

## Socio-Economic Ambience of Slum Dwellers, Kamlapur Area of Dhaka, Bangladesh

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### Abstract

The study has been conducted to analyze the socio-economic condition of slum dwellers living around the Kamlapur area, Dhaka. It focuses on the central issue of whether the slum dwellers of Dhaka city receive their basic needs & constitutional rights or not. The study is based on both qualitative & quantitative. Under the quantitative approach, the sample size of primary data is 50 and collected from the slum dwellers living in the Kamlapur slum area. On the contrary, the secondary data have been gathered from the various journals, articles, books, thesis papers & newspapers published at different times. The study emphasizes the issues that the slum dwellers are deprived of, especially the essential requirements, the basic needs they are supposed to get constitutionally as citizens of Bangladesh. In different research studies, it is found that most of them cannot afford their subsistence level of livelihood instead suffer from deprivations & miseries. Sanitation becomes out of their reach. An immediate effect is often visible due to the shortage of urban services & the poor socio-economic status. They cannot afford safe water & water supply. As a result, they suffer from many kinds of health issues, especially diarrhea, dysentery, & many other water bear diseases as their daily companies. The study also finds several emerging & challenging aspects that prevent the slum dwellers from maintaining a standard of living rather than living in unclean surroundings with an acute want of healthy food, nutrition, treatment, safety, & necessary governmental assistance. With a view of solving these problems the slum dwellers are experiencing, the study suggests a few of the effective measures that can be implemented to minimize the issues and raise the living ambience of the slum dwellers through the active implication of the policies.

**Key Words:** Socio-economic, Slum, Livelihood, Basic Needs, Framework.

### PAPER/ARTICLE INFO

RECEIVED ON: 17/05/2021  
ACCEPTED ON: 16/06/2021

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

Ahmad, Shamim, (2021), "Socio-Economic Ambience of Slum Dwellers, Kamlapur Area of Dhaka, Bangladesh", *Int. J. of Trade and Commerce-IIARTC*, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp: 150-166

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DOI: 10.46333/ijtc/10/1/15

## 1. Introduction

The various studies conducted on the condition of slum dwellers illustrate a high rate of poverty, illiteracy & bad health & wretched socio-economic disease. Most of the slum dwellers who live in the areas are very congested, dirty & harmful to their health. Lack of sanitation, safe water, pure air, healthy food prevails in the slum areas. The path & ways are narrowed & unpaved & so they must face difficulty in moving. Most of the slums are situated on vacant government or public land or marginal land parcels like railway setbacks or undesirable marshy land. So, they are often dominated by the local leaders & authority. Proper jobs are often inadequate for the slum's dwellers. Having no education facilities, they get engaged in informal employment through which they cannot earn much. The work environment is harmful to them. From every sphere of life, they must go through the difficulty & unavoidable problems. The study tries to focus on the socio-economic aspects of the slum dwellers & verifies whether they receive their fundamental rights for minimal survival or not. Although very few of the fundamental rights are met by them, even sometimes from the government desk, the problems of the slum dwellers are not seen as problems. It becomes essential to carefully look upon the situation with ethical implications to lead them into a beautiful & sound life like other country citizens.

### Conceptual Study of Slums

Conceptual Background of the Slums is one of the based indicators of the development of the life of slum dwellers. After seeing the abstract background, the results come out are very miserable & a significant focus on the lack of basic amenities. As the scope of living in the urban areas increases, it consequently tends the rural people to migrate to the urban towards. As a result, the upward pressure on the accommodation happens & it unavoidably forces the poor class to live in slums areas that are deprived of every aspect of everyday materials necessary for leading a sustainable life. The term "slum" is difficult to be defined. In the sense of qualitative approach, the slums are such as "areas of people lacking, for example, durable housing or easy access to safe water." Though in the present context of time, various synonyms are used for the term "slum," such as "informal settlements," "squatter," "shanty town," or "ghetto." The slum dwellers are the people like others but live in the slum areas. The present study focuses on the general socio-economic ambience of slum dwellers. It tries to bring out the social and economic factors that affect the slums and their dwellers who live, lead, and survive.

### Definition of the Slums

Based on various indicators, the slums are defined by the different institutions & famous personalities. Several of the definitions of the slums are as follows:

**The Encyclopedia Britannica defines slums** as "... residential areas that are physically & socially deteriorated & in which good family life is impossible. Bad housing is a major index of slum ambience. Poor housing is meant dwellings that have inadequate light, air, toilet & bathing facilities. These are in bad repair, dump and improperly heated. Family privacy is also not maintained. That is subject to fire hazard & that overcrowd the land, leaving no space for recreational use".

