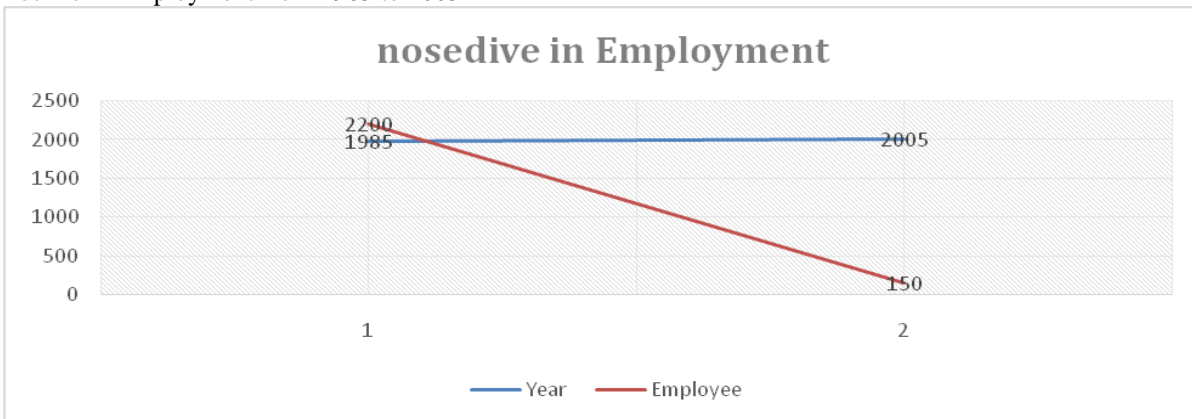
NO OF FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LINE (BLOCK-WISE)

S.N	Name of Block	No. Of Families
1	Sadar (Rural)	11,001
2	Sadar (Urban)	17,189
3	Jamalpur (Rural)	6,440
4	Jamalpur (Urban)	6,691
5	Bariarpur	7,222
6	Dharhara	15,163
7	H.Kharagpur	16,222
8	H.Kharagpur (Urban)	1,614
9	Tetiabambar	7,181
10	Tarapur	8,957
11	AsharGunj	6,788
12	Sangrampur	8,688

License issued for the Gun statics year wise



Decline in Employment from 1985 to 2005



Skilled People Working on other fields for Survival (Sample data of 42 random Family)

Occupation of Residents	No. of Families	Male	Female	Place of origin
labourers	18	42	35	laksmipur Sakarpur Tarapur
Municipal Worker	5	10	11	Bela, Tarapur
Rikshwapuller	6	22	0	Belhar, Sangrampur Chandpur
J.R.S. College Male	3	3	6	Sangra mpur
Beggar	4	4	4	Sangra mpur
Glass, paper, Tin Collector	5	12	8	Sangrampur
Fakir	1	1	1	Akbarnager

III. Discussion & Conclusions

Revival of Munger gun factory can tackle unemployment: The gradual demise of the legal gun manufacturing industry has spawned innumerable illegal factories in Munger, and over the years, the entire district has become a hub for illegal weapons manufacturing in the country. In villages such as Bardah, Baisar, Daulatpur, and Bara-Maksaspur, gun making is a cottage industry.

The production of country-made pistols, revolvers, guns, rifles, and even sophisticated weapons like carbines has given livelihoods to thousands of people, who toil in makeshift factories in dingy alleys by the banks of the Ganges. "From katta (country-made single shot pistol) to Kalashnikov, you can get any type of weapon in the illegal gun markets of Munger, provided you have the connections

Munger-made illegal weapons look more sophisticated than the original ones made in the U.S. or Italy. If given a chance, the Munger weapon workers would probably be able to make even rocket launchers and tanks. Such is their expertise and skill."

Munger gun factory Munger will be known for legitimate: Government seeing skills of Munger people making AK 56s, AK 47s, .6 mm pistols and carbines and specially designed explosive devices made by highly professional hands makes Munger.

Some of them have skills making exact replicas of highly famed models of international gun makers as Smith & Wesson, Webley and Scott to name a few, now. These can easily be procured for anywhere in between Rs 30,000 and Rs 75,000. Roughly put a six-round revolver may cost anywhere around Rs 20,000, 9-mm automatic pistol Rs 30,000, .315 Rifle for Rs 35,000. While a carbine is available at Rs 2 lakh, an AK-47s costs between Rs 4-5 lakh.

Now legitimate weapons will also be found here. The district will get free from the poor image of Mungeria weapons. Small arms manufacturing will be started as soon as the license is granted.

The Union Home Ministry has now given permission to the private sector to make small weapons. So that skill of labour can be enhanced and there will be more employment in this sector. Munger will be able to dominate the country's market in small scale, as skilled artisans are available in Munger. Munger is able to manufacture the cheapest and sophisticated pistols, revolvers etc. in the country.

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