**UN-Habitat defines** "A slum is a contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing & basic services. A slum is often not recognized & addressed by the

public authorities as an integral or equal part of the city." Slum households as a group of individuals living under the same roof that lack one or more of the ambiances listed below:

- i. Insecure residential status.
- ii. Inadequate access to safe water.
- iii. Inadequate access to sanitation & other infrastructure.
- iv. Poor structural quality of housing.
- v. Overcrowding.

Following the above definitions, one can easily find out that slum areas are very deprived areas. They are seldom rich in basic amenities. Because of the shortage of these basic amenities, people living in these areas face various problems. So, a necessary solution is quite inevitable for the better life of slum dwellers.

### **Classification of Slum**

The slums can be classified into three parts based on the visible contents of the slums. These are as follows:

- **Notified Slums**

The areas in a town or city notified as 'Slum' by State, Union territories Administration or Local Government under any Act including a 'Slum Act' may be considered Notified slums.

- **Recognized Slums**

The areas including rural & city recognized as 'Slum' by State, Union territories Administration or Local Government, Housing & Slum Boards, which may not have been formally notified as slum under any act may be considered slums.

- **Identified Slums**

A compact area where at least 300 populations or about 60-70 households of the relatively poorly built congested tenements, prevailing an unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure & lacking in proper sanitary & drinking water facilities. These areas should be identified personally by the Charge Officer & also inspected by an officer nominated by the Directorate of Census Operations. The fact must be duly kept in a record in the charge register. Such areas may be termed Identified slums.

## **2. Aims of the Research**

The primary purpose of this research is to discover the socio-economic condition of slum dwellers aimed at academic significance. The specific aims of this study are:

- Finding out the living standards of slum dwellers.
- Exploring the economic situation.
- Identifying the basic requirements of slum dwellers.
- Providing recommendations based on the findings for the improvement of the living standard of the slum-dwellers.

### **a. The Rationale of the Study**

Dhaka city is one of the most densely populated cities in Bangladesh, with nearly one-third of the total population. Most of the people who live in rural areas tend to move towards Dhaka city for different factors. The socio-economic factor is one of the most influencing factors contributing to pushing the rural people to migrate to Dhaka. The people who come to the city mostly get

engaged to informal jobs like rickshaw pulling, working as a day laborer, selling vegetables, or working in other houses as servants. Finding no other alternatives, they choose to live in the slums at low cost & thus lead very miserable lives. A total of 3.5 million people is living in 4,000 slums in the Dhaka metropolitan area. The study conducted is relevant enough to explore the socio-economic condition of slums dwellers, significant challenges & difficulties they are face & emphasizing their basic needs as citizens of Bangladesh. Not only uttering the problems they face makes the study important, but also leaving few policy recommendations to be implemented can be vital for solving the miserable situation they go through.

### **3. Literature Review**

The study conducted by me reveals a few of the components of the slum dwellers, positive & negative as well. The study found that most of the slum dwellers are deprived of basic amenities & rights they are supposed to get as a citizen & the country's constitutional rights. Very few development programs from the government part are initiated to the welfare of the lives & condition of slums in Dhaka.

Many types of research have been conducted on the lives of slum dwellers & their health & socio-economic condition. Each of the Research provides an essential outlook regarding the slum dwellers. One of the critical issues researched several times is the causes or factors of migration to Dhaka city.

Alamgir (2009) conducted a study to figure out the factors responsible for the livelihood of the socio-economic condition of the migrants & the causes to push the people to migrate towards Dhaka city. In the analysis, it is seen that 56% of people migrated to Dhaka for economic reasons. With the study, he proposed several recommendations necessary for proper training because of having sustainable results for slum dwellers in the long run.

Democracy watch (2002) conducted a study named "An Assessment on the Uprooted Slum Dwellers" in the slum areas in Dhaka city. The study found that increasing people in the slums dwellers & the consequent problems faced thereby. The issues are being deprived of fundamental rights like accommodation, safe drinking water, sanitation, etc. A new finding emerged from its research study that the dweller's lifestyle is a barrier to modern urban development & a sound environment.

Hossain (2005) examined the 'Livelihood Framework' in Dhaka City, Bangladesh. He outlined that most slum people live in poverty & have little opportunity to get employment in the formal sector. At the same time, they cannot enjoy the taste of involvement in the political & social structure. As a result, they are often vulnerable to be fallen into the trap of several illegal deeds. The government is also very reluctant to take any initiative to create opportunities for them that will raise their standard of living. Finding no alternative, numerous families send their children to the workforce instead of sending them to school.

Hossain, B. (2014) investigated 28 years of data for the 1986-2014 periods on the living standards & lifestyle of the slum dwellers of Bangladesh & concluded that the concerned people are away from many essential requirements to survive. Especially the study found that slum dwellers are lack housing, pure drinking water, sanitation, food intake, healthcare, education, employment in the formal sector, social status & security, economic & public assistance. He recommended several policies that should be followed to improve the living ambience of slum dwellers in Bangladesh.

Akter T (2008) focused on the socio-economic & consumption pattern of the slum dwellers. The study's outcomes were that the living standard of slum dwellers is not so good; instead, it is an extremely poor scenario being outlined. Most people in the slums are affected by various diseases due to the lack of proper education, nutritious food & lack of self-awareness. They cannot afford to have healthy food due to the poor socio-economic ambience such as income, expenditure & expenses in education are less.

Asker R, Aslam K. S. & Akthar M (1992) came up with new study outcomes regarding the slum dwellers. He pointed that the skill of working of the slum dwellers is inferior & that they have less knowledge of proper disposal of garbage. Thus, they throw their dust here & there & make the problem of sanitation serious.

Nishanth & Jayagovind (2017) researched the Socio-Economic Status of the Slum Dwellers in Trivandrum (India) & found few positive points of welfare that the slum dwellers do. Slums are seen as an essential part of urbanization & strongly associated with urbanism. In the development of urban, the slum dwellers play a significant role in providing overall labor supply & hence the economy of metropolitan is much influenced by the labor supplied by the slum dwellers.

In the case of Bangladesh, there must be positive roles coming from slum dwellers in Dhaka city to build an improved & modern city. The slum dwellers are also citizens of Bangladesh. It must go forward having an active concern for them, realizing the demand & needs, and providing them a helping hand to attain a sufficient socio-economic condition with proper basic needs & constitutional rights as a citizen of Bangladesh.

### **Operational Definition**

Several keywords cover the complete research study on the socio-economic condition of slum dwellers in Dhaka city.

### **Slum**

A slum can be considered a compact housing unit or a clustered settlement with a minimum of 5-10 households or a mess unit with 25 members. Most of this poorly housing grow unsystematically in government-owned or private vacant land with extremely high population density & room crowding; inferior environmental services, especially water & sanitation. There prevails a low socio-economic status, lack of security of tenure. Slum houses are situated beside the main roads, highways, near the marketplaces, railway stations, junctions, beside the railway line, or nearby mills, factories, small-scale industries, etc.

### **Slum-Dwellers**

The persons who live in the slums are generally considered slum dwellers. These people live & lead their daily life very miserably, deprived of themselves of the basic needs to survive. Most of the population living in the slums, irrespective of ages, gender & class, are engaged with different works because of leading their lives at subsistence level. The common phenomenon reflected in these people's lives is attacked of poverty, sickness, unhygienic condition of living & low income from their respective workplaces due to be illiterate & involved in the informal sector.

### **Constitutional Rights**

Constitutional rights are the rights of human beings recognized & established by a sovereign state or union of states in the nation's constitution, which should be provided & assured to the

respective people mandatory by the government. It is the legal process of reserving the documents of human rights to be provided to the people of its country. When it is said about constitutional rights, the intrinsic sense comes immediately in the mind of a human being. It is the supposed rights & material of life provided & the ability to have these own.

### **Basic Needs**

It emphasizes the basic requirements of a human being that are badly necessary for leading a sustainable life: right of education, shelter, medical service, food, cloth, & certainty. It is a minimal requirement of a human being to be enjoyed & consumed. The right of being educated to broaden own outlook is equal to all, especially in our country; the government is supposed to provide free education at the primary level. The right to shelter is also a vital part of the country's people to achieve minimal housing facilities from the government part & ensure their living. The medical service in the duration of sickness is a fundamental right of a human being to get the treatment or consultancy for their illness from doctors & hospital in the country. To live healthy & somehow decent life, one requires food to survive & cloth to cover one's shyness. As citizens of the country, everybody is regulated by their own will to consume & buy fabric with their capability. Finally, the right of being stayed secured is one of the fundamental rights of human beings. The right to talk and express one's opinion is generally well welcomed as prescribed in every country's constitution.

### **Socio-Economic Status**

It is a construct that reflects one's access to collectively desired resources, be they material goods, money, power, friendship networks, healthcare, leisure time, or educational opportunities. As a part of the society where one lives, one must get the respective status from both the social & economic perspective. Socio-economic condition is represented through the socio-economic status of the ordinary people. The factors that determine one's life socially & economically are considered as the socio-economic factors such as level of monthly income, the standard of living, educational status, modes of savings & consumption pattern & medical consultancy, etc. The more a person is well addressed with these socio-economic factors, the greater healthy & comfortable life he leads.

### **Dhaka City**

It is the capital of Bangladesh & one of the most densely populated cities. Around one-third of the population lives in the city. Most of the factories, universities, banks, & heads of the institutions are situated in Dhaka. So, it is well assumable that the people turn their way toward Dhaka for expecting better live with more excellent facilities. These, in general, make Dhaka city congested & prevailed with numerous significant problems. Traffic jams are one of the direct reactions of this because an hour after hours is wasted in transferring one side to another. It makes the living cost expensive. Many low-income families lead very miserable life due to being insufficiency of wealth & earnings. Most of the slum dwellers are poor economically. They don't afford to live in a rented house with high costs in non-slum areas. They are automatically forced to get themselves in slum-dwellers hoping to lead a minimal life with their low incomes, engaging themselves in informal jobs.



#### **4. Methodology**

This part describes how the study has been undertaken. It discusses the main topics to be covered in this report, namely the research design, the number of participants, the instrument used, the procedure in gathering data & the analysis of the data collected.

##### **Research Approach**

The study is both qualitative & quantitative. The study's research design

##### **Data sources**

Both primary & secondary data are used to conduct the research. The survey research method was a procedure used to collect data. A well-planned questionnaire is developed to collect primary data containing the relevant information considering personal, household, social & economic details through face-to-face interviews with the respondents. The secondary data & relevant information are taken from various research papers, articles, a journal published in different times & website.

##### **Sample Design**

Kamlapur slum area, situated close to Moti jheel Thana under Dhaka district, is selected as a study area out of many slums in Dhaka. A random sampling procedure is used to draw the sample from the population because the sampling frame was available, & it was easy to draw a selection from the target population. Fifty households are selected as a sample size.

##### **Data Analysis**

A simple statistical technique such as simple frequency distribution has been used to evaluate the obtained data & regress possible outcomes with implications to the concerned problem of the study. Based on these results, a decision regarding the issue determined in the analysis of the socio-economic condition of slum dwellers is generalized.

##### **Research problem Statement**

Do the Slum Dwellers Enjoy the fundamental constitutional & economic rights as a citizen in Bangladesh? It is a central problem of the study based on which the study tries to perform its research work.

##### **Limitations of the Study**

Every matter has got some limitations. So, this is also not an exception. Due to the time & cost restriction, the study is concentrated in the selected area. To continue study in such a vast area requires a big deal of time. As to conduct this research work, only one month was available, which was not sufficient. So, the study is carried on 50 households as a sample of the study. The study area is also limited only to the K.S areas ignoring other slums in Dhaka city. Lack of experience has acted as a constraint in the way of meticulous exploration of the topic. Especially to analyze the data, the most relevant & sophisticated econometric models could have been used to generate a precise outcome, but due to the limitation of learning, a simple frequency distribution of statistics is used to evaluate the data. With this estimation, a percentage of the sample respondents on the concerned questionnaire was found out & resting on it. A decision is generalized about the objectives of the study.

### Ethics Statement

The research does not hurt any individual involved in the research study, especially during the collection of data & through the questionnaire asked. The interests & preferences of the individuals have been respected & their Confidentiality is maintained throughout the study.

### 5. Data Analysis and Findings

The research conducted found the relevant findings to match the situation of the slum dwellers of Dhaka city. The findings & results of the research work are given as follows:

- i. **Age of the Respondents:** The research work conducted based on the information collected from respondents is of different ages. It is evident from the table that 16% of respondents are young whose ages are below 25, 32% respondents are between 26 to 35 years old, 40% are 36 to 50 years old, & the remaining area of 12% who are 51 plus years old.

**Table 4.1: Age-Wise Distribution of Respondents**

S.L	Ages	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Below 25	8	0.16
2.	26-35	16	0.32
3.	36-50	20	0.4
4.	51 & above	6	0.12
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>1.00</b>

- ii. **Educational Status:** The educational background of sample respondents is given in table 4.2. The table shows that nearly 40 percent of the sample respondents are illiterate, 46 percent are primary pass, 12 percent are confined to secondary school education & only 1 percent of the respondents are studied up to pre-university level. It may be noted that there were no respondents who graduated or continued their study furthermore.

**Table 4.2: Educational Levels of Sample Respondents**

SL. No	Educational Standards	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	20	0.4
2.	Primary	23	0.46
3.	Secondary	6	0.12
4.	Pre-University	1	0.02
5.	Graduated	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>1.00</b>

- iii. **Size of Family:** The type of family from where the respondents are given in pie chart 4.3. It is well noticeable that 22 percent of respondents are from the nuclear family, 62 percent are from joint family & the remaining 16 percent are from extended family.



**Table 4.3: Size of Family**

S.L. No	Size of family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Nuclear	8	0.16
2.	Joint	11	0.22
3.	Extended	31	0.62
Total		50	1.00

- iv. **Reasons for Migration:** The reasons for settling in the slum areas rather than living in other no-slum areas provide several vital aspects that make the study significant. Twenty-four percent of respondents live in the slums for the convenience of closeness from their workplace. Thirty-eight percent for high rent in non-slums, 30 percent for low income, & 8 percent said that they lie in the slums for inheritance right.

**Table 4.4: Reasons for Settling in the Slums**

S.L. No	Reasons	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Near to workplace	12	0.24
2.	High rent in non-slum area	19	0.38
3.	Low Income	15	0.3
4.	Inheritance	4	0.08
5.	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1.00</b>

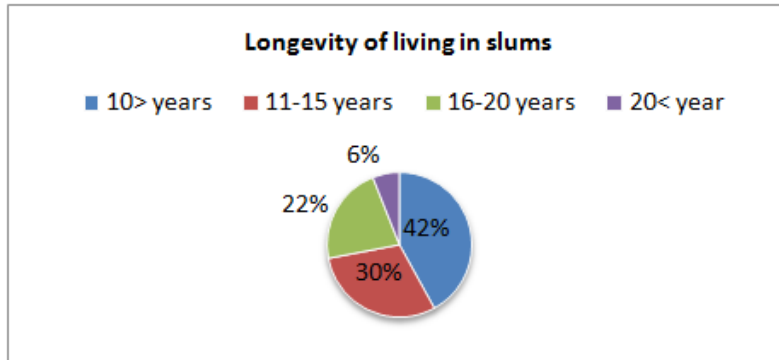
- v. **Number of Rooms:** The number of rooms of the sample households is represented in table 4.5. The data say that 44 percent of sample households have only a single room, 34 percent has two, 14 percent of families live in three rooms, & only 8 percent lives in the house of more than three rooms.

**Table 4.5: Number of Rooms**

S.L. No	No. of Rooms	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Single	22	0.44
2.	Two	17	0.34
3.	Three	7	0.14
4.	More than three	4	0.08
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>1.00</b>

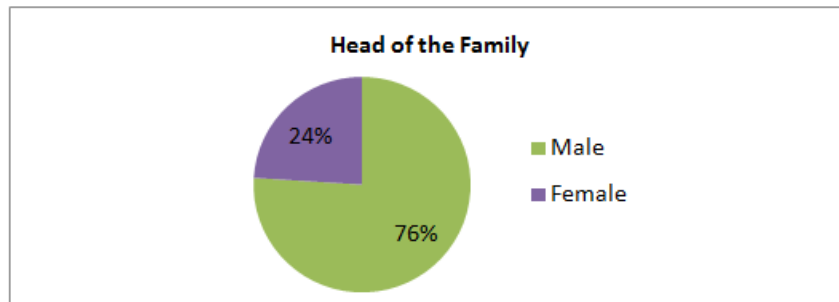
**Longevity of Living in Slums:** The Longevity of the respondents living in the slums is represented in chart 4.1. The table provides the message that 42 percent of the respondents living in the slum for the last ten years, 30 percent for the 11-15 years, 22 percent for the years of 16-20 & the remaining are for the years more than 20 living in the slums.

Chart 4.1: Longevity of Living in Slums



**Head of Family:** The head of the family is depicted in chart 4.2. The general customs of male-headed families are a common phenomenon in the country. So, 76 percent of the families are headed by male & the others are by female almost 24 percent of total respondents.

Chart 4.2: Head of the family



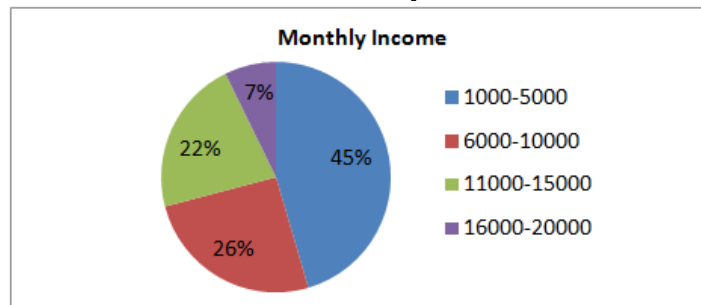
**Employment Status:** The employment status depicted in graph 4.1 shows that 32 percent of the respondents are engaged with the construction works, 34 percent are self-employed, 2 percent are attached with other works such as rickshaw puller, day laborer, garment works, etc., & 14 percent of the respondents live without any jobs.

Graph 4.1: Employment Status



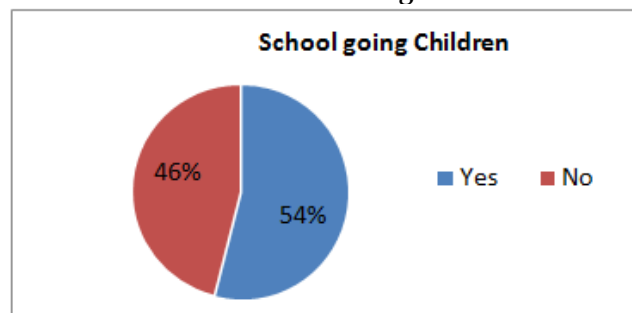
**Monthly income:** The monthly income of the respondents' households is given in chart 4.3. It shows that 46 percent are earning 1000-5000 in a month where 25 percent are 6000-10000, 22 percent are 11000-15000 & the only 7 percent are making more than 16000 as their monthly income.

**Chart 4.3: Monthly Income**



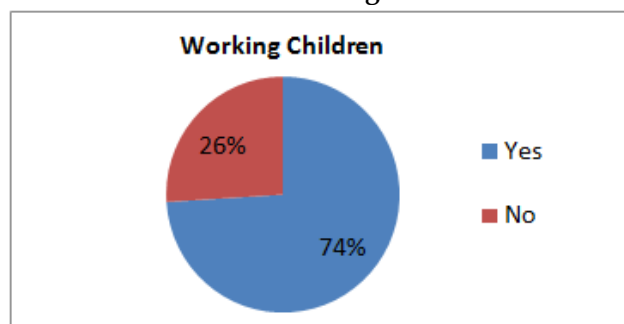
**School Going Children:** The school-going children of the sample households are given in chart 4.4. In 54 percent of households, there are school-going children, & in 46 percent of the household children are not interested in going to school.

**Chart 4.4: School Going Children**



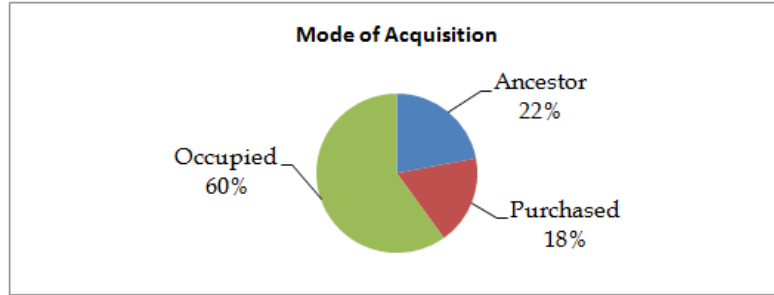
**Working Children:** In 74 percent of the sample households' children are engaged with few works & the percentage of the families where children are not working is 26 percent.

**Chart 4.5: Working Children**



**Mode of Acquisition:** The mode of acquisition of houses by sample respondents is given in chart 4.6. As the report, 22 percent of the house is owned by the ancestor, 60 percent are occupied & only 18 percent are purchased by the slum dwellers.

**Chart 4.6: Mode of Acquisition**



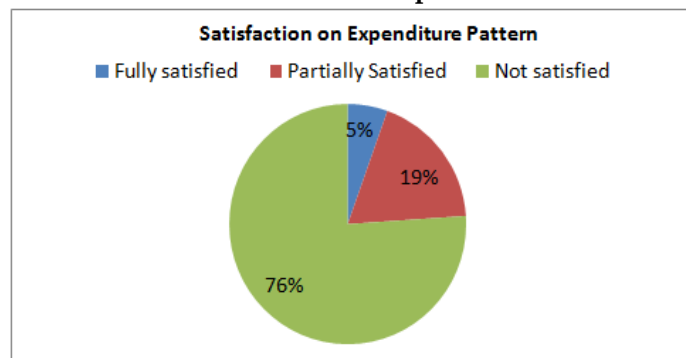
**Mode of Savings:** The way of savings by sample respondents is given in table 4.6. almost 17 percent of the total respondents do not have any savings, where only 10 percent saves at banks, 30 percent of the households saves by themselves, & other 26 percent keeps their money to the others such as relatives, head of the locality, etc. as savings.

**Table 4.6: Mode of Savings**

SL. No	Mode of savings	Respondents	percentage
1.	Nil	17	0.34
2.	Bank	5	0.1
3.	Self	15	0.3
4.	Others	13	0.26
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>1.00</b>

**Satisfaction on Expenditure Pattern:** the satisfaction level of the respondents on the pattern of expenditure is illustrated in chart 4.7. Five percent of the respondents expressed their complete satisfaction level, 19 percent are partially, & the other 76 percent are not satisfied with the expenditure pattern.

**Chart 4.7: Satisfaction on Expenditure Pattern**



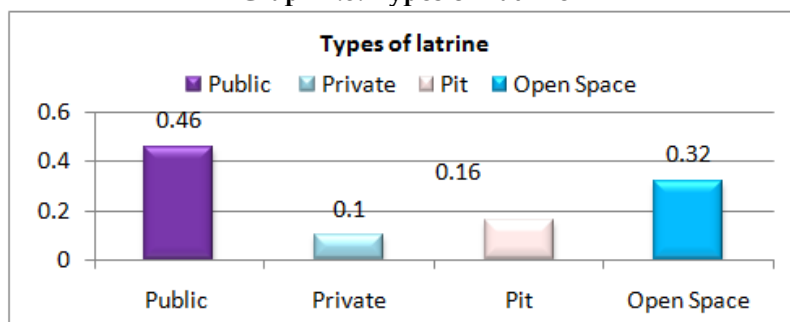
**Basic facilities:** The basic facilities for the slum dwellers such as availability of electricity, sanitary latrine, pure drinking water, availability of medical treatment & government support in the time of crisis are represented in table 4.7. The table represents that 72 percent of the sample households enjoy the availability of electricity in their houses. Twenty percent want the sanitary latrine, 22 percent drink pure water, 16 percent get medical treatment when needed, & only 10 percent of the total sample households agree about the availability of government support in a crisis.

**Table 4.7: Basic Facilities**

S.L. No	Basic Facilities	Percentage
1.	Electricity	0.72
2.	Sanitary Latrine	0.2
3.	Pure drinking water	0.22
4.	Medical treatment	0.16
5.	Government Help	0.1

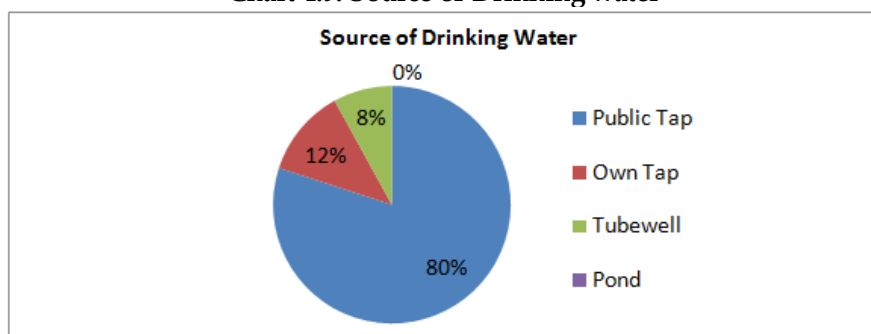
Forty-six percent of the sample households use the public restroom, 16 percent use the pit latrine, 10 percent use their private lavatory, where other 32 percent use open space.

**Graph 4.8: Types of Latrine**



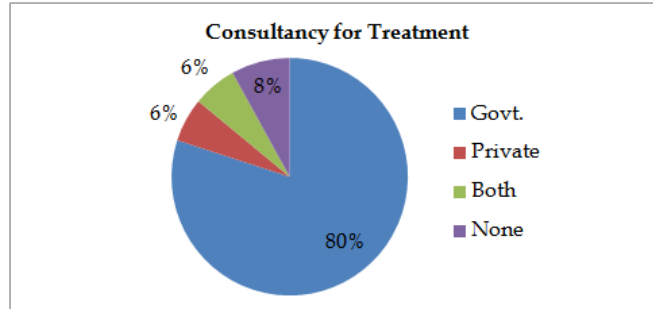
Eighty percent of the sample households drink from a public tap, 12 percent from their faucet, 8 percent use their tube well & it is a most welcome note that none use ponds as their source of drinking water.

**Chart 4.9: Source of Drinking water**



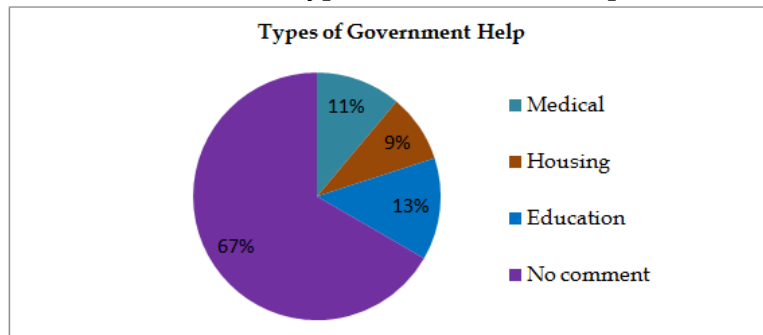
When the slum dweller falls in sick, 80 percent go to a government hospital for their consultancy for treatment, 6 percent take from a private hospital, 6 percent go both for their treatment & 8 percent do not go anywhere to get their diseases cured.

**Chart 4.10: Consultancy for Treatment**



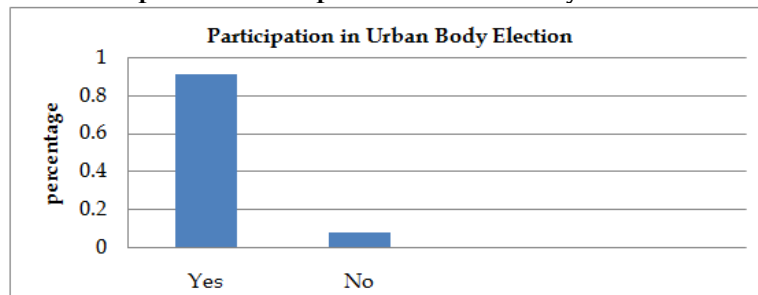
Eleven percent of the respondents say they get medical assistance from the government, 13 percent outline that they get academic help, 9 percent say for getting help for housing from the government & the majority of the respondents disagree about government help. Almost 67 percent of the sample respondents opined so.

**Chart 4.11: Types of Government Help**



In casting a vote in the urban body election, 92 percent of the respondents say 'YES' & rest, 8 percent say 'NO.'

**Graph 4.12: Participation in Urban Body Election**





## **6. Conclusion and Recommendations**

Based on the above facts, we can say that the socio-economic ambience of the slum dwellers is exceptionally low. There is a lack of basic needs in the slum areas. They are overwhelmed with various types of problems in daily life. The housing ambience of the slums areas is not so good. They lived in dilapidated housing structures with a lack of cross-ventilation; lack of lighting sources affects the health of the slum dwellers. This research study focuses on the problems of the slums prevailing. Generally, the social status of the slum dwellers is inferior. There are less opportunities for basic needs, such as drinking water, lighting, electricity, latrine facilities, and sewerage facilities. The social profile of the slum dwellers is not well characterized as a poor & marginalized section of the society.

The economic ambience of the slum dwellers is also not efficient in level. Generally, slum dwellers are involved in a low group of economic activities like rag-keeping, cleaning houses, laborers, auto drivers, thela pullers, rickshaw pullers, etc. Most of the slum dwellers are illiterate & they do not read & write. Because of being illiterate, they are unable to do a good job. Hence the economic ambience of the slum dwellers remains worse, & they earn less amount of money. Due to less income, slum dwellers are unable to purchase the basic needs of their daily lives. So leading lives in the slums areas is a challenging life. It requires a comprehensive policy for primary healthcare for urban areas, which considers the particular concerns of the poor. Many slum people are migrants who belong to the lower socio-economic group & come from different parts of the country. Most of the slum population is situated in core areas of the city because they want to live nearer to their working places & contribute significantly to the city's economic activity. Most of the places where slum dwellers live are unhygienically vulnerable to diseases. The absence of citizen participation is still a problem in the slum upgrade projects. So, active participation must solve the problems of slum dwellers. With the assistance of the better implementation of the plans & policies, it is easy to be solved this wretched condition of the households of the slum dwellers. As a result, the slum dwellers can contribute to the economic activity of the urban areas & plays a significant role in the nation's development. Thus, there is a need to make better arrangements for positive changes among the slum dwellers.

Several initiatives or programs can be taken individually, in a group or government based, which can play a vital role in solving the problems of the slum dwellers & ensures the basic rights for them as citizens of Bangladesh.

- Since donation or charity is not a permanent solution. So, a well-designed development program or project should be taken slum people by the government & Development NGOs in the forms that make them self-dependent to improve their living standards. If the slum people become educated, they will earn their livelihoods pleasantly.
- Moreover, a Special program for rehabilitations is needed because most of the slum dwellers are landless. Besides, free-education programs for children, old aged people, training programs for men & women, awareness-raising program, transfer payments for disabled or ill people, offering part-time jobs, interest-free loan or loan at the lowest rate of interest, religious motivation to reduce crimes, Special subsidy or donation for pure drinking water & sanitation, a program for poverty alleviation, arranging particular

branch of law enforcing agencies, organizing several markets for the informal sector or any other possible ways should be taken by the government & other social organization.

- In addition, the government may impose a poll tax on the richest man or collect the Zakah (obligatory Islamic tax) money (2.5%) from them in the country.

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